

21st Hispanic Educational Summit 2021



On the morning of Friday, March 26, 2021, more than 650 middle and high school Hispanic students from 31 counties across North Carolina joined us virtually in our **21st Annual Hispanic Educational Summit**, presented by the **North Carolina Society of Hispanic Professionals (NCSHP)** and hosted by **North Carolina State University (NC State)**. We had more than 30 exhibitors from various educational institutions and organizations, and 38 concurrent educational speaker workshop sessions. Presenters, teachers, sponsors, representatives from government, educational and business representatives, and a great group of NCSHP volunteers, all shared the NCSHP's mission of promoting education among Hispanic students in North Carolina. Throughout the event, they encouraged students to overcome obstacles, graduate from high school and pursue higher education.

Dr. Mary Ann Danowitz, NC State's Dean of College of Education was recognized as one of our hosts. NCSHP President Elda McGrath gave welcoming remarks, recognizing and giving thanks to all NCSHP sponsors.



This was followed by an inspiring and motivational **opening keynote presentation by Ms. Pearl Arrendondo** (pictured on the left). A principal and professional motivational speaker with a heart for students, Pearl was able to empower students to overcome the obstacles in their lives and to achieve their dreams. Students were captivated by her message. After the opening ceremony, students broke out into concurrent sessions in virtual breakout rooms designed for them to gain the tools necessary to prepare for their high school graduation and pursue higher education. Workshops

addressing Life Skills, Career Planning, and Education Planning, were led by over **40 volunteer speakers** who truly created the backbone of the Summit! Session topics included: careers in science, engineering, agriculture, architecture, college planning and the admissions process, financial guidance, personal & professional growth, and immigration options for youth.

With an intentional focus on connecting Hispanic students to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics) education and careers, the NCSHP promoted TuPortalSTEM – a web-based portal that provides information to Hispanic students and their families about the available opportunities for students to participate in STEM-oriented programs in North Carolina and encourages them to pursue careers in STEM. During this workshop, we also had a panel of college students in STEM sharing their experiences.

Students also had the opportunity to explore the **Exhibit Halls & Exhibitor Rooms** where they received information on available programs and services from community colleges, universities, natural & cultural resources and community supporters as they visited and interacted with over 30 exhibitors.

This year at the Hispanic Educational Summit, NCSHP held our yearly student raffle with some big prizes, including laptop computers, a Lenovo tablet, gift cards and for the first time, **100 new NCSHP student memberships!** We are incredibly grateful to Ricardo Ekmay, a NCSHP 150 Group member, who donated 50 of the student memberships, and to NCSHP funds which helped us match Ricardo's generous gift.

Congrats Scholarship Recipients!

Jorge Pacheco, Board Member and Scholarship Committee Chair at NCSHP, congratulated the recipients of **2021-2022 NC Hispanic College Fund Scholarships**. A total of **\$35,000** was distributed in scholarships to attend local community colleges and universities thanks to our generous NCHCF donors: Goodnight Educational Foundation, NetApp, Duke Energy, Juntos Program, Luis A. Olivieri & Evelyn Robert Fund, Red Global de Mexicanos-Raleigh Chapter, NCSHP Engineering and General Scholarships, and NCSHP members and individuals. Congratulations to our 49 scholarship recipients! Our best wishes go out to the scholarship winners as they embark on their college/university adventures!

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JORGE PACHECO
SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR
NC SOCIETY OF HISPANIC PROFESSIONALS



To close, **motivational speaker Mr. Ovi Vasquez** delivered a keynote speech that inspired and energized both students and adults alike. Ovi Vasquez shared his inspiring story of how he was able to overcome barriers to achieve his educational dreams and successful career including TV appearances, book deals, and partnerships with major corporations.

For the seventh year in a row, students and participants of the Hispanic Educational Summit were encouraged to donate funds to the **"Students Helping Students go to College,"** a scholarship established within the NC Hispanic College Fund at Triangle Community Foundation. The day ended with students feeling proud of their heritage and empowered to finish high school and pursue higher education. The turnout this year was truly phenomenal! We are delighted with the impact and success of our 21st Annual Hispanic Educational Summit!

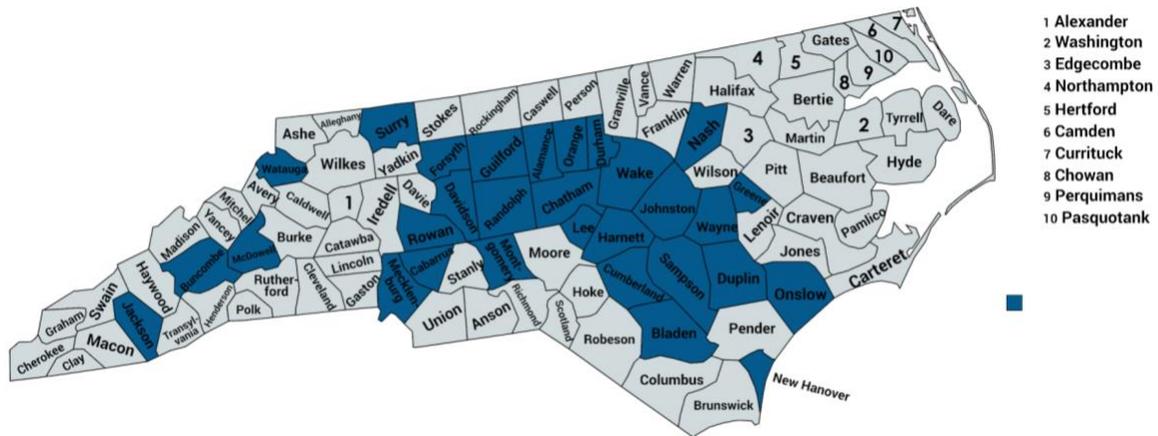
The Summit, like most NCSHP activities, was organized through the support of our dedicated members and enthusiastic volunteers! **Volunteers are the heart** of being able to hold the largest and most important educational conference in North Carolina for Hispanic youth year after year!

Special thanks are also due to all the **educators** who encouraged students at the Summit and work daily to bring out the best in students. Thank you also to the **educators, counselors, and chaperones** who encouraged students to attend the Summit. You are a big part of the Summit's success!

We are very grateful for the participation of the following **exhibitors**: Appalachian State University, BASF, Central Carolina Community College, College Foundation of NC, Duke Energy, Elizabeth City State University, Meredith College, NC Agriculture & Technical State University Admission, NC Central University Undergraduate Admissions, NCCU BRITE Program, NC Dept. of Natural and Cultural Resources Latino Outreach Committee, NC School of Science and Mathematics, NC State Parks, NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, NCSU - Admissions, NCSU College of Education, NCSU College of Engineering, The Department of Natural & Cultural Resources (DNCR)-Education & Outreach, UNC Charlotte-Admissions, UNC Charlotte-Lee College of Engineering, UNC Wilmington – Centro Hispano, Virginia Tech University, and Wake Tech Community College.

NCSHP would also like to thank the 2021 Summit Planning Committee: Caroline Veloso Oliveira, Cynthia D. Martinez, Elda McGrath, Jorge Pacheco, Marco A. Zárate, MariaRosa Rangel, Michelly Farias, Ricardo Ekmay and Rocio Anderson. Thank you for your **enthusiasm** and the **commitment** you bring to our mission!

Providing pathways to higher education throughout the entire state of North Carolina!



Financial support for the Hispanic Education Summit comes from our generous sponsors:
THANKS!!

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The North Carolina Society of Hispanic Professionals

Contact us at, 919.467.8424, www.thencshp.org, mailbox@thencshp.org



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