Ventanilla de Salud
Improving the health of Mexican immigrants

Reproductive Health
Understanding sexual behaviors among Latino adolescents

Patéalo
Promoting access to smoking cessation resources among Latinos

YMCA—WyCHC DPP
Implementing the Diabetes Prevention Program in the Latino community

T-SCORE
Preparing the next generation of high school teachers and students oriented in community research and education

2015 ANNUAL REPORT
NOTES FROM THE DIRECTOR

As our JUNTOS Center completes 5 years we realize that our core principle remains the same: to facilitate an academic-community partnership to address health disparities faced by Latinos in the state Kansas. Alliances through education, research, service programs, and activities continue to enhance our four main objectives:

1. Develop a sustainable program in community based participatory research to advance Latino health in rural and urban areas of Kansas.
2. Reduce cancer-related disparities among Latinos by advancing research on cancer screening, smoking cessation trials, and disseminating cancer prevention messages among Latinos in Kansas.
3. Promote educational programs for existing and future health care providers in Kansas to master cultural competency and provide high quality care to Latinos.
4. Develop coordinated bilateral efforts between KUMC and Latin American countries (primarily Mexico) to pursue research, teaching and clinical excellence in the field of Latino health.

Our partnerships with diverse clinical researchers have never been stronger. We extend our deepest gratitude for the research collaboration provided by Drs. Edward Ellerbeck, John Cowden, Romina Barral, Lisa Sanderson Cox, Won Choi, Kim Ritcher, Karin Chang, Maria Alonso Luaces, Megha Ramaswamy, Crystal Y. Lumpkins, Eric Vidoni, Heather Gibbs, Susan Carlson, Vicki Collie-Akers, Kimberly Engelman, and many others.
In the past 5 years, many of our core partnerships at JUNTOS have remained committed to enhancing the health of the Latino community throughout the state of Kansas. During this past year, we have continued to achieve our objectives by growing and solidifying important partnerships and forging new ones. These partnerships include:

- ACS/NFL Promotores de Salud
- Agile Health, Inc.
- Children Mercy Hospital, Offices of Equity and Diversity and Adolescent Medicine
- Community Health Council of Wyandotte County
- Community Partners
- Duchesne Clinic
- El Centro, Inc
- Enroll Wyandotte
- Free Tobacco Wyandotte
- Greenbush SE Kansas Education Service Center
- Guadalupe Centers
- Healthy Argentine Challenge Project
- Healthy KC
- Healthy Communities Wyandotte
- Hospital del Niño y Adolescente Morelense
- Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública
- JayDoc Free Clinic
- Johnson County Department of Health and Environment
- Kansas City CARE Clinic
- Kansas City Kansas Public Schools (USD 500)
- KU Work Group
- KUMC Healthy Living Kansas
- KUMC K-12 pipeline programs
- KUMC Office of Diversity and Inclusion
- KUMC Office of International Programs
- Latino Health for All
- Mexican Consulate in Kansas City
- Riverview Health Services, Inc.
- Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo
- Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Morelos
- Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México
- Westside CAN Center
- Wyandotte Health Foundation
- Wyandotte County WIC Program
- YMCA of Greater Kansas City

A special acknowledgement goes to every single organization and individual that has worked with JUNTOS in the previous year. Especially, we must applaud our JUNTOS office team: Mariana Ramírez, Jaime Perales, Maggie Cearley, Kendra Cruz, Mitzi Ramírez, and Arturo Ponce; our international medical students: Brenda Cartujano, Arlette Chavez, Rodrigo Manzo, Astrid Guerrero, and Francisco Cartujano; our international nutritionist student: Erika Maya; our Promotoras de Salud: Catalina Reyes, Karen Yepez, Norma Molina, and Lucia Martinez; our student interns: Stephanie Horton, Drew Cox, and Alejandra Garcia; our Health Fair volunteers: Juliana Teruel, Patricia Lage, Rocio Gonzalez, Cash Chaithon, Dave Dimachkie, Idaima Calderon, Andros Garcia, Jehieli Arteta, Tequila Manning, and Ivan Villagrana. Finally, to Joanne McNair, Marilyn Painter, Glenn James, and Farah Marhusin for their support as a part of our Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health team. It is an honor to work with and learn from each and every one of you.

As you will see in this report, JUNTOS has expanded its outreach in the community and has implemented several new programs. We strongly believe JUNTOS is just in its beginning steps and is paving the way for much more to come.

