

Juntos: Together

Offering New Academic Support from 4-H for Latino Students and Families

What is Juntos?

Juntos (pronounced “Who-n-toes”) means “Together” in Spanish and works to unite community partners to provide Latino 8-12th grade students and their parents with knowledge, skills, and resources to prevent youth from dropping out of schooling and to encourage families to work together to gain access to college. The Juntos Program brings together cohorts of youth and families to support each other for 3-5 years as they enter high school and prepare together for higher education.

The Juntos Program is an intensive long-term program made up of four components:

1. Juntos Family Engagement via a 5- or 6-week workshop series and other family nights and family events
2. Regular Juntos 4-H Club meetings with a focus on tutoring, life skills, and community service
3. Monthly One-On-One Success Coaching and/or Mentoring by an adult who monitors their academics and coaches them to achieve their academic goals
4. Juntos Summer Programming that includes the Juntos Summer Academy, and other local 4-H summer programs and events.

What will you see in this short report?

During the 2021-2022 academic year, we gathered the voices of Juntos students and families through pre and post program surveys and post program focus group interviews. We present key findings to highlight the needs and experiences of Juntos families and the strengths and challenges of the Juntos program.

Jackson County **Lake County**
27 Families Served 21 Families Served

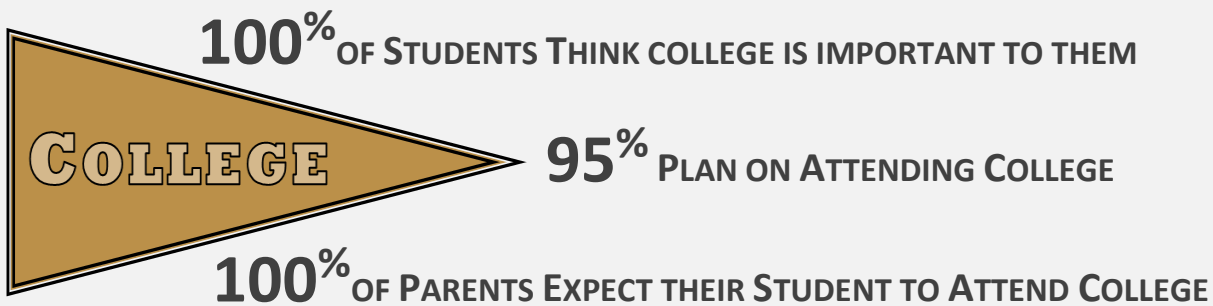
Marion County
38 Families Served



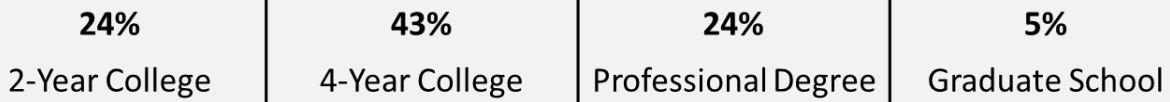
Juntos students hold their completion certificates from our 2021 cohort.



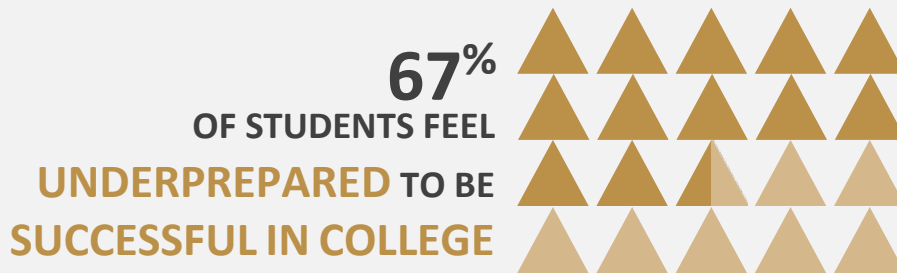
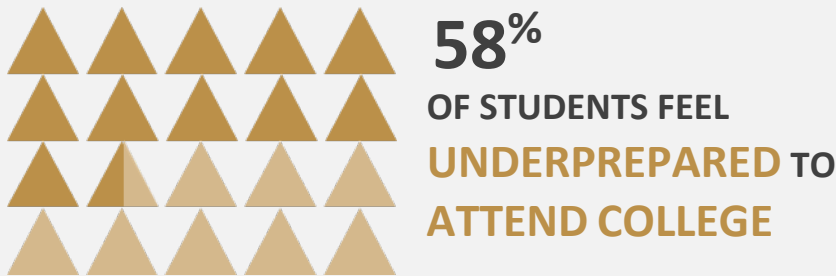
OUR JUNTOS STUDENTS ARE COLLEGE BOUND



