



# Press Release

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## NC Society of Hispanic Professionals partners with Burroughs Wellcome Fund in efforts to increase interest in STEM career awareness and selection among Hispanic students in North Carolina

November 2017 - Cary, NC. The NC Society of Hispanic Professionals (NCSHP) is delighted to announce the receipt of a grant from Burroughs Wellcome Fund (BWF) which will allow both organizations to have the opportunity to increase interest and have a positive impact in STEM career awareness and selection, among Hispanic youth in North Carolina. Through this collaboration, an effective outreach strategy is being implemented that will enhance BWF's and NCSHP's efforts of increasing diversity and inclusive representation of Hispanic students in STEM. This focused effort and collaboration will generate a pipeline of Hispanic students enrolled in STEM programs and on-track for future careers in STEM fields.

A number of culturally sensible strategies and activities, including the launching of the "TuPortalSTEM" portal at the NCSHP website ([www.thencshp.org/TuPortalSTEM](http://www.thencshp.org/TuPortalSTEM)), are being implemented specifically focused on generating student interest and engagement with STEM education. As part of our efforts, we will be providing information to these students and their parents on the available opportunities for students to participate in STEM oriented programs, including the sites funded by the BWF as part of their "Science Student Enrichment Program" every year, and any other available STEM in-school, afterschool, and summer programs, as well as we will provide support to navigate the NCSTEM Center website ([ncstemcenter.org](http://ncstemcenter.org)) with information for Spanish-speaking parents. A STEM Spanish Hotline has been launched as part of this project and hosted at NCSHP headquarters.

The "TuPortalSTEM" was launched during the annual "Mi Exito, La Universidad" Educational Fair, for Hispanic students and their parents, presented by NCSHP and hosted by North Carolina Central University on Saturday, November 18, 2017.

For more information on the strategies and activities to promote the participation and enrollment of Hispanic Students on STEM programs in North Carolina under this project, please visit our website at [www.thencshp.org](http://www.thencshp.org).

"For over 20 years, BWF has provided support for STEM enrichment through grant programming to non-profit organizations across the state. We have high hopes that this strategic diversity initiative will have an impact by increasing STEM programming exposure, engagement, and enrollment among Hispanic youth in NC", said Alfred Mays, BWF Program Officer.

"The NCSHP is very grateful to BWF for awarding this important grant to our organization. This partnership will allow us to bring to the Hispanic students and their parents information and tools they need to think on STEM fields as future careers of their choice. Thinking out-of-the box regarding typical outreach efforts, our plan is to bring this information to Hispanic students and their parents wherever they are, including community festivals and fairs, educational conferences, and outreach events", said Marco Zárate, President and Co-founder of the NCSHP.

The North Carolina Society of Hispanic Professionals (NCSHP) provides since 1999, 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).

The Burroughs Wellcome Fund (BWF) is an independent private foundation dedicated to advancing the biomedical sciences by supporting research and other scientific and educational activities. BWF was founded in 1955 as the corporate foundation of the pharmaceutical firm Burroughs Wellcome Co. In 1993, a generous gift from the Wellcome Trust in the United Kingdom, enabled BWF to become fully independent from the company, which was acquired by Glaxo in 1995. BWF has no affiliation with any corporation. [www.bwffund.org](http://www.bwffund.org)

#TuPortalSTEM

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