#### **NC STATE** UNIVERSITY



Annual Report

### **Table of Contents**

**Summer Academy Program Summary County Profiles** Who We Served Bladen, NC Catawba, NC Green, NC **Impact on Students** Lee, NC Orange, NC Pender, NC Sampson, NC **Impact on Parents** Transylvania, NC Wake, NC **Ripple Effect Mapping Appendices** Appendix A: Summer Academdy Adgenda Appendix B: Program Overview

### **Letter From The Director**

Dear Partners and Juntos Community,

This 2022-2023 programming report comes with much excitement around new beginnings and fresh starts. During this reporting year, we welcomed our new assistant director, Lucía Planchón, who brings her wealth of experience in parenting education and a passion for seeing young people thrive. She was born in Uruguay and immigrated to the United States at eight. Lucía understands and values our Juntos families' journey to ensure their children reach academic success.

In early 2023, Juntos received the news that it was awarded the USDA NIFA Youth Innovators Empowering Agriculture Across America program. This award will allow Juntos to expand its reach nationally and add a new STEM Agriculture Science component to the program, enabling us to serve students beyond high school graduates. A total of five states will benefit from this 5-year award with a focus on establishing the National Juntos Consortium, 2024 will see some changes nationally as a Juntos National office will be developed to support the consortium work.

The first in-person National Juntos
Convening was hosted at Oregon
State University in March 2023. Juntos
professionals from thirteen states
participated, and sixty-five students
traveled for their first national
Juntos gathering.

North Carolina Juntos continued to grow as we welcomed one of our largest Juntos Academy cohorts in years. 105 students experienced a packed-full academy that included soft skill workshops and six projects focused on STEM while allowing them to explore all types of careers during class time and college and networking fairs. We listened to our families and youth and gave them a day at our local community college, where they learned about the trade jobs and resources our community college system offers.



a packed-full academy that included soft skill workshops and six projects focused on STEM while allowing them to explore all types of careers during class time and college and networking fairs.

I have learned to accept that Juntos will move forward only through the depth of relationships and community built to support it. Juntos follows our community's tradition of seeing one's flourishment come from the support of many.

In 2022-2023, through our partnerships with community colleges, local organizations, and school districts, NC State Juntos led 18 sites across 8 counties and supported the full-time or part-time employment of 12 coordinating staff. We are grateful to our partners for having the vision to support the work of our great state.

Sincerely,

Diana Urieta Senior Director

## Juntos Program Summary

Juntos, which means "together" in Spanish, is a program that supports academic success among Latino youth in grades 8-12. Juntos was developed in 2007 at North Carolina State University as a series of six family workshops that brought students and their parents together to learn about the US educational system. Since that time, the Juntos model has expanded beyond the original family workshops to include three additional components focused on the youth: 4-H clubs, one-on-one success coaching and mentoring, and summer programming. It has also spread, and is now implemented in eight counties in North Carolina and 16 states. Two of the counties implementing Juntos in North Carolina received funding from the NIFA-USDA Children, Youth, and Families at Risk (CYFAR) Sustainable Community Projects funding program. This was a five-year grant that came to an end in August of 2023. Juntos and community partners worked diligently to create a sustainability plan to ensure the work would continue beyond the grant funds.



### **Juntos 4-H Program**

The NC State University Juntos leadership team strongly believes the 4-H experience can provide Juntos students the space where skills and leadership building take place, and positive relationships are formed in a safe environment. This space gives our Juntos students access to dependable adults who provide them with resources and access to experiences that develop them as a group and individuals. Juntos 4-H clubs are also a place where youth can engage in topics like cultural identity and invite their community into their 4-H experience. National 4-H research has shown that 4-H participants perform better in school, are motivated to help others, and develop skills in leadership, public speaking, self-esteem, and communication and planning.

In 2022-2023, the Juntos Program continued to serve and support many students and families to deliver the four Juntos components:

#### Club Meetings

157 meetings held

#### Success Coaching

351 sessions held

#### Summer Academy

105 students served

#### Family Engagement

62 events held

## 2022-2023 Program Milestones

- ▶ 321 students served across 9 different counties in North Carolina.
- ▶ 100% graduation rate (58 12th graders).
- ▶ 23 graduating students enrolled in higher education.
- In-person Summer Academy where 105 students spent 5 days at North Carolina State University.
- Partnership with 18 schools.
- Expansion to 1 new site in North Carolina.



## Who We Served in 2022-2023

More than two-thirds (69%) of the students participating in Juntos were traditional public High School students. Another 19% were in Cooperative Innovative High Schools (often referred to as "Early Colleges"). Cooperative Innovative High Schools are small public high schools, usually located on the campus of a university or community college, serve firstgeneration college students, and/ or students who would benefit from accelerated learning opportunities. The remaining 12% of Juntos students were in traditional public middle schoolers.

In 2022-2023, Juntos served 321 students and families, across 9 different counties in North Carolina.

Early College Students

High School Students

Middle School Students



11 Students
Bladen Early College
East Bladen High School
West Bladen High School



113 Students Arndt Middle School St Stephens High School Challenger Early College

Greene County
15 Students

Greene Central High School

In 2022-2023, Juntos expanded to Transylvania County, serving 2 new schools.



23 Students Lee County High School

#### Orange County

**20 Students**Carrboro High School

#### Pender County

**5 Students**Pender High School

#### Sampson County

82 Students
Sampson Middle School
Sampson Early College
Clinton High School

#### Transylvania County

**14 Students**Brevard High School
Rosman High School

#### Wake County

38 Students Neuse River Middle School Vernon Malone Career Academy East Wake High School

## What did Juntos do in 2022-2023?

Juntos engaged students and families in core program components:

#### Juntos 4-H Club

The Juntos 4-H club focused on tutoring, public speaking, life skills, higher education, and community service to increase college readiness and sense of belonging in students' schools and community. In 2022-2023, the Juntos Program held 157 4-H Club meetings, across 8 different counties.

#### **Family Engagment Events**

Family Engagement Events include a five-week or six-week workshop series and other family events designed to empower families and increase engagement in their students' academic journey. In 2022-2023, the Juntos Program coordinated 62 family events, across all 8 counties.

#### **Success Coaching**

One-on-One Success Coaching involves monitoring academic progress, one-on-one meetings, and coaching youth to achieve personalized academic and career goals. Individual coaching sessions happen at least once a month. In 2022-2023, the Juntos Program **held 351 sessions** of One-on-One Success Coaching.