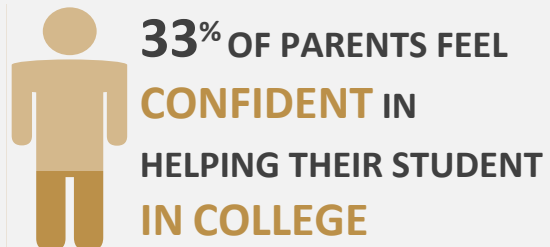
WHERE DO STUDENTS PLAN TO ATTEND?



OUR JUNTOS STUDENTS NEED SUPPORT



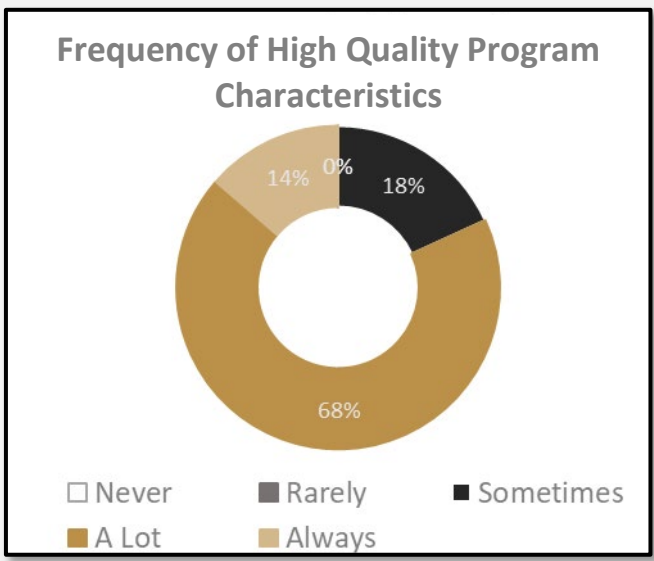
OUR JUNTOS PARENTS NEED SUPPORT



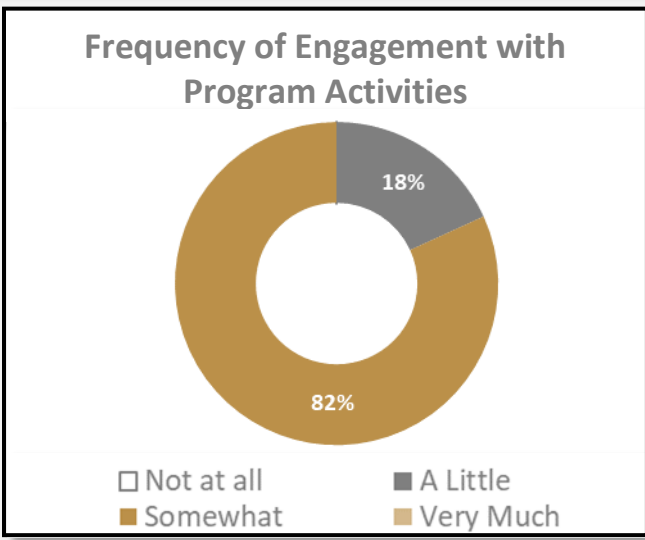
JUNTOS OFFERS ENGAGING ACTIVITIES AND A SAFE CONTEXT TO RECEIVE NEEDED SUPPORT

82% OF STUDENTS INDICATED DESIRABLE LEVELS OF PROGRAM QUALITY AND ENGAGEMENT

Juntos is a space where youth can find social safety and support with peers and adults, opportunities for growth, and meaningful activities.



