

## **“Juntos Podemos” Grant**

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“Juntos Podemos” (Together We Can) is a mentoring program that has been funded by a Health Resources and Services Administration grant and prior to that was funded for two years by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Participants in “Juntos Podemos” are solicited from newly admitted generic Bachelor of Science (BSN) nursing students each semester. This project has implemented specific objectives to address the educational needs of educationally/economically disadvantaged students by mentoring these nursing students, creating and implementing outreach programs to support students and their families, and prospective nursing students. Initially this program teaches mentors to be mentors and protégés to be protégés. In the Protégé-to-Mentor Program, second semester protégés have two roles. First, they become a mentor to a first semester student. Secondly, they remain as a protégé and continue to be mentored by their previous mentor. These mentors/protégés focus on shared support in two different ways. As mentors, they take the skills learned from their mentors, who served as tutor, counselor, and resource person, to the next level. As protégés, they continue to receive support and learn from their mentors to promote the essentials for success in completing their academic program. This “Juntos Podemos” project exemplifies a continuum of caring.

### Criterion 1

This project “Juntos Podemos” was first implemented on August 15, 2000 under an Incentive Grant for Professional Nursing Student Retention provided by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, Student Services Division.