#### **Summer Academy**

Summer Programming includes the Juntos Summer Academy, which is a week-long experience at NC State University, and other local 4-H summer programs. In 2022-2023, the Juntos Program hosted Summer Academy in person, serving 105 students.



Held 157 4-H Meetings



Held 62 Family Events



Held 351 Sessions



Served 105 Students at Summer Academy

## What was the impact of Juntos on students?

When asked what their greatest takeaway from Juntos was, students answered with:

- ► Knowledge about college, careers, and resources
- Friendships
- Leadership, communication, and social skills
- Community Service
- Improved grades



"Juntos has helped me get through school and build leadership skills. It has helped me discover new things for when we are ready to head either to college or the workforce."

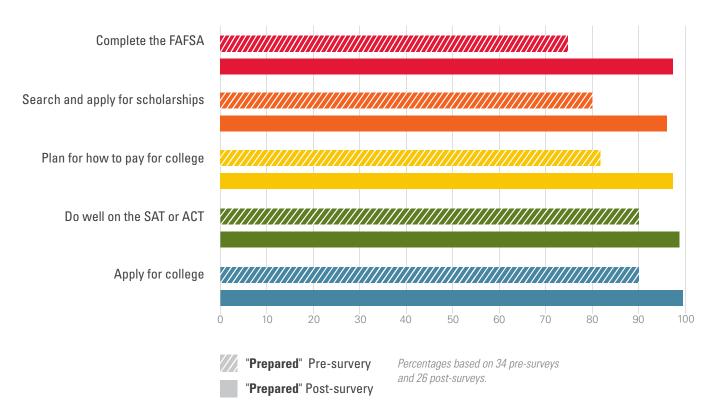
"Juntos have given me a community like no other. It's like a family where we can be ourselves with each other and embrace our cultures."

"Juntos has created a sense of community at my school, and within the program, it's helped me grow as a student and a person overall. Juntos gave me the skills and resources to attain higher education and motivated me to go to college. These past couple of months, I was accepted into numerous colleges and graduated high school. My high school journey wasn't easy, but with the help of Juntos and my family, I managed to finish off one of the chapters of my life, and I'm ready to take on the next one."

"[Juntos] has helped me gain a better insight of how I prepare myself for college and to know what opportunities are available to me."

> -Words from Juntos students

In particular, among high school juniors and seniors, many more knew about how to apply and pay for college at the end of the year than had at the beginning.



### Juntos students demonstrated high levels of academic rigor and achievement.

- ► For 2022-23, the average weighted GPA for Juntos students was 3.2, well above the minimum required of 2.5 for admission to the University of North Carolina system.¹ The average unweighted GPA for Juntos students was 3.5.
- ▶ 88% of high school students were enrolled in Honors classes, 23% in AP courses, and 39% in college courses¹
- ▶ 100% of high school seniors graduated, with 40% enrolling in a 2- or 4-year college/university program²

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Based on 64 high school transcripts. <sup>2</sup> Based on 58 students enrolled as 12th graders in 2022-2023.



### Student Evaulation Data and Methods

Juntos data is drawn from surveys administered to students at the beginning and end of the academic year, student transcripts, program attendance records and a survey conducted during the Summer Academy. Quotes are from open-ended questions on the post-test survey. Response rates were 58% for the pre-test and 60% for the post-test.

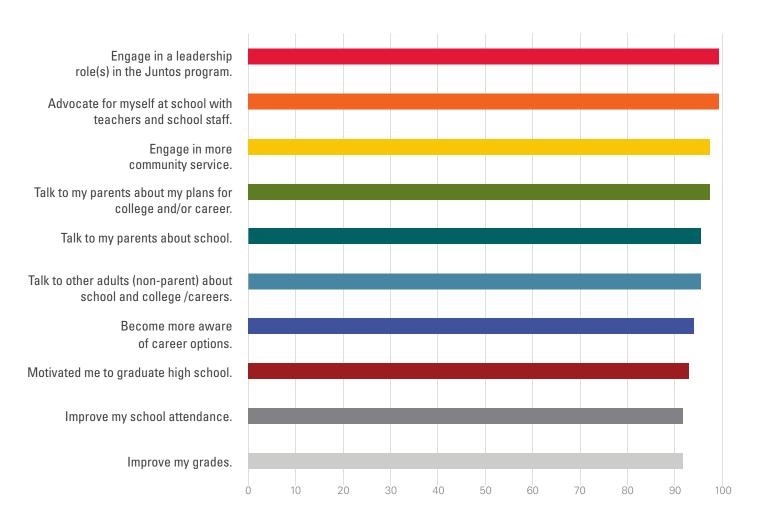
#### **Additional Program Benefits**

Students reported that being in a program specfic to Latinos was inspirational.

- ▶ Being with other students with similar stories made them feel welcome and connected.
- Interacting with other Latino students who want to succeed provided support in pursuing their goals.
- Seeing other Latino students succeed inspired them to believe they could do the same.
- ▶ Being able to communicate in both English and Spanish helped to build deeper relationships.
- Meeting and interacting with Latino leaders from the community provided valuable role models.

Juntos students reported the program helped them prepare for future professional and educational success

Students agreed or strongly agreed that being a part of the Juntos Program helps them:



Percentages based on 193 post-surveys

## What was the impact of Juntos on parents?

Juntos parents reported the program helped them understand and support their child's educational journey.

- ► An increase in skills and knowledge needed to access higher education.
- ▶ Desire to promote academic success through consistent involvement in their children's education.
- ▶ Improvement in their children's sense of belonging within their school and greater community, crediting this behavior change to the resources and activities their local Juntos program offers.
- Increased sense of agency over their child's academic plan due to a better understanding of the United States educational system, crediting the Coordinators with delivering the information in a way accessible via bilingual, English-to-Spanish translation.
- Parents specifically identified the network of people involved in putting on Juntos programming as one of the greatest assets the program offers their children. Apart from providing networking opportunities and access to more resources in the form of knowledge and references, parents agreed that Juntos's points of contact serve as exemplary role models for their children, whether it be fellow peers, Juntos alumni, or other professionals.

The ease of being able to communicate [in Spanish] with the coordinators who run the program and the trust it built is inspirational.

I have seen the growth and change in my daughter's life.

