

JUNTOS Steering Committee Meeting
Española Valley High School, Conference Room
October 16th, 2008, 6:30-8:30 p.m.

JUNTOS VISION STATEMENT
**JUNTOS, a youth-driven initiative to create a
new future through unity, by embracing and
valuing all people, communities and cultures.**

Attendees: Diana Martinez, Lori Heimdahl Gibson, Michael Lapcevic, Heidi Greenhalgh, Andrew Vierra, Nat Gustafson, Ashley Duran, Brandon Carter, Jolene Duran, Gabrielle Frequez, Jaqueline Avitia, Dulce Avitia, Renee Chavez, Amber Gomez, Janelle Vigil Maestas, Nathana Bird, Erwin Rivera, Gareth Gilna, Shayla McCall

Facilitator: Lori Heimdahl Gibson
Co-facilitator: Heidi Greenhalgh

ACTION ITEMS GENERATED:

<u>Item:</u>	<u>Person:</u>	<u>Date Completed:</u>
Organize student exchange (@ 5 students)	LAHS SC Team	
Organize fall bowling activity (November)	EVHS SC Team	
Find PVHS teacher contact	Erwin, Amber, Renee	
Set up JUNTOS budget	Heidi	
Visit high schools during lunch hour	Lori/Heidi	
Talk to school officials about transportation to get use of school van/bus and possibly official sanction for JUNTOS as a club	Española—Dulce, Brandon, Shayla, Jolene Los Alamos—Nat, Andrew, Gareth	
Build a JUNTOS newsletter	Janelle, Jolene, Shayla	
Letters-to-the-Editor	Dulce and Brandon (November) Amber and Renee (February)	
Article on murals	Heidi	
KRSN Radio Show with Bernadette (November 17 th , 2008)	?	

Introductions: Introduced members to one another; each person shared one personal thing. Lori gave an overview about how the idea of JUNTOS was “born”. The Fundacion Educativa Mexicana de Nuevo Mexico called Lori and invited her to Albuquerque to meet with some of their Board members, because they would like to start a JUNTOS-like initiative in Albuquerque. Brandon commented on the intense rivalry in the Albuquerque schools including West Mesa which has the stereotype of having a lot of gangs. Different members of the group commented on how cool it would be if the idea of JUNTOS caught on nation-wide.

Steering Committee Updates:

Española Team—Michael is meeting with the members on his steering committee regularly during lunch. Dulce updated the PowerPoint presentation on JUNTOS and it is ready for use in presentations to be given to schools, parents, future JUNTOS members, funding organizations, etc. A youth presentation has been set up for Tuesday, January 6th, 2009 with Kiwanis which will utilize this PowerPoint presentation. The Española Team also volunteered to be in charge of an opening fall activity taking place in November.

Los Alamos Team—Nat, Andrew, Gareth, and Diane have begun the process of planning the student exchange which will take place in the spring. Dates and details are forthcoming.

Pojoaque Team—Pojoaque was represented at this meeting by two acting adult leaders, Erwin Rivera and Nathana Bird as well as by two youth, Renee Chavez and Amber Gomez. The box full of Pojoaque team supplies was given to Erwin Rivera.

Upcoming Events:

November--Opening Fall Activity—Bowling (Española Team)

Students will be mixed randomly into teams to promote friendships from different schools.
More details coming.

November 17th- JUNTOS Youth on KRSN radio on LA?

December ? - Steering Committee Meeting – Place ?

December--Española/Los Alamos Light Parades (Nathana Bird)

A JUNTOS float will be in each parade. One idea was to string lights all over one or two of the murals and put them on a flatbed trailer with students throwing candy.

January 6th, 2009—Kiwanis Youth Presentation (Shayla, Dulce, Nat, Andrew, Gareth)

January 13, 2009 – Adults Meeting-at-large at UNM-LA, 8:30-10:30 AM

January —Youth Workshop on social justice in conjunction with the opening of the Legislature (Erwin)

Spring—Student Exchange (LA Team) and visit to Bandelier National Park

Late May or early June – Youth Summit

Making JUNTOS Sustainable:

We are still working on making JUNTOS sustainable through the organization of individual community Steering Committee teams. The idea of a stipend for lead students and SC Chairs was discussed at length as a way of promoting “ownership” in JUNTOS and increasing the level of commitment. Michael said he would rather not have a stipend, but Erwin brought up the idea of using the money for gas cards as a way to offset travel expenses for the adult leaders. Dulce had the fantastic idea that rather than giving a stipend to the lead student on each SC team, why not set up a JUNTOS scholarship fund? Under this plan, a certain amount of money would be set aside annually,

matched by a local business (theoretically), and awarded yearly to a senior JUNTOS student from each community (Los Alamos, Española, and Pojoaque) based on set selection criteria.