In the next year, JUNTOS is going to support new Latino research on Pediatrics, Adolescent Medicine, Peripheral Arterial Disease, Alzheimer Disease, and Nutrition. I am looking forward to the future of JUNTOS!
Ventanilla de Salud (Health Window) is a health outreach program implemented through Mexican consulates throughout the United States. This program provides Latino families with bilingual and culturally-relevant health education, free health screenings, and referrals to community resources. In Kansas, JUNTOS coordinates the Ventanilla de Salud program which has screened and provided education to more than 5,000 medically underserved Latinos at several health events. For many Latinos, these events represent their only access to health care.

In 2014-2015, JUNTOS coordinated 15 health events that reached a total of 729 Latinos. Medical students, promotores de salud (community health workers), and trained volunteers performed basic health screenings on-site to all participants.

**KEY FINDINGS (n=729)**

- **14%** Have Pre-Diabetes
- **14%** Have Diabetes
- **17%** Have Hypertension
- **82%** Are Overweight or Obese
- **7%** Are Smokers
- **47%** Have not Heard of HPV
- **54%** Are Uninsured
- **56%** Have not Received a Colonoscopy

Rodrigo Manzo, Astrid Guerrero, Arlette Chavez, and Francisco Cartujano, our international medical students from the Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Morelos, providing medical screenings to Latino community members at the Argentine Community Center in Kansas City, KS.
Improving the health of Mexican immigrants in the U.S.

The program’s efforts mainly target counties with a high concentration of Latino residents, which are mainly in Southwest Kansas and northeastern regions of the state.

The program coordinator, Arturo Ponce, is based in Southwest Kansas and has developed a strong network of community partners, including Liberal League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Genesis Family Health, Cargill, Inc., Finney County Health Coalition, KDHE KANCARE Program, Latina Outreach and Leadership (LOL), among others.

Together we continue to better understand the health needs of the Latino community in the state of Kansas to better serve them and connect them with the resources to build a healthier community.

### DEMOGRAPHICS OF PARTICIPANTS (n=729)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Average age</td>
<td>43 yrs</td>
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<tr>
<td>Female, %</td>
<td>74%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mexican, %</td>
<td>83%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Less than high school education, %</td>
<td>55%</td>
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Rodrigo Manzo, Mitzi Ramirez, Kendra Cruz, Cash Chaithon, Dave Dimachkie, Tequila Manning, Arlette Chavez, Francisco Cartujano, and Rocio Gonzalez at a health fair hosted at the Argentine Community Center in Kansas City, KS.

Arturo Ponce, Gabriela Cobos, Arturo Chavez, Arlette Chavez, Francisco Cartujano, Maria Hernandez, and Astrid Guerrero at Cargill’s Health Fair, Dodge City, KS.
Ventanilla de Salud Pediátrica (Pediatrics Health Window) is a binational partnership between the Mexican Consulate, Children’s Mercy Hospital and JUNTOS. Dr. John Cowden, a pediatrician from Children’s Mercy, joined forces with us to bring specialized and culturally-relevant information to Latino families with children in Kansas. Through this program, we are able to target children in rural and urban settings in the state of Kansas. Ventanilla de Salud Pediátrica (VDSP) focuses on four major health areas:

1. Immunization status
2. Obesity/nutrition
3. Health status (including dental health)
4. Reproductive health

These areas were selected with the help of a multidisciplinary team: health care providers, academics, community members, and the Mexican government.

We strive to create more opportunities in the rural communities of Kansas. Since the creation of VDSP in 2014, we have implemented 7 health fair events in Garden City, Dodge City, Liberal, and Great Bend. During these fairs, we were able to reach a total of 343 children, ages 0 to 18.

### KEY FINDINGS (n=343)

**Average age**: 8 years old

**85% are US born**

**13% are uninsured**

**40% are overweight or obese**

**21% haven’t seen a doctor in the last year**

**27% haven’t seen a dentist in the last year**

In 2014, Dr. Romina Barral, pediatrician from Children’s Mercy who specializes in adolescents, joined JUNTOS to conduct research on reproductive teen and pregnancy prevention among Latino adolescents.
In 2015, Children’s Mercy Hospital created a partnership with Dr. Rebeca Borgaro and Dr. Leticia Martinez from El Hospital del Niño y el Adolescente Morelense (The Child and Adolescent Hospital from Morelos) to give Mexican pediatric medical residents the opportunity to do their clinical rotation at Children’s Mercy Hospital. We would like to recognize pediatric residents Alejandro Martinez, Alberto Ojeda, and Idolina Alvarado for volunteering at health fair events in Southwest Kansas.