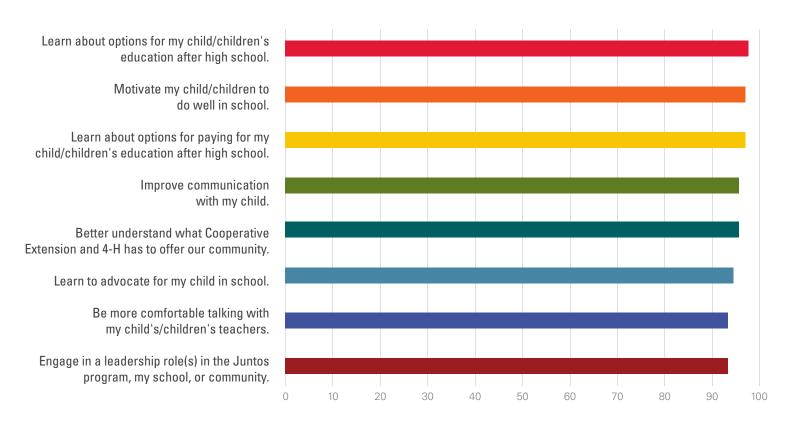
It is an excellent program for our community that may not know all the information [about universities] so that our children can go to university.

> -Words from Juntos parents



Juntos parents reported that the program helped them understand and support their child's educational journey.

Parents agreed or strongly agreed that being a part of the Juntos Program helps them:



Percentages based on 152 parent post-surveys.

#### Parent Evaluation Data and Methods:

Data from parents is drawn from a survey administered to parents at the end of the academic year. The survey consisted of Likert-scale and openended questions designed to measure the impact of Juntos on parents. Response rates for the survey were 47%. Data regarding the impact of Juntos on parents is from a Ripple Effect Mapping (REM) exercise conducted with 14 parents and 10 youth during a Family Event in Catawba County. For REM, parents and families interviewed each other one-on-one, reported findings to the group, and then used mind mapping to identify themes.

## Ripple Effect Mapping

In North Carolina, annual impact reports allow Juntos site coordinators and partners to identify ways to improve evaluation for the benefit of families and K-12 outcomes. Biannual focus groups in North Carolina provide parents and students with the opportunity to share their experiences in the program and to share insight into how to keep the program moving forward.

In 2022, NC implemented the Ripple Effect Mapping (REM) method (Chazdon, Scott, et al. A field guide to ripple effects mapping. University of Minnesota Libraries Publishing, 2017.) in Catawba County with 14 parents and 10 youth. Youth and parents were split into two groups, then paired off to interview each other in separate rooms. They asked each other four questions provided by the evaluation team, which were focused on Juntos impact and areas they would like to see their Juntos program improve before coming together to discuss the highlights from their interviews. Each group developed a ripple effect map, which categorizes the conversation highlights into themes. The process led to multiple themes, which included community, student development, family, education, sustainability, careers, and suggestions/recommendations.



The following recommendations were particularly prevalent in conversation:

Students recommended more interactive family components, increased trade school representation, shared resources through Google Classroom, and expanded mentorship opportunities. Parents identified broadening networking opportunities, increasing college tours, and expanding the program to more school locations.

For more information on Ripple Effect Mapping, visit, go.ncsu.edu/juntos\_rem\_2023

## **Summer Academy**

In June 2023, the Juntos Program hosted a Summer Academy, during which Juntos students from across the state spent five days on North Carolina State University's campus, networking and learning about different career opportunities and essential skills. The 2023 Summer Academy saw 105 students from nine North Carolina counties participate in Juntos' summer programming.



## Students share new understandings after attending Summer Academy:

"I learned that having connections can have a huge role in your future. I learned so much about Entrepreneurship and might even minor in business now just for that reason, to build my own brand."

"I learned that my path is supported and that I should be more confident in what I want to work in."

The different types of engineering and how they can help contribute to fighting climate change. It made me realize that I might want to go into engineering."

Juntos students attended classes centered around specific career paths and skills.

#### Skills:

Professional Interviewing
Resume Writing
College 101
Time Management
Financial Literacy

#### Careers:

Engineering
Business
Computer Science
Mental Health
Environmental Science
BioTechnology

#### **Projects:**

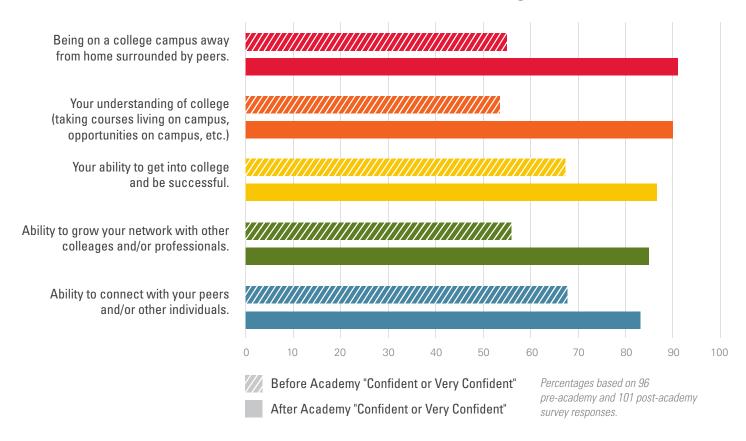
Agriscience
Pharmacology
Environmental Science
Engineering

### **Summer Academy**

Summer Academy is a five-day long college experience held at North Carolina State University for rising 9th to 12th graders from across the state. In addition to participating in classes and workshops, attendees have the opportunity to live on campus for a week, work closely with college students, professors, and professionals, and participate in a week-long project.

See Appendix A for the 2023 Summer Academy schedule.

By the end of the Summer Academy, students reported having much greater confidence in their networking and communication skills and their college readiness.



#### **Summer Academy Evaluation Data and Methods**

The data above is based on a pre-test and post-test survey administered to students at the beginning and end of Summer Academy, respectively. The survey consisted of agree/disagree, Likert-scale, before/after, and open-ended questions designed to measure the impact of the Academy workshops and activities. Response rates for the pre-academy survey was 88%, and 93% for the post-academy survey.



## **Bladen County,**

#### North Carolina

Bladen County is a large rural county in eastern North Carolina known for blueberries, sweet potatoes, and its farmworker community. Juntos students represent three schools in the towns of Bladenboro, Dublin, and Elizabethtown. Juntos in Bladen works alongside the largest number of Migrant Education students in the state. Twenty-one percent of the students in Bladen County schools are Hispanic/Latino.

