



press release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The North Carolina Society of Hispanic Professionals Celebrates 15 Years of Promoting Education among Hispanic Youth in North Carolina

Cary, NC, February, 2014 – The NC Society of Hispanic Professionals (NCSHP) is proud to announce that February 10, 2014 marks its 15th anniversary of service to the Latino students in North Carolina. The Society is delighted that after 15 years, the noble idea that brought together six individuals to serve the new and growing Hispanic students population in our public schools continues to thrive with the simple mission of promoting education among Hispanic youth. NCSHP is the only Latino organization in NC that focuses solely on education.

Since 1999, the society has carried out its mission by providing educational programs and services that encourage Latino youth to stay in school, finish high school, pursue higher education, and empower their families to make education a priority. In the last 15 years NCSHP has:

- **Served** over **11,000** Hispanic/Latino students from **more than 50 school systems** in North Carolina by offering scholarships, seminars, mentors, tutors, motivational presentations, and annual educational summits;
- **Awarded** nearly **\$220,000** in scholarships to **170 deserving and promising Latino students**;
- **Provided** an annual forum for more than **2,400 teachers and school administrators from school systems across North Carolina** to discuss methods and practices to help Hispanic students overcome barriers to academic success;
- **Promoted** "Tu Vida, Tu Futuro, Tu Destino... Es Ahora... Educate! ("Your Life, Your Future, Your Destiny ... is Now... Stay in School") **Awareness Campaign** in **every county** of North Carolina since 2002 and has reached more than 175,000 Hispanic youth and their parents;
- **Launched** the first "**Stay in School**" **Video contest** among middle and high school Hispanic students ;
- **Implemented** ¡Gradúate!, a dropout prevention after-school program for Hispanic students and parents in two North Carolina counties;
- **Implemented** *Good Stewards of the Environment*, an extracurricular science program designed to pique the interest of Hispanic students in science and encourage them to pursue science as a career.
- **Provided educational advocacy** and represented interests of Hispanic students in key advocacy organizations, task forces, and advisory committees at the county and state level;
- **Delivered** more than 25,000 volunteer hours by members, volunteers, and friends of the Society valued at more than \$450,000 to benefit Hispanic students in North Carolina; and
- **Established** a professional Chapter in the TRIAD area (Greensboro, NC) to expand the reach of our services.

"We are delighted that our organization has become a platform, a place for people of good will, Hispanic and non-Hispanic, to help our Latino children succeed in education," said Marco Zarate, President and Co-Founder of NCSHP. He added, "The Society is extremely grateful to all of our members, volunteers, and sponsors, including Corporate America for its support in the last 15 years. Without them all of this would not have been possible". "It's wonderful to have been able to help Hispanic students these past fifteen years. I look forward to many more years", said Susan Zarate, Board Member and Co-Founder.

While Latino enrollment in higher education in the US was at its highest in 2012, and the drop-out rate for Latino students in NC has decreased, there is still much more work to be done. 14.1 percent of the students in NC public schools are of Hispanic origin. The Society believes that an investment in the education of Hispanic youth is an investment in North Carolina.

For information about the 15th anniversary educational events planned by NCSHP to commemorate this important milestone, including an Educational Forum: "The State of the Latino Education in North Carolina: Successes and Challenges" scheduled for May 22 at the NC Museum of History in Downtown Raleigh, NC, please visit the NCSHP website at www.thencshp.org.

The North Carolina Society of Hispanic Professionals (NCSHP) is a statewide 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose only mission is to promote education among Hispanic youth. Acknowledging the under representation of Hispanic youths in higher education, and seeing the need for role models, it is the intent of the NCSHP to develop and secure educational opportunities and financial support to improve Hispanic youth's success and school performance.

For more information about the NCSHP, and how to become a member, a volunteer, a sponsor, or a recipient of their educational programs, please visit our websites at www.thencshp.org and www.graduatenc.org, contact us at (919) 467-8424 or at mailbox@TheNCSHP.org