



NC Society of Hispanic Professionals
"Promoting Education among Hispanic Youth"



2023 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

¡Felicidades!



SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 2023-2024



Miguel Garcia-Franquiz

My name is Miguel Garcia-Franquiz and I am from Lenoir, NC. I will graduate from Hibriten High School. I am proud to say I am Mexican. I am a part of clubs/programs such as the BETA club, IMPACT Rotary Camp Enterprise, and more that have helped me contribute to my community and allowed me to grow as an individual. In the Fall, I will be attending NC State University and will major in Engineering (undeclared intent). At NC State University, I plan on being a part of programs such as SHPE and Mi Familia.

This scholarship impacts my life because I have experienced the presence of generous people who see my potential and are willing to support me. This scholarship is a blessing to my family and myself. This scholarship allows me to fulfill my dream of becoming an engineer. As a child, my parents instilled in me that education is the path that will bring success in my life and have opportunities to achieve more than what they have. My education is important to me as it is how I will experience and learn so I can one day provide support just as I now receive support from the NCSHP.

I will be attending North Carolina State University.



Ismerai Perez Ortiz

Ismerai Perez Ortiz is an 18 year old senior at Eastern Randolph High school with aspirations of becoming a lawyer in the future! As the daughter of two Mexican immigrants she has been able to represent with high honor her heritage through her hard earned academic achievements.

I am nothing but grateful to be able to receive such an incredible award from such an important foundation. This scholarship means being one step closer to achieving my dream of becoming a lawyer and ultimately generating change in our society. To me education is my top priority as it is something no one can take away from me. I take pride in my academic success and I am nothing but honored to be able to represent my roots in this process. I cannot wait to see what these next 4 years of college hold in store for me!

I will be attending the University of North Carolina at Charlotte.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 2023-2024



Emely Castellon

My name is Emely Castellon and I am from Forest City, NC. I am currently a freshman at the University of North Carolina Wilmington and majoring in Nursing. I am involved in clubs and organizations at my school and do service work in my community. I love to give back and I try to enjoy every day to the fullest.

This scholarship will impact not just me but my family. We have struggled to find the financial stability for my college tuition and this scholarship is taking a burden off my shoulders and off my parents as well. My education is important to me because I know my parents dreamt of seeing me graduate college when they brought me to the United States. I know that my education is the key to giving back to my parents the financial relief they deserve and give myself the joy of doing so.

The university I will be attending is the University of North Carolina Wilmington.



Jose Pahua Bejar

I am a senior at graham high school who aspires to attend college and major in engineering! i play soccer and love to listen to music.

First i want to start off saying thank you for choosing me to obtain the scholarship. This scholarship genuinely means so much to me. Being a first generation student hearing about how expensive college was truly frightened me. I thank organizations as this one for helping fund the education of students who would love to further their knowledge.

Money is definitely a huge factor when it comes to going to college and thanks to this scholarship i'm definitely more at ease and wont have go too much in debt, by just wanting to further my education. Once again thank you so much.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 2023-2024



Azucena Hernandez

My name is Azucena Hernandez. I am a first-generation student. Both my parents are from Guanajuato, Mexico and I was born in Asheville, NC. I currently still live in the greater Asheville area. I am attending Blue Ridge Community College right now but plan to transfer to a four year university in the fall where I will obtain a PR Advertising major with a minor in Business. My dream career is to be the PR Manager for a Major league team!

It is such an honor to have received this scholarship. This scholarship is helping me and my family accomplish my dream of attending a four year university without drowning in debt. This scholarship is allowing me make the sacrifices my parents made entering this country as immigrants worth something. Education is so important to me because I want become someone in life that I am proud of, my family is proud of and that my culture is proud of. I want to make the most of every education opportunity that I have because I know that I have family in Mexico who would do anything to have these same opportunities as I do. I will make the most of these opportunities not just for myself but for my family and culture. My parents dreams of being able to provide me and my siblings with more educational opportunities then they ever had are being ensued through the help of The North Carolina Hispanic College Fund. We can never thank this organization enough! Thank you!



