



**PRESS RELEASE
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For more information contact:
Caroline Veloso Oliveira • (919) 467-8424 • cvoliveira@thencshp.org

NCSHP celebrates 20 years of promoting education at Latino Education Gala

Cary, NC, November 2019. The North Carolina Society of Hispanic Professionals (NCSHP) celebrated 20 years of promoting education among Hispanic youth at its Latino Education 20th Anniversary Gala at the Embassy Suites in Cary, NC on Saturday, November 2nd.

More than 140 people attended the 20th Anniversary Gala including NCSHP sponsors, representatives of higher education institutions, administrators and educators, Hispanic and non-Hispanic professionals, NCSHP members, volunteers, community members, and students who have benefited from NCSHP's educational programs. Irene Caicedo Gonzalez, Public Affairs & Community Relations Consultant, was the mistress of ceremonies for the Celebration.

This event celebrated the organization's accomplishments over the past 20 years and attendees were able to learn about the organization's history, accomplishments and contributions to the academic success of Hispanic students in North Carolina.

The gala kicked off with a silent auction with items generously donated by local businesses, organizations, and board members.

MariaRosa Rangel, NCSHP Board Chair welcomed and thanked all attendees on behalf of NCSHP Board of Directors for joining NCSHP in this important milestone.

The vibrancy of the Hispanic community was palpable during the whole evening, and the attendees enjoyed an exceptional dance performance from El Pueblo Salvadoreño Duo, Alexander Ernesto Molina and Krisia Castillo Duran; dances from the adorable children of Baile Folklorico Vicky; and the beautiful voice of the young Mexican folk singer, Lily Rodriguez.

During the Gala ceremony, attendees viewed a video with greetings by Governor Roy Cooper, in which he recognized the important contributions the NCSHP has made for Hispanic students in North Carolina.

The Co-Founders Marco Zárate, Susan Zárate, Fernando Rodriguez, first NCSHP President, and Maria Elena Rodriguez, first NCSHP Secretary were present at the Ceremony.

Marco Zárate, NCSHP President and Co-Founder recognized NC State University for their continued support as a host and co-sponsor of the Hispanic Educational Summit for the last 18 years, and longstanding sponsors of the NCSHP, AT&T sponsor of NCSHP since 2004, and Food Lion sponsor of NCSHP since 2002. Duke Energy, sponsor since 2001, and SAS Institute and Goodnight Education Foundation, sponsors of the NCSHP since 2004 were also recognized for their contributions to NCSHP's educational programs and college scholarship fund.

Marco and Susan Zárate received an award by the NCSHP Board of Directors in recognition of their passion, unconditional commitment, and enduring service to the NCSHP for 20 years to benefit Hispanic students in North Carolina.

The Celebration continued with testimonies by ¡Gradúate! alumni students Alan Rivas & Maryan Gonzalez Ortega, college student Leslie Cruz Delasancha who attended the Hispanic Educational Summit as a middle and high school student, and Cynthia Vanessa Rios, a 2019 NC Hispanic College Fund Recipient who received one of the Duke Energy "Hispanics in Engineering" Scholarships. All of them spoke about how participating in the NCSHP programs impacted their lives and their path to achieve their dreams of going to college.

Many thanks for the support and partnership to Gala sponsors Revista Latina, AT&T, Durham Dental Studio, Peak Fall Protection, North Carolina Minority and Women-owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) Coordinators' Network, Brasfield & Gorrie, NC State College of Education, NC State College of Engineering, Scottie's, and Arenas Immigration, NCSHP's Sustainer Sponsors Food Lion and Wells Fargo, and Partner Sponsors Delta Airlines, Duke Energy, Lenovo - HOLA, and NC State University.

Special thanks to the many individuals, organizations, and institutions that have joined NCSHP since 1999 by giving their time, talent, and treasure to help Hispanic students to succeed in their education! Your contributions in the last 20 years have changed the lives of our Hispanic youth!

Since 1999, the NCSHP has provided educational services such as scholarships, mentors and tutors, educational conferences and other programs to help keep Hispanic youth in school and guide them on 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.

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