

## News Release

# **NC Scholars' Latino Initiative, Carrboro to Encourage Dreams of Education through Broadband Network**

**April 4, 2017 – CARRBORO, NC** – A new *eAdvising* initiative using gigabit internet will help first- and second-generation immigrant students pursue their higher education dreams, the North Carolina Scholars' Latino Initiative (NC Sli) announced today.

Working in collaboration with the Town of Carrboro, NC Sli will pilot its *eAdvising* program, which is designed to help immigrant students and their families overcome the unique barriers they face throughout the college application process. Creation of the *eAdvising* program has been made possible by a partnership between North Carolina Next Generation Network (NCNGN) and AT&T.

"Thanks to the gigabit internet circuit which AT&T is providing at Carrboro's Century Center, we will be able to connect students with trained peer advisors at UNC," said Ricky Hurtado, NC Sli Executive Director. "This solution expands the reach of the university's resources, erasing issues of distance or travel and expanding access to our programming."

"The issue of whether to continue with education beyond high school is particularly daunting for immigrant students, especially those who may be the first in their family to consider post-secondary education. For many reasons, these students may not have the support necessary to make an informed decision, or understand how immigration policy might affect college access," said Carrboro Mayor Lydia Lavelle. "The desire to open opportunities for everyone, particularly through education, is one of the central reasons our community supports the North Carolina Next Generation Network project. We are excited to partner with NC Sli to make a difference in the lives of these students and their families."

The community center will provide a local access point to allow students and their families to receive bicultural and bilingual instruction and college advising. It is one of the locations where AT&T has installed a gigabit Internet connection through the NCNGN agreement.

"AT&T has a long history of supporting education and innovative ideas for using technology to help students achieve and learn," said Robert Doreauk, AT&T regional director of external affairs.

"Broadband technology has tremendous potential for changing lives by connecting people with information and resources. We are pleased that the circuit we installed at the community center will be a doorway to a better future for so many young people."

To commemorate this partnership, a public event will be held at UNC-Chapel Hill on April 13th, 2017 at 5:30pm. Media are invited to cover the event.

**Thursday, April 13<sup>th</sup>**

**5:30 p.m. ET**

**FedEx Global Education Center, Nelson Mandela Auditorium**

**301 Pittsboro St.**

**UNC-Chapel Hill campus**

**About North Carolina Scholars' Latino Initiative**

NC Sli is a project of the Center for Global Initiatives at the University of North Carolina. It seeks to create pathways to educational, professional, and civic engagement opportunities for the next generation of Latino leaders in North Carolina. Since 2008, NC Sli has helped over 200 students enroll in college and connect to over \$2 million dollars in scholarship support. This entrepreneurial endeavor has been recognized by the White House as a "Bright Spot in Hispanic Education" for its efforts in supporting Latino student success. Its work has also been featured on WUNC, WRAL, Univision, and HOLA NC for its commitment to investing in Latino youth. For more information, please visit <http://ncsli.unc.edu>.

**Contact:** Ricky Hurtado, (919) 962-6313 [rhurtado@unc.edu](mailto:rhurtado@unc.edu)

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