



**PRESS RELEASE
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DECISION TO CANCEL 2020 HISPANIC EDUCATIONAL SUMMIT

Cary, NC, March 12, 2020 – The North Carolina Society of Hispanic Professionals' (NCSHP) Board of Directors has decided to cancel the 2020 Hispanic Educational Summit scheduled for March 27, 2020 at NC State University, due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak in the state of North Carolina and in the country. The NCSHP made this decision after thoughtfully considering Governor Roy Cooper's State of Emergency for North Carolina and NC State University guidelines and recommendations related to COVID-19, as well as the decision of many school systems across North Carolina canceling all school students' field trips.

"This was a hard decision to make since for many months a lot of planning and preparation had been going on for the Summit. This is the first time in 21 years that we are forced to cancel the Hispanic Educational Summit. However, we must take precautionary measures to reduce the risk of exposure and transmission of COVID-19. We are looking forward to having a successful Summit next year," said Marco Zarate, NCSHP President, and Co-founder.

The NCSHP thanks all participants and supporters of our Hispanic Educational Summit for your understanding. The health and safety of our students and all Summit participants is of great concern for our non-profit organization.

Our 21st Hispanic Educational Summit expected over 650 Hispanic students from over 28 counties across the state. The event encourages Hispanic students to stay in school, excel in their studies and pursue higher education. Our Summit is the largest educational conference in North Carolina for middle and high school Hispanic students. Since 2000, over 14,650 students from schools in over 40 counties throughout North Carolina have participated in our annual summit initiative.

Since 1999, the NCSHP has provided 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.

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