

Hispanic Scholarship Fund and Staples Join Forces to Advance Future Opportunities for Young Hispanic Leaders

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The [Hispanic Scholarship Fund](#) (HSF) announced today a new partnership with [Staples Foundation](#), the private foundation created by [Staples, Inc.](#) (NASDAQ: SPLS), to expand educational outreach and scholarship opportunities for Hispanic students and their families. As part of this partnership, Staples Foundation is awarding a \$100,000 grant to fund community outreach programming and 22 Staples scholarships for Latino college students majoring in business.

In addition to scholarships and support for educational outreach, this partnership includes an investment in HSF's career center, which promotes employment opportunities for Hispanic college graduates. The career center will feature job opportunities for HSF alumni and other Hispanic college students seeking positions at Staples.

"Most of the students we reach are the first in their families to go to college, and this partnership with Staples will allow us to help more of them reach the college finish line," said Frank Alvarez, chief executive officer, Hispanic Scholarship Fund. "We are extremely grateful for Staples Foundation's investment in these students, and their continued support for our efforts to put a degree in every Latino household."

This is the first partnership between HSF and Staples, and it builds on Staples Foundation's longstanding commitment to providing equal educational access to underserved youth. Addressing the financial and cultural barriers that keep many Latinos from earning a college degree, the partnership will provide youth with opportunities to achieve their full potential through education and job skills development, while building on Staples' own diversity and inclusion initiatives for acquiring and retaining talent.

"Staples Foundation is supporting Hispanic Scholarship Fund and its efforts to bring educational and employment opportunities to Latino youth who are leaders in their community," said Amy Shanler, director of community relations for Staples, Inc. "Through this partnership, Staples Foundation will help diverse youth obtain the resources and skills they need to achieve academic success and realize their potential to become tomorrow's business leaders."

The partnership begins as HSF continues to build its *Generation 1st Degree* initiative, a growing effort to close the "degree gap" that exists between Hispanic students and their peers. With *Generation 1st Degree*, HSF seeks to dramatically increase the number of Latino college graduates by ensuring at least one person in each Hispanic household earns a college degree.

"Partnering with Staples Foundation puts us one step closer in our effort to make college a reality for more Hispanic families," said Noreen L. Gillen, HSF's Northeast Advisory Board Member. "We are very grateful for this support, and look forward to building this relationship so that we can continue to help talented Latino students make it through college and reach their dreams."

About Hispanic Scholarship Fund

Founded in 1975, the Hispanic Scholarship Fund believes that the country prospers when all Americans have access to the opportunities a college education can afford. As the nation's leading Hispanic higher education fund, HSF works to address the barriers that keep many Latinos from earning a college degree. HSF has awarded over \$330 million in scholarships over the past 36 years and has supported a broad range of outreach and education programs to help students and their families navigate collegiate life, from gaining admission and securing financial aid to finding employment after graduation. HSF envisions a future where every Latino household will have at least one college graduate, creating an enduring impact on the college outlook of Latino families nationwide, and strengthening the American economy for generations to come. For more information about the Hispanic Scholarship Fund please visit: www.HSF.net.

About Staples in the Community

Staples contributes to educational and youth-oriented community efforts, from literacy and mentoring to career skills development, through in-kind and monetary donations and grants from Staples Foundation, the

private charitable arm of Staples, Inc. Through its community relations efforts, Staples and Staples Foundation have helped more than 6,000 organizations in 2,000 communities across 27 countries. Community relations is also an integral component of Staples Soul, which recognizes the connection between long-term business success and the impact Staples has on associates, communities and the planet. For more information, visit www.staples.com/community.

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