Juntos launched in Bladen County in 2018 as a part-time effort and has served more than 40 students with a majority of enrolled students returning to the program until they graduate high school. This year, the program was supported through a Work Experience offered through Telamon, which allowed for the coordinator to work part time starting in the Spring semester while being a college student full-time. The Juntos program is sustained through a partnership with the Migrant Education program, which provided a homebase for the coordinator and encouraged collaboration between the programs. Anonymous Trust funds support Juntos Summer Academy scholarships for this county.



11 students served

"I learned that my path is supported and that I should be more confident in what I want to work in.

#### Juntos student

Bladen County, North Carolina

#### County Demographics:

- ► Population of 32,000
- ► Median income of \$39,000
- ► 21% of student population is Hispanic/Latino

#### Components Implemented:

► 11 students sponsored to attend Summer Academy at NC State



Bladen County Juntos has a history of working in collaboration with community partnerships to enrich their students' experience in Juntos. In 2022-2023, Bladen Juntos had multiple occasions where community partners were featured in the programming.

In April, there was a Parent Night hosted at Elizabethtown Middle School to educate parents on the college process while the youth received programming on workforce career choices. The room was split in two, and parents received relevant information from the Juntos Coordinator to discuss the parental responsibilities when students apply for college while the youth heard from a representative of Bladen's College Advising Corps on the different career opportunities that are available to youth.

In May, the College Foundation of North Carolina representative, Juana Hernandez-Lira, joined Juntos for a Scholarship and FAFSA Night. This event featured general information about applying for both scholarships and FAFSA and saw students from various stages of preparation come forward to ask specific questions regarding their eligibility to go to college. Hernandez-Lira was able to provide resources to get those questions answered.

For Bladen's annual Community Service project, our students worked together with the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry to help serve local farm workers with goods during an event organized by the Episcopal Farmworker Ministry.



Photo: Students and their families joined Juana Hernandez-Lira (CFNC) for a FAFSA night.

"Juntos has motivated me to continue working hard. It's very motivating to know that there are people in my community that believe in me."

**Juntos Student**Bladen County, North Carolina



#### Investors:

- ► Bladen County Schools
- ► Migrant Education
- ► Bladen Extension
- ▶ Telamon

#### Partners:

- College Foundation of North Carolina
- ► Episcopal Farmworker Ministry
- College Advising Corps



## Catawba County,

#### **North Carolina**

Catawba County is located in western North Carolina. In Catawba County, Juntos is active in three schools, Arndt Middle School, St. Stephens High School, and Challenger Early College High School, all of which are located in the town of Hickory.

Juntos launched in Catawba County in 2016 and programming for 2022-2023 is made possible through a USDA-NIFA Children, Youth, and Families at Risk (CYFAR) grant, the local Extension office, and United Way funds. Catawba County has two staff implementing the program, a full-time coordinator and a part-time Family Liaison, both supported through the CYFAR grant.



113 students served



**18** graduating seniors



## Higher Education Enrollment:

- ► Caldwell Community College & Technical Institute
- Catawba Valley Community College
- ► North Carolina State University
- University of North Carolina
- University of North Carolina Charlotte

"Juntos has created a sense of community at my school, has helped me grow as a student and a person overall, and gave me the skills and resources to attain higher education and motivated me to go to college.

#### Juntos student

Catawba County, North Carolina

#### County Demographics:

- ► Population of 44,000
- ► Median income of \$53,000
- ► 18% of student population is Hispanic/Latino

#### Components Implemented:

- ► 45 Juntos 4-H Club Meetings
- ► 19 family engagement events and workshops
- ► 187 one-on-one success coaching opportunities
- ► 18 students attended Summer Academy at NC State



Catawba Juntos has a strong history of partnering with the local and state community to provide a variety of opportunities to its families. In 2022, Juntos in Catawba partnered with the Office for Student Equity & Engagement at Catawba Valley Community College for programming at St Stephens and Challenger High Schools, where students received sessions on Impostor Syndrome and learned from Student Ambassadors "what college is really like".

The Juntos Program also hosted 2 FAFSA completion events for the community in partnership with CFNC Spanish Services, CVCC, K-64, Challenger Early College High School, and Centro Latino Hickory. Throughout the year, Juntos students and their families were also provided 8 college tour opportunities throughout the state of North Carolina.

Embracing the nature of 4-H, the Juntos 4-H Clubs did multiple community service projects, which include volunteering at The Corner Table, Murray Elementary School, and St Stephens Elementary School. Through the partnership with Catawba Extension, 2 Juntos 4-H members were recognized at the Catawba County 4-H Achievement Night. The parents are also very involved in the community and throughout our programming, as over 150 volunteer hours were recorded from parents during family engagements and outreach events.



**Photo:** Juntos Students at Hispanic Heritage Festival.

"Above all, thank you to Juntos for keeping us informed and letting us know that there are many opportunities for our students to succeed."

Juntos Parent Catawba County, North Carolina



## **County Sustainability**

#### Investors:

- Catawba CountyCooperative Extension
- Catawba County Schools
- Catawba County United Way
- Children, Youth, Families At Risk (CYFAR)

#### Partners:

- Catawba Valley Community College (CVCC)
- Centro Latino Hickory
- College Foundation of North Carolina (CFNC) Spanish Services
- K-64 Learning Lenoir Rhyne University First Generation Club
- NC School of Science & Mathematics
- ▶ NCWorks
- UNCG Undergraduate
   Admission Office Latinx/
   Hispanic Recruitment
   Incentives



## Greene County,

#### North Carolina

Greene is a rural county in eastern North Carolina, with one school district. Greene County Schools has one high school and an early college, and Juntos is currently implemented at the high school. Thirty-three percent of the students in Greene County schools are Hispanic/Latino.

2022-2023 was Greene County's second year implementing Juntos. For the second year, the Juntos Program in Greene County is supported fully by Greene County Schools, which allows for there to be two coordinators, each at a part time basis, dedicated to Juntos. One coordinator serves as the high school Spanish teacher and ESL teacher, while the other coordinator works in the Pre-K program.



15 students served



graduating seniors

"Juntos allowed me to interact with new people and helped me get out of my comfort zone."

Juntos student

Greene County, North Carolina

## County Demographics:

- ► Population of **20,000**
- ► Median income of \$46.000
- ► 32% of student population is Hispanic/Latino

#### Components Implemented:

- ► 15 Juntos 4-H Club Meetings
- ► 8 family engagement events and workshops
- ► 13 students attended Summer Academy at NC State



Greene County had many successes this second year of implementation, starting with opening a Scholarship for the Juntos seniors. With the support of the school's administration, they held a Valentine's Day fundraiser, Jeans Day fundraiser, and Taco Truck fundraiser. These events sold candy grams and goody bags, tickets to teachers to wear jeans on Fridays, and tacos, for which the parents of the program graciously donated supplies.

