

# impact

University of Idaho Extension programs that are making a difference in Idaho.

## Juntos 4-H improves academic success of Latinx students through family engagement

### AT A GLANCE

Juntos™ supports eighth to 12th grade Latinx students in achieving academic success by providing opportunities for students and parents working together through family engagement workshops.

### The Situation

The mission of the Juntos program offered through University of Idaho Extension 4-H Youth Development is to help Latinx students achieve high school graduation and attend higher education. Supportive parental involvement has a positive impact on youth achieving these academic goals. While the vast majority of Latinx students are U.S. born, many of their parents are immigrants and are new to the educational system. This can be a challenging situation for these families in supporting their student's academic success.

### Our Response

As a strategy to improve the academic success of Latinx students in Idaho and increase parent involvement, Juntos, a nationally supported 4-H program developed by North Carolina State Extension, has been implemented in Jerome County. Juntos (pronounced "Who-n-toes") means "Together" in Spanish. This program works to unite community partners to support Latinx eighth to 12th grade students and their parents with knowledge, skills and resources to support the youth in their journey to achieve a high school diploma and to encourage families to work together to achieve their youth's academic goals. Family Engage-



Juntos Family Engagement Workshop — youth and parents working together on family communication.

ment workshops promote family and school communication and introduce requirements for graduation. These workshops also assist in navigating the path to secondary education. In turn, participation in these activities encourages and supports a sense of belonging in the school and community. A bicultural and bilingual Juntos program coordinator allows all families to be included in these crucial conversations and has paved the way to building trust within the community.

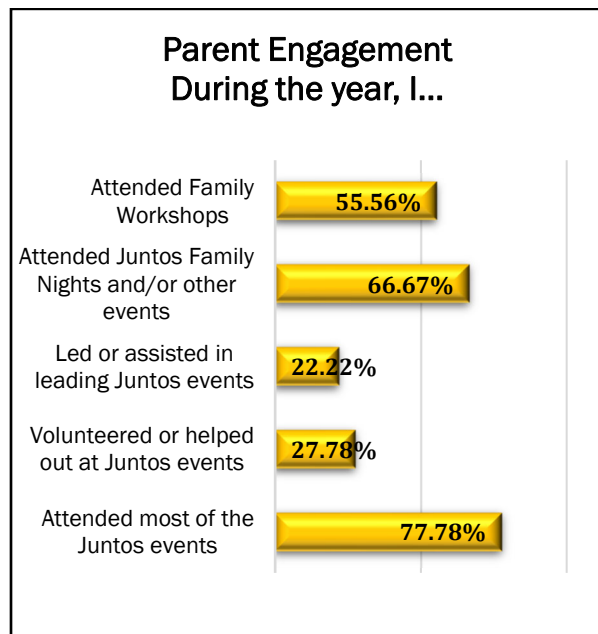
### Program Outcomes

The Juntos program in Idaho served 69 students from eighth to 12th grade and their families during the 2018-2019 school year.

Of the parents who responded to the spring post survey, their child/children had been a part of Juntos for an average of 1.33 years. Seventy-two percent of Juntos students reported in the student post surveys that their parents participated in Juntos events regularly during the 2018-2019 school year. Students also reported in post surveys that their parents engaged in supportive parenting behaviors regularly showing a positive shift over the course of the year.

As shown in Table 1, parents report that participating in the Juntos program has helped them support, advocate for and motivate their child/children.

Table 1. Post-survey results from 2018-2019 School Year for Parent Engagement



Juntos parent quotes:

- “I really like the Juntos program. They motivate me to support my daughter so that she can have a career and I also learn a lot with her.”
- It is a very good program that helps better the future of our kids so that they can have successful futures and help other youth by motivating them to go on and have a better future for themselves.”

### The Future

This program will continue to strive to support Latinx youth and their families through the support of Juntos and the program components. This academic year, there will be an emphasis on success coaching of students and continuing to keep parents engaged.

### Cooperators and Co-Sponsors

- This CYFAR program is funded by USDA/NIFA
- Jerome School District #261
- North Carolina State Extension
- Juntos



### FOR MORE INFORMATION

**Gretchen Manker**, Extension Educator • UI Extension, Jerome County • 208-324-7578 • gretchenm@uidaho.edu  
**Judith Schoenfelder**, Program Specialist • UI Extension 4-H Youth Development • 208-454-7655 • jmcshane@uidaho.edu  
**Eduardo Reyes**, Juntos Program Coordinator • UI Extension, Jerome County • 208-324-7578 • eduardor@uidaho.edu  
**Tina Miller**, 4-H Program Coordinator • UI Extension, Jerome County • 208-324-7578 • tdickard@uidaho.edu

29-20-gmanker-juntos • 9/20