



# Latino Advocacy Coalition

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September 1, 2010

Dear Educational Community of North Carolina,

It is with great pleasure the Latino Advocacy Coalition of Henderson County endorses the project- *Latino Student Resource Guide* compiled by Sarah Nuñez with Western Carolina University.

As a nonprofit organization working to help Latinos reach new opportunities in Hendersonville, NC, we see the need for increased communication to the Latino students in our region. We receive many phone calls from students and parents who need information about how to apply and access higher education.

Sarah Nuñez is not only an employee at Western Carolina University but a community leader who has worked for over a decade in WNC for many issues affecting the Latino community. In our region there are few places students can go to get reliable information about college access. Sarah has become a huge resource in her role at Western Carolina University to help our constituents with general and more specific questions about college. Sarah will help aspiring students even if she knows they may not be attending her university, cannot afford out-of state tuition, have personal and family difficulties and so forth. She inspires hope to many and she has become a resource for our organization.

Over the past several years we found many times that the information students need is not easy to access in one email, presentation, or phone call. Luckily there are national and state programs that have resource guides, informative websites, hand outs, and more available for Latino students- documented and undocumented. Information is readily available today through the internet but we find that the digital divide is growing and not shrinking in our Latino communities of Western North Carolina. This resource guide will help to bridge the divide for some students and their families in our community.

We needed a way to effectively share information with students, parents, community members, and organizations- so, when Sarah asked us to help with this project and act as a mentor and endorsing organization we were ready to get started.

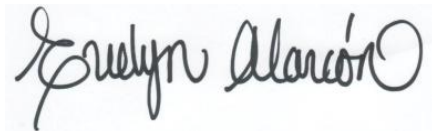
Information sharing is essential to the success of Latino students in NC and this resource guide will help to increase the knowledge and empower our community towards college success.

On behalf of the Board of Directors and Staff of Latino Advocacy Organization we support the effort to increase access to higher education in North Carolina.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carolina McCready". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "C" and "M".

Carolina McCready- Co Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Evelyn Alarcon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "A".

Evelyn Alarcon- Co-Director