Greene County Juntos is very active in the school and also partnered with another school club to help them fundraise to raise awareness for mental health in teenagers in September. The fundraiser accrued \$500 and all of the profits of that event went directly to that club. The Juntos Program also went to the local elementary school to hold a Noche Hispana, where students talked about Juntos to the families that attended and had a table. This event even made it on the news, as well as was featured in a local newsletter!



**Photo:** Greene County Juntos Youth at an event in Collaboration with ECU Admissions.

"Thanks to Juntos, I am looking forward to deciding which colleges I will apply for, thanks to the resources and the many options they provided us with."

Juntos Student Greene County, North Carolina



#### Investors:

- ► Greene County Extension
- ► Greene County Schools

#### Partners:

- ► Lenoir Community College
- West Greene Elementary School
- ► La Flama Restaurant



## Lee County, North Carolina

Lee is a rural county in central North Carolina. Juntos in Lee County is hosted by Lee County High School, in the county seat of Sanford. Industries in Sanford include the production of bricks, textiles, and vaccines. Thirty-eight percent of the students in Lee County schools are Hispanic/Latino.

2022-2023 was Lee County's second year implementing Juntos. Programming is made possible through support from Cooperative Extension and Lee County Schools' Migrant Education, Immigrant and English as a Second Language Programs. Our Juntos program was coordinated by volunteers in the beginning of the school year, with very limited programming, until a part-time coordinator was finally able to support it in the Spring semester.



23 students served



**2** graduating seniors



## Higher Education Enrollment:

Central Carolina Community College

"I like Juntos a lot because I am able to share my thoughts with my extracurricular classmates. Juntos has allowed me to develop security and confidence in my leadership and now I am encouraged to go to university."

#### Juntos student

Lee County, North Carolina



#### County Demographics:

- ► Population of **30,000**
- ► Median income of \$51,000
- ► **38**% of student population is Hispanic/Latino

#### Components Implemented:

- ► 15 Juntos 4-H Club Meetings
- ► 2 family engagement events and workshops
- ► 14 students attended Summer Academy at NC State



The 2022-2023 school year saw student leadership thrive in Lee County. Our youth embraced their connection with Lee County Extension and 4-H and partnered in multiple ways throughout the year, focusing on community service, youth development, and creating a sense of belonging within the community.

Our students built leadership skills by conducting club activities using the 4-H guidelines provided and participating in the county 4-H Awards Night. Using that event as a template, the Juntos 4-H Club also held its own Awards Night, which was attended by parents, students, teachers and community leaders. Lee County also partnered with Collaboration is Prosperation and Lee County Extension to provide plants and shrubbery that was included in a beautification project of the local Family Engagement Center for their community service project.

Lee County Juntos also participated in multiple community events. The Juntos 4-H club was featured in the Sanford Christmas Parade and represented in El Refugio's International Culture Night, highlighting two South American countries, Venezuela and Uruguay. This night allowed for the youth to showcase different cultures by dressing up in traditional wear, sharing typical food, and displaying fun facts from each country.



**Photo:** Angel Mills, NCSU Juntos Work-Study Students, and Lee County Club Students doing a service project at Lee County Family Engagement Center.

"Juntos is a program that teaches you how to be useful when you go out into society as an adult, so that you are someone with fixed goals and that those goals are met, that you can dream and be a Hispanic / Latino leader to be successful no matter your race. It helped me a lot in my life as a student."

Juntos student Lee County, North Carolina



#### Investors:

- ► Lee County Extension
- ► Lee County Schools

#### Partners:

- El Refugio
- College Foundation North Carolina
- ► Collaboration Is Prosperation
- ► Lee Insurance Service Center



## **Orange County, North Carolina**

Orange County is in central North Carolina. Juntos in Orange County is hosted by Carrboro High School in the town of Carrboro. Carrboro is a small town with a population of 21,000, but it is contiguous with the larger town of Chapel Hill. Median income is \$77,000. Eighteen percent of students in the Chapel Hill-Carrboro school system are Hispanic/Latino.

Juntos began in Orange County in 2019. The program is made possible because the school social worker volunteers her time to facilitate family engagement and 4-H clubs. Through partnerships with NC State and UNC-Chapel Hill's Social Work departments, a graduate student has traditionally aided the Juntos work as well. This program is well supported by the school's administrative staff, many of whom are co-facilitators and club leaders for the Juntos Program.



students served



graduating seniors



## **Higher Education Enrollment:**

- UNC Chapel Hill
- Meredith College
- Durham Technical Community College
- Central Carolina Community College

"Family Nights are very nice for the community. It was nice to see other families bond and learn together."

#### Juntos student

Orange County, North Carolina

#### County Demographics:

- ► Population of **21,000**
- Median income of \$77.000
- ▶ **18**% of student population is Hispanic/Latino

#### Components Implemented:

- ► 22 Juntos 4-H Club Meetings
- ▶ 9 family engagement event
- ▶ 8 students attended Summer Academy at NC State



Carrboro Juntos 4-H Club explored culture, careers, and community service in 2022-2023. To start, the student leaders in the club assisted in organizing a school wide Hispanic Heritage Celebration during Hispanic Heritage Month. This leadership is exactly what 4-H is all about, which is also displayed in the youth's community service project. This year, Carrboro Juntos hosted a Red Cross Blood Drive at Carrboro High School.

When it comes to professional development, Carrboro Juntos explored many career opportunities through guest speakers and field trips. This year, the club featured multiple speakers from various industries, including Tony Fister from Red Hat, who spoke to the group about computer science careers. Lorena Meza was a guest speaker from LatinxEd's group, College y Consejos, and spoke to the youth about higher education options. Finally, Ron Garcia-Fogarty, from the Tilde Language Justice Cooperative, spoke to the youth about social justice and tackled topics that our youth brought up. Carrboro Juntos also attended UNC's Dental School for a campus tour to learn about higher education pathways to dentistry and what requirements are expected in this program.



**Photo:** Hispanic Heritage Month - video of the students performing their traditional

"Thanks to Juntos, I am motivated to research colleges and make sure Juntos and other organizations that aid students just like me are known at my school. I want everybody to know the resources they have."