Olivia Martinez

Olivia Martinez is a Senior at Cardinal Gibbons High School. She is hoping to go into Business in college. Outside of school, Olivia has been performig on the stage for musical theater since she was five years old. She also has been playing softball for the past nine years and is planning on continuing both of these passions in college. Along with these, Olivia participates in clubs such as the Chick-Fil-A Leader Academy, Women in Business, and the National Honor Society. As a founding member of Scouts BSA, she is a part of a group of girls to become the first ever group of girls to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout. Olivia is greatly honored to receive this award and is hoping to make the committee proud with her future endeavors.

This scholarship helps me as I feel more free to make the right decision about college. I have to pay for my college on my own as my parents have to pay for huge medical costs. With the help of this scholarship, I making a decision about choosing a college based solely on if it is the cheapest option for me goes down. Like this scholarship gives me freedom, education gives people freedom which is why I believe it is important as well. Being educated helps someone make the most informed

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 2023-2024

decisions for themselves. With being well educated and continuing my education, I think I can make an informed decision about what I need to do in life and how I can help the lives of others.



Galilea Melo

My name is Galilea Melo, and I am from a small rural town in Laurinburg, North Carolina. I love painting, learning about plants, and biology. I plan to major in psychology at Campbell University and hopefully earn a master's in psychology. I love working with kids and enjoy the study of the brain, so I thought, what better career for me than to be a child psychologist.

Ever since I was younger, my mom has supported me throughout school and always encouraged me to go to college and have a successful career in the future. Going into college i'll major in psychology to hopefully become a child psychologist. Being able to go to college is a privilege not many have, which is why I wouldn't take that experience for granted. It'll help me further my academic career and help me land a job in something I am interested in and will be able to help young kids and teens along my career. Since my mother is an immigrant, she has fewer opportunities to get a high-paying job which she believes will make it difficult for her to be able to help me pay for my college tuition. She has always told me she wants to help me pay my tuition and wants to see me succeed and have a bright future, so being rewarded with this money will help put me through college and will help my mom and me with my tuition cost and furthering my academic career.

Ruby Garcia

Hello, my name is Ruby Garcia and I am part of the Latinx community. I will be the first in my family to attend college. I am from North Carolina and live in Charlotte. My heritage brings me pride and joy and I am proud to be part of the Hispanic community. I want to be part of the change for minority groups in America, especially being a Latinx student. I learned that being resilient and having the courage to face challenges is key to success.

This scholarship will help me avoid costly student loans that could take years to repay. My parents cannot afford to help me pay my college expenses. I will also be the first in my family to go to college/ university. In the future, I want to create a business that provides organic products without packaging and composting education and implementation services. We want to take the necessary

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 2023-2024

steps to maintain the beauty of our planet. Our goal is to make sustainable living accessible to everyone.



Valeria Carranza-Rueda

My name is Valeria Carranza-Rueda I am a Senior at Scotland Early College Highschool in Laurinburg, North Carolina. I was born in Honduras and immigrated to the US when I was two years old, and since then have been a proud member of the Hispanic immigrant community. In the fall, I plan on attending North Carolina State University, and will be majoring in Philosophy. My ultimate goal is to become a lawyer, and then later on become a legislator in the NC House.

Every opportunity is an opportunity to grow. This scholarship is an amazing opportunity to grow and use it for good. With this scholarship, I hope to use it towards my college funds and grow with knowledge.



Bryan Munoz

Hey! my name is Bryan Munoz (spelled with a Y) and I reside in Durham, North Carolina. I was raised under Honduran parents and culture and consider myself Honduran above anything else. I act part time (both film and commercial), taking photos and exploring places that most people wouldn't give second thought to. I plan on pursuing a Bachelor's Degree in Criminal Justice in hopes of one day working on social/justice related issues in the future.

