Instituto was founded in 1977 with a mission to contribute to the fullest development of Latino immigrants and their families through education, training, and employment that fosters full participation in the changing US society while preserving cultural identity and dignity.

In 2009, Instituto launched the Instituto Health Sciences Career Academy (IHSCA), a public charter high school, with a focus on preparing urban youth to succeed in competitive colleges and universities, obtain job-readiness certification for entry-level positions with higher wages in health care, and gain new awareness of and seek a healthy lifestyle.

IHSCA serves 760 students each year. 96% of students are Latino, 96% qualify for free or reduced lunch.

In 2016, IHSCA graduates achieved a college acceptance rate of 92%, secured over $5 million in scholarships.

IHSCA provides a unique curriculum that requires additional math and science credits, English and Spanish all four years, and minimum 100 hours of community service prior to graduation.

IHSCA focuses on providing unique services to ensure student success such as fifth-year advising that supports students through their first year after high school.

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