Juntos Student. Orange County, North Carolina



#### Investors:

- Orange County Extension
- ► Chapel Hill-Carrboro City Schools

#### Partners:

- El Futuro
- Latino Credit Union
- **CStep**
- **UNC Greensboro**
- **Guilford College**

## Sampson County,

#### **North Carolina**

Sampson is a largely agricultural county in eastern North Carolina. Juntos works in three schools in the city of Clinton, serving both school districts in the county. Clinton has a population of 8,000 and a median income of \$35,000. Forty-two percent of the students in Clinton schools are Hispanic/Latino.

The Juntos program in Sampson County launched in 2010. Sampson County is unique in that there are two separate funding sources allowing for there to be two coordinators in the county, each serving a school district as part-time Juntos Coordinators. The program is made possible by a USDA CYFAR grant, which allows for the facilitation of all four components of Juntos in Sampson County School District, and by the Clinton City Schools superintendent's office, which allows a middle school math teacher to implement Juntos family engagement and 4-H clubs after school.



82 students served



**14** graduating seniors



## **Higher Education Enrollment:**

- Sampson Community College
- Johnston Community College
- East Carolina University
- Hollins University
- Presbyterian College
- ► Furman University
- Lycoming College
- ► Fayetteville Technical Community College



#### County Demographics:

- ► Population of **8,000**
- ► Median income of \$35,000
- ► **42**% of student population is Hispanic/Latino

#### Components Implemented:

- ► 44 Juntos 4-H Club Meetings
- ► 18 family engagement events and workshops
- ► 73 one-on-one success coaching opportunities
- ► 18 students attended Summer Academy at NC State



Sampson

Sampson County Juntos had a unique experience this year, as both coordinators came together to offer the Juntos High School Curriculum at the middle school, welcoming families from both Sampson Early College and Clinton High School to attend. 4-H Clubs were held at both schools and many family night events happened conjointly. In November, Sampson Early College Juntos hosted a Culture Fest in October to celebrate Día de los Muertos and encouraged families to bring in meals that they typically see in their culture. Clinton High Juntos hosted a Meet the Clinton PD night, where students got to learn about the police department in Clinton and ask the police officers general questions regarding their careers and share fun facts.

The clubs also participated in several community activities, including hosting a Juntos table at Open House and Parent Night at Butler Avenue School, participating in the Sampson Middle School Fall Festival, collecting items for Farmworkers Awareness Week as a community service project, and being in the Clinton City School Expo event. Students also attended the Sampson County 4-H Achievement Award Night.

This year came with many successes for the Juntos 4-H Clubs, as two students were recipients of the Simple Gifts Scholarship, which provided the youth with a full-ride scholarship to a private Liberal Arts college outside of North Carolina. In addition, one student was chosen to attend the 4-H National Conference in Washington D.C., and later attended the North Carolina 4-H Congress, held in Raleigh. These 4-H experiences led to a workshop that shared Juntos with other youth around North Carolina.



**Photo:** Sampson County Family Night Workshops: Coordinators Genny Merlos-Pulley and Vanessa Garcia. Student Yoandri Zuniga and his mom are pictured above after the completion of the Juntos Family Engagement Program

"Juntos has helped me get through school and build leadership skills. It has helped me discover new things for when we are ready to head either to college or the workforce."

Juntos Student Sampson County, North Carolina



## **County Sustainability**

#### Investors:

- Anonymous Trust
- CYFAR
- Sampson Community College
- Clinton City Schools

Sampson County

- Cooperative Extension
- Sampson County Schools

#### Partners:

- SCC Student Government Association
- SCC Learning Resource Center
- SCC Student Success Team
- NC A&T University
- El Campo Restaurant
- ► La Hacienda Restaurant
- SECHS Glee Club, Key Club and Beta Club
- Cape Fear Farm Credit
- La Costeña 2

Sampson



## Transylvania County, North Carolina

Transylvania county rural county in western North Carolina known for its waterfalls and white squirrels. Juntos students represent two schools in the towns of Brevard and Rosman. Juntos in Transylvania County works along migrant families in the county. The population of Transylvania county is 33,000 and 3.2% are Hispanic/Latino. 11% of the student population identifies as Hispanic/Latino.

Juntos launched in Transylvania County in 2022. The program is sustained through a local community organization, El Centro, which allows for a staff member to dedicate a portion of their time to coordinating Juntos for two high schools at their community center. Collaboration with the County Extension office created opportunities for youth to participate in 4-H activities throughout their club times as well.



14 students served



**5** graduating seniors

"A parent was very thankful for Juntos - she didn't know that her son was enrolled in CC in town. She didn't have any information on how to get her kid into college. She is so glad that Juntos exists. She missed the first meeting, if you have it again, I want to sign up again so I can learn for my daughter."

#### Juntos parent

New Hanover County, North Carolina

#### County Demographics:

- ▶ Population of 33,000
- ► Median income of \$27,000
- ► 11% of student population is Hispanic/Latino

#### Components Implemented:

- ► 12 Juntos 4-H Club Meetings
- ► 6 family engagement events and workshops
- 4 students attended Summer Academy at NC State



This was Transylvania's first year implementing Juntos. The program was implemented through Family Engagement Nights and Clubs, held at two high schools.

Transylvania County Juntos held Family Workshop sessions where families in the area learned to work together with their youth to make education a family goal, and learned about their community organizations as well as their schools. For many parents, this was the first time they attended a program that was available entirely in Spanish.

In order to make this year's Club a success, Transylvania Juntos worked closely together with 4-H staff to hold club, where youth led activities with the guidance of their 4-H Agent. The Juntos 4-H Club was also represented in the County Activity Day, where students were encouraged to create a presentation, digital or poster, to highlight something that they are passionate about. The two youths that presented from the Juntos 4-H Club were awarded first place in their category after presenting on the city of Brevard through a series of photographs, speaking on their favorite things about Brevard and what makes it a special place to live.



**Photo:** Two students that attended the Transylvania Extension's County Activity Day were awarded first place for their presentation on Brevard through a photographic lens.

"I didn't have any information on how to get my daughter into college. I'm so glad that Juntos exists and because of Juntos, I have been able to learn for my daughter."

