



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Hispanic Students of ¡Gradúate! Program Graduate from High School and Apply to College

July 2013 - Cary, NC. In Wake and Alamance counties of North Carolina, ¡Graduate!, a pilot dropout prevention program, has proven successful in its second year by graduating all participating high school seniors and encouraging over three quarters of them to apply to college.

All six high school seniors in the 2012-2013 ¡Graduate! Program at Millbrook high school walked across the stage this summer to receive a high school diploma; three of which have applied to college and are planning to attend in the fall. Fourteen high school seniors participated in the 2012-2013 ¡Graduate! Program in Alamance County at Graham and Cummings high schools. All fourteen of these students graduated and all of them have applied to college.

¡Graduate! was created and implemented for its first pilot year in 2010 by the North Carolina Society of Hispanic Professionals (NCSHP) thanks to a one time grant from the North Carolina Committee on Dropout Prevention. The program has continued for a second year in Alamance County thanks to funding from Z. Smith Reynolds Foundation, the AT&T Foundation and with support from the Alamance-Burlington School System; and in Wake County thanks to a four year grant from the Lumina Foundation for the Triangle for Latino Student Success Project.

NCSHP recognizes the growth in the Hispanic population in North Carolina and sees the need for Hispanic students to succeed academically as essential to the economic success of North Carolina. The ¡Graduate! Program supports NCSHP's mission of promoting education among Hispanic youth at all scholastic levels. NCSHP has identified the critical needs of Hispanic students such as mentoring and parent involvement and addresses them by delivering the unique in-school and after-school model of ¡Graduate! Program.

The ¡Graduate! Program aims help Hispanic students achieve academic success and increase graduation rates by decreasing the number of school absences for each participating student, decreasing the amount of failed core courses and increasing the participation of Hispanic students in extracurricular activities.

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 youth 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. Our Society 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.

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For more information about the NC Society of Hispanic Professionals and the ¡Graduate! Program please visit our website at www.TheNCSHP.org and www.graduatenc.org or contact us at (919) 467-8424 or mailbox@TheNCSHP.org