We are looking forward to continuing our work to eliminate health disparities in our Latino community through Ventanilla de Salud and Ventanilla de Salud Pediátrica. This work would not be feasible without the help of the Mexican consulate in Kansas City. Alicia Kerber (Head Consul of the Mexican Consulate in Kansas City), Lee Wong Medina (Head Consul of Protection and Community Outreach), and Aracely Van Kirk (VDS Coordinator) have been fundamental in implementing this project.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Dodge City, KS
Ventanilla de Salud Health Fair
June 25th and 26th, 2016

Liberal, KS
Ventanilla de Salud Health Fair
August 27th and 28th, 2016

Garden City, KS
Ventanilla de Salud Health Fair
December 10th and 11th, 2016

Health fairs providing health related educational sessions, basic health screenings, and doctors available on-site

For more information or volunteer, please contact Kendra Cruz kcruzsantiago@kumc.edu (913) 945-7065
Teenage pregnancy rates in Latino minority majority rural counties in Kansas are 4-10 times higher than rates observed in urban counties with predominantly White Non-Hispanic population.

Dr. Romina Barral, a pediatrician specialized in adolescent medicine at Children’s Mercy Hospital in Kansas City, along with JUNTOS, developed a research project to understand knowledge, attitudes, and behaviors about contraception, teenage pregnancy, sexual activity, and strategies for family planning among rural Latino adolescents in the state of Kansas.

This study was replicated in Hidalgo, Mexico in collaboration with Dr. Andromeda Valencia from Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo (Autonomous University of the State of Hidalgo) to compare factors that influence contraception uptake in Mexico. This collaboration will aid in the development of a culturally-sensitive intervention to enhance knowledge and utilization of contraception for youth in rural Latino communities and ultimately lower teen pregnancy rates.

We have recruited 15-24 years-old Latinos in Kansas, U.S. and Hidalgo, Mexico at schools and health fairs to complete an anonymous self-administered survey and to participate in a focus group. A total of 194 participants from Kansas, U.S. and 274 from Hidalgo, Mexico answered questions on reproductive health care access, pregnancy intention, contraceptive methods use and knowledge, etc.

**SURVEY SAYS**

**USE OF CONTRACEPTIVES AMONG LATINO ADOLESCENTS IN KANSAS, U.S. AND HIDALGO, MEXICO**

**Kansas, U.S.**

- Condom: 58%
- Birth control pills: 8%
- Withdrawal: 8%
- Patch: 1%
- Shot: 1%
- Emergency contraception: 1%
- Implant: 2%
- Diaphragm: 3%

**Hidalgo, Mexico**

- Condom: 70%
- Birth control pills: 1%
- Withdrawal: 1%
- Patch: 1%
- Shot: 3%
Our findings underscore the need for a culturally-relevant community-based pregnancy prevention strategy to reduce pregnancy rate disparities among Latino youth in Western Kansas that can be informed by a binational collaboration.

As we continue to grow, we will continue to define reproductive health care access for the Latino population in rural areas. Our next steps include conducting semi-structured interviews with key stakeholders involved in the planning and implementation of reproductive health services in Southwest Kansas. We will ultimately pilot an intervention to increase education and access to contraceptives among Latino youth in rural areas of Kansas.

Dr. Andromeda Valencia and nutritionist student Erika Maya at a health fair in Garden City, KS.

Reproductive Health team: Arlette Chavez, Lucia Reyes, Jehieli Arteta, Mitzi Ramirez, Brenda Cartujano, Kendra Cruz, and Idaima Calderon.

At JUNTOS we are aware that our goals could not be reached without the dedication, passion, and hard work of Catalina Reyes, Karen Yepez, Norma Molina, and Lucia Martinez, our Promotoras de Salud. Promotoras de Salud (Community Health Workers), as natural leaders in the community, identify the community’s health care needs and connect them with adequate assistance.

Through this past year, promotoras de salud supported JUNTOS efforts conducting health care screenings in different locations statewide, recruiting Latino smokers for our smoking cessation program, and recruiting Latinos at high risk of developing type 2 diabetes to participate in the Diabetes Prevention Program.

