

Juntos: Together for a Better Education



Iowa State University Extension and Outreach - Polk and Muscatine Counties

The Juntos program empowers Latino youth by bringing together parents, youth, school staff and community partners to promote academic success and explore possible paths to higher education.

This program was developed by research on effective programs for at-risk youth and families. Muscatine and Polk Counties have received a five-year Children Youth and Families At-Risk (CYFAR) research grant from the United States Department of Agriculture's National Institute of Food and Agriculture.



Workshop Series

Trained community facilitators conduct educational sessions that involve youth and their parents/caregivers to help them gain knowledge, skills, and resources needed to help youth academically succeed.



Success Coaching

Students work one-on-one with an academic success coach who provides information about study skills, tutoring options, and additional support to help the students succeed in school.



4-H Club

This bi-weekly after-school club focuses on helping youth strengthen their self-confidence and develop life skills such as communication, leadership, and team-building.



Family Nights

An opportunity for families to connect with other families and learn about academic and community resources while having fun!



Summer Academy

During a multi-day exploration, youth will experience university campus life, learn about career opportunities, and connect with other Latino students from around the state.

Program Goals + Impact



Strengthen parent involvement in youth's education.



Improve communication between parents, youth, and school personnel.



Empower youth to graduate from high school.



Increase families' understanding of requirements to enroll in higher education.



Increase family awareness of financing higher education.

Outcomes

Families

Increased communication among youth and parents regarding schooling

Youth

Increased sense of...

- Belonging and safety at school
- Commitment to school
- Problem solving, critical thinking, empathy for and acceptance of others

Parents

Increased...

- Expectations for level of education youth would achieve
- Comfort level in communicating with school staff
- Awareness of what to do at home to support youth school success

85 youth participate in the Juntos Program.



"Juntos 4-H has *changed my life* because before 4-H I wasn't really sure about going to college. Now I see all of the *opportunities* that are around me and just waiting for me to grab them."

- Third Year 4-Her

"I wouldn't describe the Juntos program as a program; I would describe it as *an important part of our family*. It helps the children, it helps the parents, not only with school issues but also with personal matters."

- Juntos Parent

"Juntos has made me stay in track with school. It has motivated me to do better in school and notice the opportunities I have that others don't."

- Juntos Participant

For more information about Juntos, please contact Michelle Maynes (Polk County) at mim@iastate.edu or (515) 644-8272 or Aracely Martinez (Muscatine County) at aracely@iastate.edu or (563) 263-5701.

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