JUNTOS Budget and Funding:

Heidi has been working on a proposed JUNTOS budget. Diana M. has categorized all past expenses into spreadsheets to use as a template and a final budget should be ready soon. We applied for a \$15,000 grant through the LANL Foundation to fund the Summit; however, we are still waiting to hear if the money was awarded.

Youth Transportation:

Diana M. looked into the issues JUNTOS is having with transporting youth. A chartered service is \$30/hour or @ \$360 to transport kids from Española to Los Alamos for a meeting or activity and back again. Because of the cost, a chartered service is not a good option. Transit buses are also not a good option because they only run during daytime hours (they stop around 6 p.m.). Some of the kids volunteered to drive and while Diana pointed out that the YMCA cannot sanction carpooling, maybe the kids can figure out how to transport themselves.

The YMCA does own 14-passenger vans that could be available to transport kids back and forth for @ \$160 round trip (Heidi is now certified as a van driver). The kids from Española volunteered to ask school officials for the use of one of their vans and it was decided that each high school needs to work with its own school officials to work out the issue of transportation (this might mean that each school would need to get official sanction for JUNTOS as a club). Officially, the following students volunteered:

Española—Dulce, Brandon, Shayla and Jolene
Los Alamos—Nat, Andrew, Gareth

Marketing:

High School Visits:

Lori and Heidi have already visited two of the high schools, Española and Los Alamos, setting up a JUNTOS table to increase awareness of our program. With the help of the local JUNTOS SC youth (and lots of pizza!) they are spending the lunch hour talking with students about JUNTOS, and have several pages of names and email addresses from each school to show for their effort. Visits to McCurdy and Pojoaque are planned in the next several weeks.

Letters-to-the-Editor and Newspaper Articles:

Brandon and Dulce offered to write a Letter-to-the-Editor about JUNTOS for the month of November while Amber and Renee offered to write one during February. These letters can be emailed to Heidi as soon as they are finished and she will forward them on to the appropriate people at each paper. Heidi is doing a write-up on the murals.

Radio Show with Bernadette:

Bernadette Lauritzen has an open spot on November 17th to be filled with a JUNTOS youth volunteer or volunteers.

JUNTOS Newsletter:

With the help of Jolene and Shayla, Janelle offered to build a JUNTOS newsletter that could then be distributed to all the members on a regular basis. Jolene also volunteered to take pictures of JUNTOS activities to be submitted to the yearbook.

JUNTOS Murals:

The art murals are up! With the help of Eric (Y Facility Manager), Lori and Heidi placed the 4 murals in each of the following locations; UNM-LA, Los Alamos High School, Northern New Mexico College, and Española Valley High School. Each mural now has a laminated explanation on JUNTOS fixed to it with the contact information of Lori and Heidi as well as a local contact. The question of Pojoaque Valley High School was brought up as a potential location to house a mural, but it was decided that we need a teacher contact at PVHS first. Erwin, Amber and Renee said they would work on finding a contact.

Authentic Dialogue:

Several of the youth shared the experiences on how they have been affected by their race. Shayla has an Anglo mom and an “everything” dad. She talked about being out with her mom as a young child and having people ask if she was adopted. Gareth said Los Alamos is very sheltered and Jaqueline has been called “stupid Mexican” by kids in her school. Several youth commented that racism is nurtured in kids by their parents; it is “bred in people”.

Communication Among Members:

Please continue to be courteous and respond in a timely manner to emails or phone calls from your fellow JUNTOS members.

**Next Meetings: Steering Committee – Tuesday, December 2nd, 2008, 6:30-8:30 p.m. at UNM-LA
Adults Meeting-at-large - Tuesday, January 13, 2009, 8:30-10:30 AM at UNM-LA**

Recorded by: Heidi Greenhalgh, JUNTOS Coordinator. heidigreenhalgh@msn.com - 672-1717