Our promotoras de salud conduct recruitment at different locations. All our gratitude to our recruitment sites:
- Bonito Michoacán Supermarket
- Duchesne Clinic
- El Padrino Soccer Nation
- El Torito Supermarket
- Guadalupe Center
- JayDoc Free Clinic
- Mi Pueblito Supermarket
- Rio Bravo Supermarket
- The Mexican Consulate in Kansas City
- Westside CAN Center
- Wyandotte County WIC Program
- YMCA of Greater Kansas City
Unhealthy eating habits can be linked to serious health issues, including diabetes and obesity, both of which are prevalent issues within the Latino community.

86 million people have prediabetes. That is 1 out of 3 adults. Of those 86 million, 9 out of 10 of them don’t even know they have it yet.

Prediabetes occurs when blood sugar levels are higher than normal but not high enough for a type 2 diabetes diagnosis.

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment is supporting the implementation of a coordinated approach to prevent and control diabetes, heart disease, obesity and associated risk factors through implementation of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s DP14-1422 project. KDHE has partnered with the Community Health Council of Wyandotte to implement this project in Wyandotte County. One of the objectives is to increase the number of Diabetes Prevention Programs (DPP) available for the community. As a result, CHC is partnering with different organizations to expand these programs. CHC supports the YMCA DPP program and is now exited to expand its partnership and support to JUNTOS Center for Advancing Latino Health.

The DPP (Diabetes Prevention Program) is...

A year-long program with 16 weekly sessions followed by 8 monthly session. Conducted by a Lifestyle Coach that helps participants learn skills that will help them incorporate healthy eating, increasing physical activity and other behavioral changes into their everyday lives.

The goals of the program are:
- 7% weight loss
- Increase in physical activity to 150 minutes per week

During the past four months, Lucia Martinez and Rubi Lopez have seen a huge improvement with the participants weight, physical activity and overall behavior changes. Participants are very excited to continue learning more healthy behaviors to implement into their daily lifestyles. Lucia and Rubi are very happy to see the improvement and motivation of the participants and are looking forward to seeing the involvement of the community with DPP.

In 2016 JUNTOS will be partnering with JCDHE to expand DPP reach in Johnson County.
According to the U.S Census Bureau data, the Hispanic population is more likely to be uninsured. In the state of Kansas, approximately 29% of the Hispanic population is uninsured.

Enroll Wyandotte is a collaborative and coordinated effort of Wyandotte County based health care providers, social services, and local government to perform outreach and to assist with enrollment in health insurance through the Marketplace.

For another consecutive year, JUNTOS had the privilege and the opportunity to work in a partnership with the Community Health Council of Wyandotte County to provide information and resources that ultimately promote enrollment in health care enrollment under the Affordable Care Act.

A total of 5 bilingual staff members of our team (Arlette Chavez, Astrid Guerrero, Erika Maya, Rodrigo Manzo, and Lucia Martinez) were trained to be a Certified Application Counselor to improve the health of our community. Focusing on the uninsured, specifically on Latino residents in Wyandotte County, our team provided education about the Affordable Care Act, how to use health insurance, and the importance of staying healthy and utilizing preventive care.

Last Enrollment Period (November 1, 2015—January 31, 2016), Enroll Wyandotte helped fill out approximately 600 applications (translating to about 1,000 people), of which more than 240 were Latinos.

We would like to acknowledge Lucia Jones, Molly Moffett, and Astrid Guerrero for this amazing work. We believe that an insured community is a healthy community!
Tobacco use is highly related to the leading causes of death among Latinos in the U.S. (cancer, heart disease, stroke, etc.). While smoking rates are declining in most racial and ethnic groups, smoking is increasing among Latinos.

It is known that:
- Every 6 seconds, one person is killed by tobacco
- 1 out of 2 smokers will die from a tobacco related disease
- 17% of Latinos in the USA are current smokers
- 14% of Latino high school students in the USA smoke
- 36% of Latinos smokers are non-daily smokers.
- 41% of Latinos smokers are light smokers, (this means smokes <10 cigarettes/day)

Even though most Latino smokers would like to quit, they are less likely to have knowledge and access to smoking cessation resources. These include pharmacotherapy and counseling. In JUNTOS, we are aware that culturally sensitive interventions and innovative strategies are urgently needed to help Latinos quit smoking.

