



Daniel de la Torre (L), one of the founders of the Worcester Latino Coalition Scholarship, with Diana Portillo, who received it in 2015.

Worcester Latino Coalition Scholarship Greater Worcester Community Foundation

The Worcester Latino Coalition created this scholarship in 2000 to provide college tuition assistance to Latino students of all ages, with preference to those beginning or continuing a healthcare career. They funded it through gala fundraisers and donations from individuals.

From 1990 until roughly 2004, the Worcester Latino Coalition engaged in advocacy and fundraising to improve the quality of life for Latinos living in Worcester. One of its successes was establishing the *Next Step Initiative* at four local colleges, allowing

Latinos to gain college credits for health and human services work experience. The coalition's efforts have helped Latinos gain opportunities for career advancement while helping the healthcare industry gain bilingual/bicultural health professionals to meet the needs of our diverse local population.

The first Worcester Latino Coalition Scholarship was awarded to a Cuban immigrant who made Dean's List while working to support his family. The following year, it was awarded to his daughter, who was studying to become a family nurse practitioner. Other recipients have included a nurse who received a master's degree and a single mother on welfare who went to medical school and became a psychiatrist. Through gifts from many generous people, this scholarship assists students in pursuing their dreams of higher education.

For more information, please contact:
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