Receiving this scholarship has an immense impact on my academic and personal journey. As a student from a low-income background, the financial burden of pursuing higher education has been daunting. With this scholarship I am able to focus on my studies and return the investment that my hardworking parents have put into me. Moreover, education is crucial to me because it is the key to unlocking opportunities, achieving goals, and taking chances that my parents never had the privilege of having.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 2023-2024



Yaquelin Alvarado Antunez

My name is Yaquelin Alvarado Antunez, and I'm currently studying at Sampson Early College High School. I will graduate with two associate degrees and a high school diploma this spring. I am a member of the Juntos club which organizes events to bring students and parents together to learn about each other's cultures and the importance of higher education. My goal is to attend a four-year university and major in Business Administration and Information Technology. I enjoy reading books and writing on my personal blog about my favorite albums and movies in my spare time.

Through the NC Society of Hispanic Professionals (NCSHP) Scholarship, I will be investing in my goals of going to a four-year college and working in a business helping people in the community with projects. Sampson Early College has given me a taste of what college is like, and obtaining a high school diploma along with an Associate of Arts and Sciences will further prepare me to earn my bachelor's degree. As a first-generation Hispanic student, I overcame my challenges with the help of my teachers and family.

I plan to major in Business Administration and Information Technology, and I see myself using my college degree in an office setting, working with others to achieve a goal. In the future, I would like to become a Project Manager or a Marketing Manager. Pursuing a college degree offers me an opportunity to work in a field I am passionate about and to contribute to the world through my work.

Education is important to me because it is the knowledge that allows me to grow as a person and learn from others. I believe I know more with education and I can better understand how the world works and how I can contribute to society and help create a change.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 2023-2024



Joshua Alejandro Maldonado Abbate

Ambitious Rolesville High School Senior, Honors Student, Community Volunteer and Hollister Manager who is college bound to UNC Charlotte or Appalachian State University in Fall 2023.

Driven to earn a Bachelor's Degree in Business to make a positive impact as an Hispanic entrepreneur and community leader.

Enjoys traveling, celebrating his Hispanic heritage, exploring new places, family time and nature.

Education is crucial to me because it opens doors to a brighter future and empowers me to make a positive impact in my community. As a Hispanic individual, I believe it is important to break down barriers and overcome obstacles that may prevent us from achieving our goals. Education is a powerful tool that allows us to do just that, and I'm eager to use it to make a difference.

Receiving the North Carolina Hispanic College Fund Scholarship is an honor and incredibly important to my educational goals. In the near future, I will graduate from high school with honors while continuing to volunteer and work hard to save for college. The North Carolina Society of Hispanic Professions' financial support is a step closer to achieving my dream of a quality college education and earning a Bachelor's Degree in Business, it comes with a responsibility for future success and positive impact as an Hispanic entrepreneur and community leader.

SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS 2023-2024



Yeika Mercado-Lopez

My name is Yeika Mercado-Lopez. I am a senior at Stanly Early College High School and I will be graduating this May. I am currently working towards my Associates in Science. I will attend the University of Wilmington in North Carolina this fall and obtain my degree in Criminology and then from there attend Graduate school. My future goal is to become a clinical therapist and help families that struggle with substance abuse. In the past I have had family members that struggled with substance abuse but I was too young to be of any help, therefore I want to educate myself in order to help others.

The NCSHP scholarship will put me one step closer at achieving my goals of wanting to understand and help others. I believe that through the education that I receive I will be able to help bring friends and families together.

Lastly thank you so much for the opportunity I am receiving, I truly appreciate it. Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the summit next week, I apologize for that. Finally, I have decided to attend the University of Wilmington in North Carolina.



Ximena Reyna Campozano

My name is Ximena Reyna Campozano, I am a high school senior who was raised in the state of Morelos, Mexico, and moved to the U.S. around 9 years old. I am a person who likes to explore and try new things, and I am also passionate about working with animals, so my goals are to pursue a degree in Biology to become a veterinarian, or work in another medical profession.

Receiving this scholarship from the NC Hispanic College Fund has been a great honor for me and my family and this scholarship will not only facilitate my ability to afford college, but it will also help me reach goals of mine that seemed out of reach. This scholarship will help me obtain a higher education, which is significant to me because it means being able to serve my community and be able to become a better person each day. Lastly, getting an education also means the start of change for many things that I want to see.