**JUNTOS**, in partnership with Agile Health, came up with the initiative to implement a tobacco cessation text-message coaching program designed to engage smokers in a personal intensive process of behavioral change tailored for Latinos. Latinos in the USA are the highest utilizers of mobile technologies, with text-messaging being at a higher rate than non-Hispanic whites. An effective, feasible model for engaging and treating Latino smokers through mobile technology has the potential for immediate widespread adoption and dissemination that could eventually overcome disparities.

**DEMOGRAPHICS OF PARTICIPANTS (n=20)**

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<thead>
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<th>DEMOGRAPHICS OF PARTICIPANTS (n=20)</th>
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<tr>
<td>Average age</td>
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<tr>
<td>Men, %</td>
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<td>No health coverage, %</td>
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<tr>
<td>Number of cigarettes at baseline, Mdn</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attempted quitting previous year, %</td>
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The program consisted of:
1. Pre-scheduled messages at different times of the day providing motivational and informative tips to quit smoking.
2. Messages in response to pre-set keywords (e.g. Crave, Stress, Alcohol, Bored, Slip Up and Relapse).
3. Ad-hoc messages where participants interacted with a smoking cessation coach.
Latino smokers were recruited by our promotoras de salud (community health workers) at different health events. Participants were prompted to request Nicotine Replacement Therapy (patches, lozenges, and gum) at no cost.

During the 12-week period of our intervention, we observed a high engagement of Latino smokers with an average of 29.1 sent text-messages vs. other populations that average 8.6 messages.

Based on the feedback from participants, we concluded the program needed to be more culturally adapted to our Latino community. We decided to tailor the text-message program with the help of a Community and Communication Advisory Board (CCAB) and focus groups with Latino smokers, ex-smokers and their relatives. Through this process, *Patéalo* was created.

We would like to acknowledge the CCAB for the amazing work they did bringing different expertise in the adaptation of the text-message library.

**CCAB - COMMUNITY AND COMMUNICATION ADVISORY BOARD**
- Carolina Uribe (Therapist at Mattie Rhodes Center, Kansas City, MO)
- Dora Ponce (Community developer at Genesis Family Health, Garden City, KS)
- Ernesto Suarez (Wordsmith at Ariel Media, Kansas City, MO)
- Lilia Castillo (Radio host at Kansas City Community Radio, Kansas City, KS)
- Lucia Jones (Project Director of Wyandotte Community, Kansas City, KS)
- Oscar Monterroso (CEO of Tico Productions, Kansas City, MO)

Currently, we are beginning the second phase of our study with 50 smokers.

We would also like to recognize our co-investigators: Dr. Edward Ellerbeck and Dr. Lisa Sanderson Cox. This work would not be feasible without their help.

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*JUNTOS is looking forward to treating many Latino smokers in Kansas as we move forward.*

Contact Francisco Cartujano for more information at (913) 945-7871.
Why does one in five Americans smoke? It’s not that smokers don’t know better or they think themselves invulnerable to tobacco’s ill effects. Actually, the overwhelming majority of smokers say they would like to quit, and have tried, but failed. The fact is, approximately 90% of adult smokers started before age 18, became addicted, and are unable to quit, even if they are facing great levels of risk for debilitating illnesses and premature death.

The Tobacco 21 effort was launched by Healthy KC to increase the minimum age from 18 to 21 of sale and purchase of tobacco products, e-cigarettes, and vapor products. The focus is on preventing addiction in teens. Adolescent brains are still developing and are uniquely sensitive to nicotine addiction.

JUNTOS, along with more than 100 area organizations in Kansas City, decided to join this effort to combat teen smoking. Research conducted by the Institute of Medicine on behalf of the Food and Drug Administration predicts that raising the age limit would lead to fewer long-term smokers and reduce overall smoking rates by about 12%.

“STOPPING SMOKING AT EARLY AGES IS CRITICAL FOR PREVENTING ADDICTION. THERE’S VERY GOOD DATA ON THE NEUROLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT OF ADOLESCENTS. THE EARLIER YOU START SMOKING, THE MORE LIKELY YOU ARE TO BECOME PERMANENTLY ADDICTED.”

