

Sharon Muñoz

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Professional Summary

Bilingual healthcare and community leader with **25+ years** of experience in nursing, community engagement, health literacy, emergency preparedness, and program management.

Founder and Executive Director of **Hispanic Legacy Network, LLC (HLN)**, former Community Advisor on the Governor's Advisory Council for Hispanic & Latino Affairs, and Board Member for multiple Duke University Health System Hospital Boards. Proven record of leading multisector collaborations with NCCU, NCSU, UNC-Chapel Hill, Duke University, NC Latino CERT (NC Emergency Management - FEMA), Disability Rights NC, and others to advance public health, strengthen research, and expand emergency preparedness. Creator of **Legacy Academy**, a national platform certifying community members in First Aid, CPR, AED, preparedness, and more.

Former nurse with specialized expertise in **disability care, language access, and one-on-one patient education**. Inspired by my son's journey with multiple disabilities, I created programs that improve accessibility, equity, and quality of life, impacting over 10,000 residents annually. Confident to bring a **lived-experience lens, policy expertise, and proven statewide leadership** to the Governor's Council on Hispanic & Latino Affairs.

Key Competencies

Bilingual Communication (Spanish/English) & Cultural Competence
Disability Advocacy, Accessibility Design & Inclusive Policy Development
Board & Advisory Leadership (Hospitals & State Council)
Health Literacy, Public Health & Research Collaboration
Inclusive Program Development, Training & Emergency Preparedness
National Trainer: First Aid, CPR & AED
Lean Six Sigma (Yellow & Green Belt – Consulting Focus)
Internationally Certified Consultant

Professional Experience

Founder & Executive Director

Hispanic Legacy Network, LLC (HLN) | Cary, NC | 2025 – Present

(25+ years of prior behind-the-scenes leadership)

Lead bilingual initiatives serving over 100,000 Latino residents annually. Collaborate with Duke, UNC, NCSU, NCCU, NC Latino CERT (FEMA), Disability Rights of NC, the American Red Cross, the American Heart Association, and other partners to **advance research, health equity, disability inclusion, and emergency preparedness**. In July 2025, Legacy Academy launched a national training platform certifying community members nationally in First Aid, CPR, AED, and emergency readiness through dynamic virtual and in-person programs.

Community Advisor

Governor's Advisory Council for Hispanic & Latino Affairs | Raleigh, NC | 2022 – Sept 2025.

Advance equity, inclusion, and Latino representation statewide. In December 2024, I collaborated and co-authored comprehensive policy recommendations to strengthen access, engagement, and services for Hispanic and Latino communities.

Board Member

Duke University Health System – Multiple Local Hospital Boards | Durham, NC | 2022 – Present

Advise hospital leadership on **patient engagement, health equity, and culturally competent care**.

Collaborated on **disability inclusion** by helping implement accessibility standards and launching targeted programs that connected 1,200+ **patients with disabilities** to specialized services and resources.

Certified Trainer & Instructor

NC Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) / NC Emergency Management | 2023 – Present
Deliver bilingual emergency preparedness training across NC. Nationally certified to teach First Aid, CPR, and AED; trained 100+ residents in disaster readiness, including specialized sessions for **seniors and people with different abilities**.

Health Literacy Program Consultant

LATIN-19 & Bull City Strong (Durham County Health Department) | 2021 – 2024
Led health literacy initiatives increasing community knowledge by 36%, training 68 Community Health Workers from 13 nationalities, and **reaching 67,398 residents statewide**—including 46,577 in Durham County—with culturally and linguistically tailored outreach. Coordinated 438 hours of vaccine engagement, delivered 747 vaccinations, and **partnered with Disability Rights NC to connect 1,224 people with disabilities to inclusive, life-changing services**.

Master Spanish Interpreter & Translator

Healthcare & Community Settings – CA, NV, NC | 1997 – Present
Provide accurate, culturally competent interpretation and translation for hospitals, research projects, and public health programs, ensuring **linguistic and cultural accessibility** in high-stakes medical and community settings. Enhanced provider-patient communication for thousands of limited-English-proficient individuals, reducing misdiagnoses and improving treatment adherence. Supported research and public health initiatives by translating and interpreting materials that **reached over 500,000 Spanish-speaking residents across North Carolina**.

