



press release

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The ¡Gradúate!, Program, a Dropout Prevention Initiative Continues in Wake County Thanks to a Grant from the Lumina Foundation

September 2012 - Cary, NC. Thanks to funding from a collaborative grant from the Lumina Foundation, the ¡Gradúate! Program, a dropout prevention initiative for Hispanic students, continues after a successful pilot year in Wake County. The program continues to be offered to Hispanic students in Millbrook High school of Wake County Public School System. 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.

¡Gradúate! began in February of 2011 as a result of a grant from the North Carolina Committee on Dropout Prevention to the North Carolina Society of Hispanic Professionals which expired after one year. It is now being funded in part by the Lumina Foundation at Millbrook High School as a part of the collaborative project "Triangle for Latino Student Success (TLSS)". The project is led by Hispanics in Philanthropy and the Adelante Education Coalition and being implemented by partnering organizations, including El Centro Hispano of Durham, North Carolina Society of Hispanic Professionals, NC State University (Juntos), Student Action with Farmworkers and Wake County Public School System. The Triangle for Latino Student Success Project will work to increase the amount of Latino students that attain a college credential in Durham, Johnston and Wake counties through after-school assistance in the selected county high schools, first year college support in these counties, and promotion of Governor Bev Purdue's Career and College Promise.

The ¡Gradúate! Program has allowed the North Carolina Society of Hispanic Professionals to expand its direct educational services and to contribute to decrease the dropout rate among Hispanic students in our State. It offers in-school services such as one-on-one coaching, engages Hispanic parents in the academic well-being of their children, and provides after-school services in the form of Life Skills training and tutoring. "The importance of keeping this program alive is monumental. Students in just one year have come to rely on their coaches and the services they provide and have been inspired to pursue education that will result in concrete careers." said Marco A. Zárate, President and Co-founder of NCSHP.

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. The NCSHP is committed to doing the best it can to nurture our youth and provide resources to Hispanic students and their families, so that they can succeed in education.

For more information about the North Carolina Society of Hispanic Professionals please visit our website at www.TheNCSHP.org or contact us at (919) 467-8424 or at mailbox@TheNCSHP.org