Edward Ellerbeck, chairman of the Department of Preventive Medicine and Public Health at the University of Kansas Medical Center

In October 2015, there was a great milestone for Public Health in Kansas City, as City council passed the Tobacco 21 ordinance, increasing the minimum age of sale and purchase of tobacco products from 18 to 21. It goes to show that when we come together to improve our community and health, we can make a change.
Healthy Communities Wyandotte is a countywide initiative to involve local leaders and citizens in improving the health of people in our community. In 2015, Healthy Communities Wyandotte created **Tobacco Free Wyandotte**, a coalition which has the mission to reduce the burden of tobacco use and nicotine addiction in Wyandotte County by ensuring access to:

1. Clean air environments free of the harm of tobacco use.
2. Prevention activities that protect youth from early addiction.
3. Resources needed to quit smoking.
4. Improved data that helps the community understand tobacco related disparities and burden of disease in the county.

**JUNTOS** is a proud member of the Tobacco Free Wyandotte Coalition. Through monthly meetings, key community leaders get together to brainstorm ideas that will reduce the overall use of tobacco in Wyandotte county.

We would like to acknowledge Rebecca Garza and her team for their effort coordinating this coalition.

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**e-Decídete. BI-NATIONAL SMOKING CESSTATION PROJECT**

Tobacco is a large and growing problem in Mexico. Currently, about 11 million Mexican adults smoke. Unfortunately, the rate of smoking is growing faster among women and youth. While the majority of Mexican smokers (72%) would like to quit, smoking cessation resources are very limited.

In 2015, **JUNTOS** began a partnership with two of the most prestigious Mexican institutions: **INSP—Instituto Nacional de Salud Pública** (National Institute of Public Health) and **UNAM—Universidad Autónoma Nacional de México** (National Autonomous University of Mexico). These institutions are responsible for developing and implementing nation-wide tobacco control efforts in Mexico.

Our co-investigators Dr. Luz Myriam Reynales (INSP) and Dr. Guadalupe Ponciano (UNAM) lead national and international tobacco research projects implemented in Mexico, such as the WHO Global Adult Tobacco Survey (GATS).

The purpose of this upcoming study is to develop a smoking cessation text-messaging program tailored to Mexican smokers, which we are planning to recruit within the universal health care system clinics.

We are heavily engaged in treating Mexican smokers and we look forward to the future findings of this project.
Teachers and Students for Community Oriented Research and Education, or T-SCORE, is the newest JUNTOS program, funded by a 5-year National Institute of Health Science Education Partnership Award (NIH SEPA).

T-SCORE aims to help grow and sustain the efforts of existing medical and science education K-12 pipeline programs at JUNTOS. By supporting teachers in the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Heath Science Pathway, T-SCORE will be able to impact a broader population of students and spark new interest in health science careers.

The T-SCORE program has partnered with teachers from Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools to pilot our first health science Summer Institute professional development program.

Our T-SCORE program is designed to help teachers develop and deliver health science lessons and units that will provide students with learning experiences that grow their interest and knowledge about the health sciences. Teachers will learn about careers in health science, build their knowledge of scientific inquiry and local health disparities, and observe community oriented research.

We will connect teachers with KUMC scientists and health care professionals to integrate new health science knowledge and expertise into the existing curriculum. Ultimately, T-SCORE establishes a learning community of teachers, students, and researchers committed to bringing community-based health issues into the classroom.

**THE OVERARCHING GOAL:**

**TO INCREASE THE NUMBER OF UNDERREPRESENTED MINORITY STUDENTS PURSUING CAREERS IN THE HEALTH SCIENCES.**

To achieve this goal, T-SCORE teachers will ask scientific questions within the context of their students’ everyday lives and build their knowledge of health science skills and career choices. Teachers will be able to connect students with the health realities of their communities and will provide them with tools to help improve health differences both across counties and in their particular neighborhoods.