Nursing Roles (NA, CNA, LPN, RN)

Multiple Hospitals in CA, NV | 1997 – 2007
Inspired by my son's journey with multiple disabilities, I centered my nursing practice on **advancing disability-inclusive care**. Developed and implemented thousands of individualized care plans with adaptive resources to improve mobility, independence, and quality of life for patients with physical, developmental, and cognitive disabilities. Partnered with patients, families, and interdisciplinary teams to **remove barriers, ensure accessibility, and advocate for patient rights**.

Chief Executive Officer

Multiple Companies | 2007 – 2019; 2025
Directed operations and strategic growth across multiple businesses, **achieving 1,000% revenue growth and expanding client reach across diverse sectors**. Relaunched consulting operations in 2025 to align with statewide health and community initiatives, securing partnerships that advanced **public health equity, disability inclusion, and culturally competent services**.

Education & Certifications

International Consulting Certification – ICE Mexico, SEP & CONOCER, 2025
Lean Six Sigma Yellow & Green Belt (Master in Consulting) – NCCU, 2025
National Trainer Certification: First Aid, CPR & AED – National Safety Council, 2024
NC Regional Medicaid Expansion Training – Care Share Health Alliance, 2024
Grant Writing Certification – Wake Technical Community College, 2022
Master's Medical Interpreter – Duke University, 2021
Spanish/English Master Interpreter Certification – NC State University, 2014
American Sign Language (Levels A–F) – Wake Technical Community College, 2018–2020
Multiple Business Courses – Wake Technical Community College, 2007–2020
Nursing Studies – Community College in Nevada and California, 1997–2001
B.A. in Business Administration & Communication – UASLP, Mexico, 1995

Affiliations & Leadership Roles

Disability & Equity Leadership

Founder & Executive Director – Hispanic Legacy Network (HLN) – Created inclusive health and preparedness programs for individuals of all abilities.

Community Advisor – Governor’s Advisory Council for Hispanic & Latino Affairs – Collaborated in 2024 on broad access and equity recommendations.

Board Member – Duke University Health System Hospital Boards – Advanced accessibility standards and patient-centered design.

Research Collaborator – NCCU, NCSU, UNC-CH, Duke University – Supported studies promoting inclusive health practices.

Emergency Preparedness & Accessibility Training

Certified Trainer – NC CERT – Delivered disaster readiness programs, including older adults and people with access or functional needs.

Volunteer – North Carolina Emergency Management – Contributed to inclusive emergency planning protocols.

National Trainer – First Aid, CPR & AED – Instruction adapted for participants with diverse needs.

Health Literacy & Inclusive Outreach

Program Consultant – LATIN-19 – Engaged 1,224 community members with access or functional challenges.

Partner – American Red Cross – Collaborated on accessible disaster education and outreach.

Organizer – YMCA of the Triangle – Developed adaptive community programs for participants of varying ages and abilities.

Recognition & Leadership Highlights

Statewide Trusted Voice – Recognized across North Carolina for advancing equity, accessibility, and culturally competent healthcare for underserved communities.

Disability Advocacy Leadership – Collaborator in the 2024 state policy recommendations that expanded access, removed barriers, and improved outcomes for residents with access or functional needs.

Inclusive Program Innovation – Created and implemented hundreds of disability-inclusive care plans and adaptive programs that improved independence, mobility, and quality of life for thousands.

Research & Policy Impact – Partnered with leading universities to embed accessibility and disability equity into public health research and community initiatives.

Emergency Preparedness Inclusion – Designed and delivered disaster readiness training tailored for older adults, caregivers, and people with diverse needs, reaching 1,224+ participants.

Community Recognition – Honored by local organizations for outstanding leadership in disability advocacy, health literacy, and inclusive program development.

Selected publications & presentations:

Featured in **Triangle Business Journal’s** “A Healthy Communication: Breaking Down Barriers to Health Care in the Latino Community” (pp. 10–12, Nov 2023)

Presented the poster “Increasing Hispanic/Latino/a/x Community Health Literacy Through a Multi-Sector Partnership” at **Social Mission Alliance’s** Equity Amplified conference hosted by Duke University School of Nursing (2024)

Presented the session “Overlooked Partners in Health: Engaging Community in Research—How It’s Done; Continue the Conversation” at the **2024 Annual Research Meeting** in Baltimore, MD. (June 29-July 2, 2024)