



Greetings!

My name is Chris Wilkie and I am the Chief Executive Officer for SHPE (Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers). As SHPE's 2022 National Convention approaches, I'm writing to encourage you to support the attendance of your student at this important event.

Close to 10,000 SHPE members, partners, and guests are expected to interact during this year's convention in person in Charlotte from November 2 - 6. The SHPE National Convention is the largest gathering of Hispanic STEM students (undergraduate and graduate), professionals, and faculty in the United States. And we're so excited to be safely together in person this year in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Founded in 1974, SHPE is the leading organization dedicated to empowering the Hispanic community through STEM awareness, access, support, and development. SHPE currently serves more than 13,000 Hispanic STEM students, professionals, and academics through its over 280 student and professional chapters across the country.

The convention will provide your student with the following valuable opportunities:

- 2-day Career Fair with over 230 leading STEM organizations recruiting interns, part-time, and full-time employees for coveted jobs.
- A variety of opportunities for building a network of professional and personal contacts to provide support as students embark on their STEM careers.
- Cutting-edge personal, professional, and skill-development sessions, along with Interactive workshops and thought-provoking discussions.
- Inspirational insights from leaders and technical knowledge from subject matter experts from across the country.
- Forward-thinking, action-oriented advice and strategies from peers and professionals to help students with career planning.
- Resume-building competitions offer applications of existing skills in a real-world environment while also gaining team experience and camaraderie.
- Tips for bolstering professional networks, enhancing executive presence, and optimizing personal brand to increase the visibility of the student, as well as your college or university.
- Provide an understanding and gain insight to industry roles and best practices, aligning to your area of study (major)
- And much, much more.

We take the health and safety of our members very seriously so we're following CDC, state, and county guidelines including:

- Masks will be required at all National Convention events. Masks with vents or valves, neck

gaiters, or bandanas are not acceptable. We recommend a KN95 mask or 3-ply mask as the best choice for a mask.

- There will be select entrances to the convention center, as well as to the Career Fair & Graduate School Expo exhibit halls to monitor traffic flow.
- We will also have attendees line up during the required times for events and not to line up except during those available times.
- We will have a virtual daily health check reminder of all COVID symptoms to be aware of for all attendees.
- Should an attendee require assistance with locating a COVID testing site, we will direct them to the appropriate resources as needed.
- The number of attendees allowed in sessions and the Career Fair has been limited to allow for appropriate physical distancing, this includes for seating as well as standing lines.
- Workshop/session rooms will be set up in appropriate safe social distances to allow space between attendees.
- Disinfecting of workshop rooms in-between sessions and overnight cleaning of rooms.

More specifics are available on [the Safety page](#) of our website.

Finally, we were recently made aware of California's Prohibition on State-Funded and State-Sponsored Travel to States with Discriminatory Laws (Assembly Bill No. 1887) and that North Carolina is included on this list of prohibited states. While we understand the purpose of the law, we do encourage the state and the school government to consider the adverse effects this decision has on Hispanic STEM students in California. The SHPE National Convention offers unparalleled access to [the biggest companies in STEM](#) who are hiring onsite. Because of this new law denying travel funding, California students will be punished, not the state of North Carolina. If there are any exceptions available to this prohibition that would open up funding, I hope you will consider offering it to your Hispanic students in STEM majors to attend this important event.

For more information regarding the convention, please visit our SHPE National Convention website at shpe.org/2022. SHPE's National Convention is fundamental to the continued development of your student at this pivotal time in their life. Your support would be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



Chris Wilkie
CEO, SHPE