

impact

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

Juntos 4-H members celebrate academic success with high school graduation

AT A GLANCE

Juntos 4-H celebrates the academic success of Latinx members in achieving high school graduation and realizing the possibility of going-on to post-secondary education.

The Situation

Although the dropout rate for Latinx youth in the United States is declining, they continue to experience higher drop-out rates than Black or White students. There are negative and long-term consequences for youth that drop out related to economics, physical health and mental health. Juntos, offered through University of Idaho Extension 4-H Youth Development, was created to increase Latinx student academic success with support in achieving high school graduation and in realizing the possibility of going-on to post-secondary education.

Our Response

To increase graduation rates and improve go-on rates of Latinx middle school and high school students in Idaho, Juntos was implemented at Jerome Middle School and Jerome High School in 2018. Juntos (pronounced “Who-n-toes”) means “Together” in Spanish. The Juntos™ mission is to empower eighth to 12th grade Latinx and their families with knowledge, skills and resources to prevent youth from dropping out and to encourage families to work together to make college a family goal. Juntos is a nationally supported 4-H program developed by North Carolina State University and delivered in states across the country. In



Juntos 4-H graduates from Jerome High School graduating class of 2022.

collaboration with North Carolina State University, Jerome County Juntos is funded by a Children, Youth and Families at Risk (CYFAR) Sustainable Community grant through CYFAR/USDA-NIFA funding. Jerome County Juntos is the first program in the nation implemented as a for credit elective class offered during the regular school day including biweekly 4-H club meetings during class time. Typically, Juntos is implemented biweekly as an afterschool program.

Program Outcomes

Jerome County Juntos served 71 high school students in the spring semester of 2022. Ninety-two percent of students enrolled in Juntos during the 2021–2022 school year, graduated from Jerome High School or an alternative school. The first cohort from the 2018-2019

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school year graduated from Jerome High School with a 93% graduation rate. Eighty-two percent of those students enrolled in Juntos as ninth grade students continued to be enrolled as 12th grade students.

Recent program impacts include the Juntos effort in North Carolina and Idaho due to the partnership through the CYFAR/USDA-NIFA Project. In 2020-2021, this project served 244 students and families from six counties in two states with 81 students served in Jerome County. Impacts of the partnership include:

- 96% of students felt confident they would graduate high school
- 88% of students felt confident they would go to college
- 86% of students felt Juntos helped them take responsibility for their grades and school performance
- 80% of students felt they became more aware

Juntos student and parent comments tell the story of the Juntos program in Jerome County:

- “It has helped me get out of my comfort zone and helped me become a leader.” (Juntos student)
- “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.” (Juntos parent)

The Future

Additional funding from Northwest Farm Credit Services will allow the University of Idaho Extension 4-H Youth Development Juntos Program to expand sites in Idaho and support sustainability of the Juntos 4-H program into the future.

Cooperators and Co-Sponsors

- This CYFAR program is funded by USDA/NIFA
- Jerome School District #261



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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