

Example

- **Character**
- Challenge
- Solution
- Outcome
- Impact

Milca Jarquin always wanted to go to college, but she wasn't sure how she would get there. Through NC State Extension's Juntos program, Jarquin learned how to fill out financial aid forms to get the resources she needed to realize her college dream. Today, she's a junior studying mechanical engineering at NC State, in hopes of one day creating better prosthetics and bionics for people who need them.

"Juntos overall served as a resource to help my family understand the requirements for college," Jarquin said. "And it helped make the transition from high school to college easier."

Juntos – Spanish for "together" – reaches out to Latino parents and students in 8th through 12th grade as they learn to navigate the school system, increase high school graduation rates and prepare for college.

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Story Checklist

- ✓ Reinforces mission
- ✓ Trusted, research-based programs
- ✓ Leaders in hands-on education / individual solutions

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The program has earned national recognition because studies show that it works: Juntos students report that their grades go up, they feel a greater sense of belonging and they are absent less often from school. Not only that, 87 percent say with confidence that they'll continue with education after graduating high school.

That's remarkable, given that the vast majority – 98 percent – have parents who didn't go to college. Juntos helps unify schools, families and communities to promote access to higher education.