"I think [Juntos] has made a difference for me and my family because I wasn't really looking forward to college. And they talk about stuff, they bring in people and they tell us more things about college and things you can take. That motivates me." Student

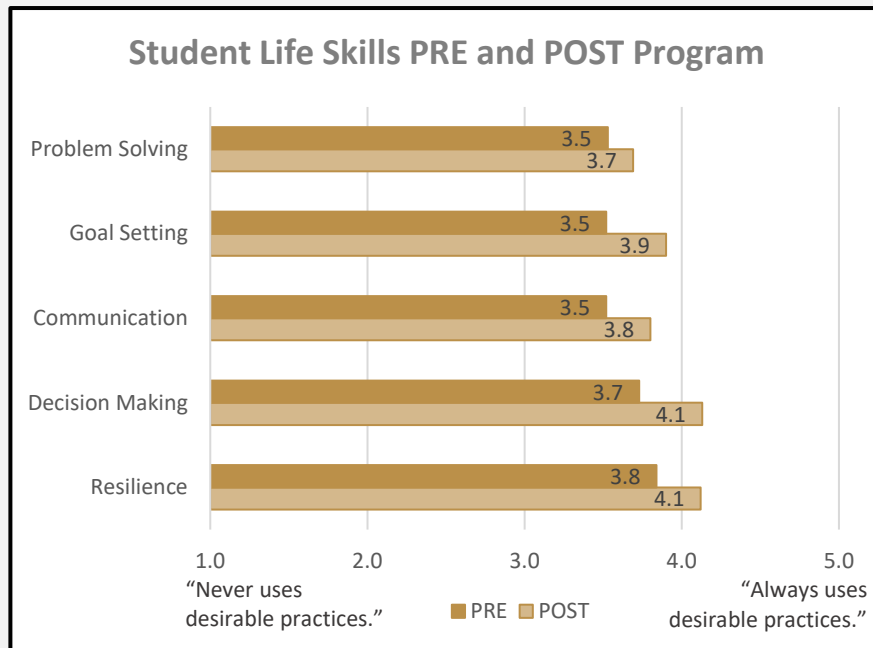


There are opportunities to engage youth with more activities that prioritize their preferences, interests and desire for challenge.

"Just more hands on activities for any part of the 4H and more for the family and for the summer and field trips. Talk about college more." Student

YOUTH BUILD THEIR TOOLBOX OF ACADEMIC, PERSONAL AND SOCIAL RESOURCES AT JUNTOS

All program activities aim to build knowledge and skills needed to help students and families work together to achieve their academic goals.



Over the course of the program, students reported small to moderate gains across all life skills.

YOUTH AND FAMILIES SEE JUNTOS AS A COMMUNITY BUILDING PROGRAM ON MANY LEVELS

The Juntos Program offers participants a needed opportunity to develop social connections. The opportunity to build relationships within and between families, and with extension educators and schools is the most frequently discussed benefit of the program.

Family members appreciate getting-to-know other families

"I have gotten to know my school community. I know who she is the mother of. And this is important because we are a community and it is more comfortable for parents and children. This has been a very nice experience for me." Juntos Parent

Family members build needed connections with schools through Extension Educators and Juntos 4-H Staff

“The [Juntos teachers] they help us a lot, a lot, a lot, a lot, they are very good people and they always try to find information for us. When something is stuck, we talk to the teacher. They are always aware of what you need, when you need help for your children. As Latinos, as Hispanics, they are there all the time to help us.” Juntos Parent

Youth enjoy connecting with their families during program activities

“When we have like family gatherings like at the school we play games and stuff. Everybody laughs. It [is] Interesting to watch everybody have fun doing something.” Juntos Student

“So, when [my parents] are [at Juntos], they get to learn more and things...It helps them give an idea to help me.” Juntos Student

Youth want to expand their Juntos social network to include other friends

“Maybe the program can focus on getting kids to come in like social groups or groups that are already like groups of friends.” Juntos Student

“I would say have a few nights where you think bring other people to see what we're doing. Like friends, to see what we're doing and like to give them ideas to learn more of it.” Juntos Student

OUR PLANS FOR THE 2022-2023 COHORTS

- Recruit new cohorts of families in all counties
- Continue to build community partnerships in Jackson, Lake, and Marion Counties to promote sustainability
- Strengthen existing partnerships with school systems in all counties to support Juntos 4-H Programs
- Continue and expand the Aeroponic Grow Tower Project in Jackson County
- Implement Aeroponic Grow Tower Projects in Lake and Marion Counties

Juntos
FOR A BETTER EDUCATION | PARA UNA MEJOR EDUCACIÓN



National Institute of Food and Agriculture
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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