**Juntos Parent,** Transylvania County, North Carolina



#### Investors:

- Resourceful Communities
- ► El Centro Hispano

#### Partners:

- ► Brevard High School
- Transylvania County Extension



## Wake County,

#### **North Carolina**

Wake County is in central North Carolina and is the seat of Raleigh, the state capital. Juntos is hosted by East Wake High School, Neuse River Middle School, and Vernon Malone College and Career Academy. Wake County's economy is heavily influenced by nearby Research Triangle Park, a center for high-tech and biotech research. Rural areas of the county are largely agricultural.

The Juntos program in Wake County launched in 2014. The program is supported by funding from a partnership with Wake Tech Community College, which funds a full time coordinator at East Wake High School and Neuse River Middle School, allowing for all four components of Juntos to be facilitated for these schools. The Vernon Malone Business Advisory Committee funds the Family Engagement component for the program, and since the coordinator is very part-time, she facilitates 4-H Clubs with the assistance of Federal Work Study students from NC State through the State Juntos Program.



38 students served



**7** graduating seniors



## Higher Education Enrollment:

- ▶ Wingate University
- ► Wake Technical Community College
- UNC Wilmington
- Campbell University

"Juntos has given me the opportunity to find myself and learn about all the different career opportunities in the world."

#### Juntos Student

Wake County, North Carolina



- ► Population of **1.2 million**
- ► Median income of \$88,000
- ► 19% of student population is Hispanic/Latino

#### Components Implemented:

- ► 27 Juntos 4-H Meetings
- ► 14 Family Engagement sessions
- ► 15 Students attended Summer Academy
- ▶ 85 Success Coaching sessions



2022-2023 was a year of highlights for Wake County as students experienced various opportunities for positive youth development. To start, students from both Vernon Malone and East Wake were able to attend the Juntos National Convening that happened in March at Oregon State University, as well as attending the 4-H National Conference in Washington D.C. Students were able to speak to their state representatives and talk about legislative barriers that exist that affect Juntos youth across the US. Students were also able to participate in the North Carolina Society for Hispanic Professional's Education Summit.

In Vernon Malone, students attended an event for Hispanic Leaders in Lenovo and were exposed to careers in the industry. East Wake students held clubs and featured other industries also focused on STEM, including Goodnights Scholars and professors to help lead STEM activities during clubs. One student from Vernon Malone was also the recipient of the Dream US National Scholarship, which is the equivalent to \$156,000.

Due to the partnerships that East Wake Juntos 4-H has created, students were also given opportunities to participate in another year of the Literacy Community Initiative with NC State's College of Education. Our youth wrote and published a book called "The Realities of our Worlds, Las realidades de nuestros mundos", which is published through Amazon, so anyone is welcome to purchase it online. The book highlights the unique experiences that our youth have identified with, speaking on topics about adolescence, biculturalism, bilingualism, and more.



Photo: East Wake students attended Summer Academy at NC State University in June.

"Juntos have given me a community like no other. It's like a family where we can be ourselves with each other and embrace our cultures."

Juntos Student Wake County, North Carolina



#### County Sustainability

#### Investors:

- Wake Technical Community College
- ► East Wake High School
- Neuse River Middle School
- Wake County Extension
- VMCCA-Business Advisory Professionals (Community business leaders)

#### Partners:

- CFNC (College Foundation of North Carolina)
- Goodnight Scholars
- College and Career Promise
- Workforce Continuing Education
- ► Code The Dream
- ► NC State Professor Dr. Ruben Rellan-Alvarez and lab team
- North Carolina Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (NCSHPE)
- Literacy Community Initiative



# How will you partner with us to advance the Juntos mission?

Refer to Appendix B to learn more about our programs and mission. Contact our North Carolina office to get connected to the Juntos programs near you or to learn more about ways to launch new Juntos programs.



Thank you, Muchas Gracias, for your interest, support, and investment of time! Together we can create measurable and sustainable change for Juntos students and families.

Learn more at juntos.dasa.ncsu.edu

Donate at juntos.dasa.ncsu.edu/donate



### Appendix A Summer Academy Agenda

#### Tuesday, June 13

#### We Share

- Arrival
- Academy Welcome and Orientation
- Project Time
- ▶ Tree Team Icebreaker Night
- Night Tour

#### Wednesday June 14

#### We Learn

- Spanish in NC
- Career: Business, Computer Science, Engineering
- Skills: Time Management, College Preparedness, Financial Literacy
- Project Time
- Networking Fair
- Movie Night

#### Thursday, June 15

#### We Create

- Wake Technical Community College Field Trip
- Project Time
- College Fair
- ► Field Day/Soccer

#### Saturday, June 17

#### **We Continue**

- Group Photo
- Group Project Prep Time
- Academy Closing and Project Presentations
- Academy Survey and Lunch

#### Friday, June 16

#### We Celebrate

- Skills: Resume Building, Professional Interviewing
- Project Preparation
- Partners Luncheon
- Juntos Apoyamos a Nuestra Comunidad | Community Service Project
- Career: Environmental Science, Mental Health, BioTechnology
- Dance

### Appendix B Program Overview



Juntos, which means "together" in Spanish, is a program that works to unite community partners to provide Hispanic/Latinx students and their families with the knowledge, skills, and resources needed to help them achieve high school graduation and post-secondary education.

In North Carolina, Juntos is funded and implements its components in eight different counties: Bladen, Catawba, Greene, Lee, Orange, Sampson, Transylvania, and Wake

Counties. Pender County was funded with scholarships that allowed for five youth to attend Summer Academy. Juntos is also implemented in California, Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Texas, Colorado, Nebraska, Missouri, Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, New York, Florida, Arizona, Kentucky, and Michigan.

The Juntos 4-H Program was initially developed in 2007 in North Carolina, delivering a series of six family workshops that brought students and their parents together to learn about the United States educational system: graduation requirements, communication, advocacy, higher education requirements, and other topics. In 2011, the Juntos 4-H Program expanded from this single family engagement component to a four-component program engaging students and their families to improve student success in high school and pursue a post-secondary education upon graduation. The four components of the program now include: family engagement, Juntos 4-H clubs, one-on-one success coaching and/or mentoring, and summer programming.

The family engagement component of Juntos is a five- or six-week workshop series designed to increase family engagement and involvement in their student's academic success through active participation in workshops, family nights, and other events, learning about the school system and higher education processes and increasing communication and supportive

behaviors between parents and students. The Juntos 4-H clubs component focuses on positive youth development, helping them with tutoring, public speaking, effective life skills, and community service. The one-on-one success coaching and/or mentoring component consists of academic and social support in an effort to aid students in achieving their academic and career goals. The final component of the Juntos program, summer programming, is a week-long summer residential program designed to increase students' aspirations and preparations for pursuing a higher education, all while cultivating a sense of empowerment, leadership, and community among students.



