



## LAWA partners with Carolina University to help close Latino academic achievement gaps

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Charlotte, NC, November 15, 2021 – LAWA, a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing the education and quality of life for the Latino community in the Charlotte region through scholarships and career-readiness programs, has partnered with Carolina University to help Latino students from low- to moderate-income families in the Charlotte Region gain access to high-quality post-secondary career opportunities.

LAWA offers two core programs: Youth Scholarships and High School Series workshops. Both are carried out in collaboration with local public high schools, community colleges, universities, businesses, community-based organizations, and the faith community. LAWA's goals are to close Latino academic achievement gaps, improve Latino high school graduation rates, and increase the number of Latino students who pursue and complete post-secondary study. The majority of LAWA scholarship recipients are first generation college students.

The new partnership with Carolina University will match scholarship grants for LAWA students attending the college doubling the award.

“We are delighted Carolina University will be our newest scholarship partner,” said LAWA Executive Director Ana S Rey. “Our partnership will allow our organizations to reach more Latino homes in Wake County.”

“Carolina University has been known for its affordability and access and this partnership with LAWA enables us to expand our programs to groups that need a good education,” said Dr Charles Petitt, President of Carolina University.

“The Latino population is growing within our state and preparing them for success here is central to our mission,” said Dr Sandeep Gopalan, Executive VP for Academic Affairs of Carolina University. “Our programs will equip them with skills for jobs in the post-automation economy and help Latino families to move up the socio-economic ladder,” he added.

LAWA is a 501©3 nonprofit charitable organization serving Mecklenburg and adjacent counties. The organization's mission is to advance the education and quality of life of Latinos in the Charlotte Region through scholarships, academic, and cultural programs. [www.lawanc.org](http://www.lawanc.org)

About Carolina University

Learn more at <https://carolinau.edu/>, and connect with us on IG: @carolina\_univ, FB: Carolina University, and Twitter: @carolina\_univ

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