



**PRESS RELEASE FOR  
IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

For more information contact:  
Caroline Oliveira • Tel: (919) 467.8424 • E-mail: mailbox@thencshp.org

---

## PROMOTE LATINO EDUCATION...SHAPE THE FUTURE!

Location: Virtual Event; Date: Friday, March 26, 2021; Time: 8:30am – 2:00pm

Cary, NC, March 26, 2021 – Over 650 middle and high school students representing 31 school systems from all over the state filled the virtual rooms to participate in the largest conference for Hispanic students in North Carolina, the Hispanic Educational Summit.

The Hispanic Educational Summit is presented by the North Carolina Society of Hispanic Professionals (NCSHP) and hosted each year by North Carolina State University (NC State), NC State's College of Education, and NC State's College of Engineering. To date, the Summit has reached over 17,650 students in an effort to promote educational opportunities among Hispanic youth in North Carolina.

During the opening ceremony, Dr. Mary Ann Danowitz, NC State's Dean of College of Education was recognized as one of our hosts. The ceremony continued with professional keynote speaker Pearl Arredondo, who motivated the students with her personal story to finish high school and pursue a career in higher education.

Participants attended a day filled with concurrent sessions designed for students to gain the tools necessary to prepare for their high school graduation and pursue higher education. They also received information on available programs and services from colleges, universities, and community supporters including NC State University, College Foundation of NC, Wake Tech Community College, NCDR, NCCU BRITE Program, UNC Charlotte, UNC Wilmington, North Carolina Central University, Meredith College, and many others as part of the exhibit hall.

During the closing ceremony Dr. Louis Martin-Vega, NC State's Dean of the College of Engineering shared a message with the students on behalf of NCSU. The NCSHP proudly recognized the 2021 North Carolina Hispanic College Fund recipients by awarding \$35,000.00 in scholarships to 49 deserving students, some of which are the first generation in their family to be able to pursue higher education.

To close the day, professional motivational speaker Ovi Vazquez shared his inspiring story of how he was able to overcome barriers to achieve his educational dreams and successful career.

*"We came together on March 26th to focus on education, the future, and what we can build for the many Hispanic students in North Carolina. We were encouraged by the support of our sponsors, friends, volunteers, students, parents, board members, and our fantastic staff to stand up firmly and continue to lead our young Hispanic students in North Carolina to the finish line of success. Moreover, 2021 was the North Carolina Society of Hispanic Professionals' first Virtual Summit, even though we missed the face-to-face interactions of the past Summits. Still, we came away from this year's Virtual Summit excited by the 650 students from different North Carolina*

*counties who participated in the workshops. It is an excellent gift for the North Carolina Society of Hispanic Professionals to have such strong friends, supporters, and partners in tackling the many challenges the Hispanic students faced,"* said Elda McGrath, President of the NCSHP.

NCSHP thanks our 2020/2021 Funder: Mike and Karen Schley Foundation.

As well as:

Sustainers of Latino Education Sponsors: Food Lion, Wells Fargo, and AT&T.

Partner of Latino Education Sponsors: Duke Energy, NCSU Office of Institutional Equity & Diversity, HOLA (Hispanics of Lenovo Association), Law Offices of James Scott Farrin, and Lenovo Foundation.

Friends of Latino Education Sponsors: Dominion Energy, Mount Olive, Brasfield & Gorrie, and State Farm.

Thank you everyone for helping to make the 2021 Summit a success and a reality.

Since 1999, the NCSHP has provided educational services such as scholarships, mentors and tutors, educational conferences, and other programs to help keep Latino youth in school and guide them on to a pathway to college. The NCSHP is a statewide 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose only mission is to *promote education among Hispanic youth.*  
[www.thencshp.org](http://www.thencshp.org).

###