## Program Objectives

The objectives of the Juntos 4-H Program are:

- ▶ Increase family engagement that leads to students' educational success
- Increase the sense of belonging among Latino students and families in their schools and communities
- ► Increase Latino student success by improving student attendance and grades and achieving high school graduation
- ▶ Increase the percentage of Latino students entering higher education



Through the multifaceted partnerships between Extension's 4-H & FCS agents, school administration and staff, local organizations, college administrators, and other community volunteers, the Juntos program is able to implement its components in an effort to reach the program's objectives and be a sustainable success in many communities across the United States.

### **The Juntos Logic Model**

Inputs		Outputs		Emports		
Materials	Training and Technical Support	Activities	Participation Expectations	1 - 2 Years	2 - S Years	S+ Years
Family Engagement		Family Engagement		Family Engagement		
Family Engagement Curriculum	County Level Coordinature trained on Family Engagement Curriculum Armaily Support Facilitating for New Coordinature	G-axek HS Wedshop Series and/or S-axek MS Wadshop Series	70% of annulled terrilles per site attend the full workshop stries once a year.	Increase Juntos parental engagement with youth's education and career goels     Increase Juntos parental encotoring of youth's academic progress     Increase Juntos parental edvocacy for their child's education     Increase Juntos families' skills needed for navigate the educational system     Increase Juntos families' skills and knowledge seeded to access higher education fincurage flavoratal     Leadership in the Juntos hogram	Increase Juntos     poental engagement     auth youth's education     sed school     Increase Juntos     poental engagement in     their youth's academic     occoss     I. Build Porvetal     Leodership in the Juntos     Program	Strengthen connection between parents, school faculty and administration to improve extremes generally for Latina students.     Increase Justice parents in their youth's academic soccess.     Increase Justice Parental Leadership in the Justice Program and the School.
Family Engagement Guide for Educators and School Administraturs	Monthly and Individual Calls to Callaboratively Support Coordinators Site Visits to Ensure Implementation Fidulity	Additional Jurious Family Nights and Family Events	70% of enruled temilies per site attend binordfuly tamily nights and events			
Justins 4-H Chabs		Justin 4-H Chills		Justos 4-H Clabs		
Juntus 4 H Club Guide	County Level Coordinators Trained on Varied 4-H Club Guide and Project Planning Annually	Focus on tutoring, public speaking. Me skirts, and community service Field Trips and Events	70% of enrolled youth attend dub meetings and/or other club events at least twice a meeth	1. Cultivate Juntos youth's site skills 2. Increase Juntos youth's engagement in community service 3. Increase Juntos youth's STEM career aspirations and skills 4. Increase Juntos youth's announcement in the state 4-H program and their local Juntos 4-H clab Develop satistantive 5. Inlationships between Juntos youth and supportive non-parent abults, trentors lincrease Juntos youth 6. leadership via poer to peer memoring	1. Continue to support Juston youth's development and growth in their life skills increase Juston into their local community increase number of 3. Juston youth selecting STEM career pothways increase Juston youth's sense of community and 4. belonging in Juston and their school	Reduce Juntos Student School Drop-Out Rates Increasing Juntos     Student Carner Attainment
4+t STEM Curriculum and Cits	Monthly and Individual Calls to Collaboratively Support Coordinators Site Visits to Ensure Implementation Fidelity	Extracurricular Activities Introduction of Supportive Non-Parental Adults				
One-un-One Soccess Coaching and/or Mentoring		One on One Soccess C	seching and/or Menturing	One-on-O	ne Success Coaching ambor	Mentoring
Success Coaching Guides and Database Management for Tracking Stadent Progress	County Level Coordinators Trained on Success Casching, College Prep Necessites and Iracking Armselly  Ministry and Individual Calls to Collegionatively Support Coordinators  Document Review to Ensure Implementation Fidelity	Providing academic and social support One-on-One academic planning and menturing	90% of youth at funded sites are secons-coached throughout the academic school year	Develop relationship and goals for Jantos youth's academic activevener.     Modeling self-acknoacy for Jantos youth in the classroom and school environment. Increase Jantos youth's 3 overall feeling of being supported at school.	Increase Jantos youth's school attendance and grades     Increase Jantos youth's self-advocacy in the classroom and school environment     Increase in the number of Jantos youth being accepted into ceillege	Increase Juston Youth's Successful Graduation and Tomation to Higher Ed and Career Increase Juston youth's 2 self-advocacy in Higher Ed and Career Increase in the number of Latino youth's being 2 accepted into cellege.
Summer	Sussest Programing		Programmy		Sommer Programing	di .
NC State Organized Summer Academy	Leadership, Coordinators, Local Latino Professionals and NC State University Faculty collaborate to plan and facilitate a one week summer residential program at NC State University	Summer Academy Local 4-H Summer Programming Other Local Events	50% of enrulled youth porticipate in summer programming opportunities	Increases Juntos youth's aspirations and expectations to go to college     Increase Juntos youth's preparation for career & higher education options. Cultivate a sense of 3. empowement and leadership in Juntos Youth	Normalize Higher Education Options among Junton Youth     Increase Junton Youth's Alumis Loadership in Academy Cuthiaste a series of a empowerment and leadership in Junton Youth	Increase in the number of Junton youth successfully gradiening from college with a certificate or digitoma

#### **Evaluation Methods**

Evaluation of the Juntos 4-H Program's impact and effectiveness is measured largely using pre and post surveys of both students and parents. The survey instruments are aligned with the Juntos Logic Model and the program's goals to measure the impact and behavioral/attitudinal shifts among parents and students. The pre-survey is administered when a student first joins the Juntos Program, typically at the beginning of the academic school year. It serves as a baseline measure of the student and parents' attitudes, beliefs, and behaviors. The post-survey is administered at the end of the school year, giving the students and parents at least half of one academic school year in the program. It includes retrospective questions designed to assess perceived progress throughout the time in the program, along with self-reported behavior questions regarding the Juntos Program, high school performance, college readiness, and family engagement.



Survey administration varies by county and by participant type. Students tend to take the surveys online with an in-person administrator present. Parents usually fill out a paper survey with an in-person administrator present.



111 Lampe Drive Campus Box 7301 Raleigh, NC 27695-7301

juntos.dasa.ncsu.edu juntosprogram@ncsu.edu @JuntosNC