**T-SCORE Research Staff**

Paula Cupertino – Principal Investigator (KUMC - JUNTOS)
Karin Chang – Co-Principal Investigator (KU School of Education)
Maria Alonso Luaces – Co-Investigator (KUMC - OCED/ODI)
Megha Ramaswamy – Co-Investigator (KUMC - Public Health)
Crystal Y. Lumpkins – Co-Investigator (KUMC - Family Medicine)
Lisa Blair – Professional Development (Greenbush)
Jen Boden – Evaluation (KU Institute for Public Policy and Research)
Ernesto Suarez – Website Development (Ariel Media KC)
Maggie Cearley – Project Coordinator (KUMC – JUNTOS)
Stephanie Horton – Student Intern/Research Assistant (KUMC–JUNTOS)
UPCOMING EVENTS:

May 9-12: NIH SciEd Conference. Rockville, MD
May 31-June 24: Summer Institute, Teacher Professional Development. Kansas City, KS
June 26-28: Supporting K-INBRE at the National IDeA Symposium. Washington, DC
October 12-14: National Health Science Curriculum Conference (NCHSE). Louisville, KY

We believe that empowered teachers engaged in a comprehensive professional development program will have a positive impact on CTE Health Science Pathway students’ self-efficacy, knowledge, and interest in health science careers. By focusing on teachers as the main agents of change, T-SCORE will have a more sustained impact on the diversity of students who will enroll in college and career-related health science programs.

INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

In August 2012, JUNTOS created an international exchange program through the Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores de México (The Mexican Secretariat of Foreign Affairs). This program enables medical students and other health professionals to develop knowledge and skills about public health research and community health focused on Latinos residing in the U.S. Students are able to apply to the program as part of their social service, their last year of education in Mexico.

Since the program was implemented, eight medical students from UAEM—Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Morelos (Autonomous University of the State of Morelos), and one nutritionist student from UAEH—Universidad Autónoma del Estado de Hidalgo (Autonomous University of the State of Hidalgo) have been part of the JUNTOS family. We are grateful for their hard work and dedication to propel JUNTOS in its work to disseminate knowledge and eliminate health disparities in the community.

This program has been possible thanks to the commitment of The Office of International Programs at the University of Kansas Medical Center. We would like to especially acknowledge Kimberly Connelly, Irina Aris, Alexandria Harkins, and Zachary Rogers.

We would also like to acknowledge our partners from both institutions in identifying students willing to serve our Latino community in the U.S.: Drs. Rodolfo Gatica, Rosario Santana, and Victoria Gutiérrez from UAEM, and Jose Maria Bustos and Miroslava Porta from UAEH.
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>March 18-21 2015</td>
<td>2015 Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine (SAHM) Annual Meeting. Brenda Cartujano and Idaima Calderon</td>
<td>Los Angeles, CA</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 11-14 2015</td>
<td>The 2015 Kansas Poverty Conference. Mariana Ramírez, Megha Ramaswamy, and Christina Pacheco</td>
<td>Topeka, KS</td>
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<td>November 1-4 2015</td>
<td>Planned Parenthood of Kansas and Mid-Missouri 80th Anniversary Conference. Paula Cupertino and Romina Barral</td>
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<td>November 13 2015</td>
<td>Latina Outreach and Leadership (LOL) 2015 Annual Conference. Romina Barral and Mariana Ramírez</td>
<td>Dodge City, KS</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 15 2015</td>
<td>2015 University of Kansas Cancer Center (KUCC) Annual Research Symposium. Jaime Perales and Francisco Cartujano</td>
<td>Kansas City, KS</td>
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JUNTOS worked throughout the year to spread health information and research findings at different conferences and meetings. We are proud of our team for spreading this knowledge in the Kansas City area, around the country and even internationally.

2016 World Cancer Day at the Mexican Consulate in Kansas City.
Francisco Cartujano
Kansas City, MO

The University of Kansas (KU) Achieving Health Equity in Kansas Course.
Paula Cupertino
Wichita, KS

“Salud Hispana” by KYY 1250 AM—La Súper Estación.
Jaime Perales and Francisco Cartujano
Kansas City, KS

January 28-29 2016

February 4 2016

March 2-5 2016

March 29 2016

April 7-9 2016

April 16 2016

May 2 2016

The Kansas Department of Health and Environment’s (KDHE’s) Community Health Promotion Summit.
Mariana Ramírez
Hutchinson, KS

Guadalupe Ponciano,
Kendra Cruz, and Francisco Cartujano
Chicago, IL

Romina Barral
Toronto, Canada

“Compartiendo en Familia” by 90.1 FM Kansas City Community Radio.
Jaime Perales and Francisco Cartujano
Kansas City, MO

January
February
March
March
April
April
May

“Salud Hispana” by 90.1 FM Kansas City Community Radio.
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THANK TO ALL OUR PARTNERS AND SPONSORS

Special acknowledgment to Francisco Cartujano, international medical student, for creating this annual report.

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