



Bringing together Latino youth and their parents, schools, and community organizations to create opportunities for families and help youth succeed in school and pursue higher education.

The Challenge

Youth who complete high school and who obtain a college degree are much more likely to avoid poverty, unemployment, incarceration, and poor health[†]. Family engagement, parental academic motivation, and meaningful partnerships with school staff are key factors associated with youth academic success and preventing youth from dropping out of school. Effective programs provide opportunities for youth and their families to gain information, and to develop skills and relationships that will assist youth in graduating from high school and accessing higher education.

[†]www.iaae.net/files/Costofdroppingout2009RiskyBusiness-rev.pdf

Our Response

Across Iowa, local organizations and volunteers are collaborating with Iowa State University Extension and Outreach to bring Juntos to their communities. Juntos is an interactive, family-focused education program that engages youth and their families in learning together about ways to succeed in school and set family goals for completing high school and pursuing formal schooling beyond high school.

Juntos may include:

- Family workshops
- Family nights and events
- Visits to community colleges and universities
- Youth leadership and life skill development
- Academic mentoring

Results

Parents have increased their understanding and confidence regarding navigating their school system, as well as how to help their youth succeed in school and access higher education.

Youth have increased communication with their parents, teachers and school counselors, as well as have gained understanding of what they need to do to succeed in school, prepare for and increase their opportunities to participate in higher education.



COMMUNICATION



UNDERSTANDING



SUCCESS



Juntos – strengthening family and school communication, school success, and helping youth access higher education.

“What I liked most from the Juntos sessions was learning how things are different from the educational system in our countries.”



“I can be anything I want to be in life. I just have to believe in myself and work to do it.”

For more information visit:
www.extension.iastate.edu/humansciences/juntos