



North Carolina Society of Hispanic Professionals
"Promoting Education among Hispanic Youth"

press release

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Dropout Prevention Program ¡Gradúate!, Continues in Alamance-Burlington School System Thanks to a Grant from the AT&T Foundation

December 2012 - Cary, NC. Thanks to a generous funding from the AT&T Foundation, the bilingual and bicultural Dropout Prevention Program ¡Gradúate! for Hispanic students continues after a successful pilot year in two high schools of the Alamance-Burlington School System. The program established by the North Carolina Society of Hispanic Professionals continues to be offered to Hispanic students in H.M. Cummings and Graham high schools in Alamance County. The program has the following goals: (a) to decrease the number of failed classes by Hispanic students; (b) to decrease Hispanic students' absenteeism from school; (c) to increase the students' GPA; and (d) to increase the graduation rate of Hispanic students.

The program began in February of 2011 as a result of a grant from the North Carolina Committee on Dropout Prevention which expired after one year. The ¡Gradúate! Program is now being funded in part by the AT&T Foundation. It is because of this funding that the Hispanic students of Alamance-Burlington School System can continue to receive personal assistance in achieving their academic goals and personal dreams.

"The North Carolina Society of Hispanic Professionals expresses its highest gratitude to AT&T Foundation for their support to the ¡Gradúate! Program, specially knowing that the importance of keeping this program alive is monumental. Students in just one year have come to rely on their ¡Gradúate! success coaches and the services we provide to inspire them to continue with their education" said Marco A. Zárate, President and Co-founder of NCSHP.

Carlos Sanchez, External Affairs Director for AT&T North Carolina said "At AT&T, we believe that an important milestone on each person's life journey is graduating from high school. We are committed to doing our part to help ensure that young people entering adulthood have the skills to succeed. As a business, we understand that developing a highly skilled and knowledgeable workforce is vital to North Carolina's future success, as an economy and as a state, and to America's."

The AT&T Foundation supports programs that address quality-of-life issues, with an emphasis on improving education and advancing community development. For more than 26 years, the AT&T Foundation has been pivotal in enriching and strengthening the diverse communities they serve. The Foundation supports nonprofit organizations and programs that foster inclusion and create opportunities for diverse populations. AT&T has long held this core value: We do not simply support our communities; we are members of them, too. For more than a century AT&T have helped shape communities through its philanthropic efforts.

The North Carolina Society of Hispanic Professionals is a statewide 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose 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 North Carolina Society of Hispanic Professionals (NCSHP) please visit our website at www.TheNCSHP.org