Research Brief
School-Community Partnerships

Question: How can schools effectively utilize community partners?

Summary of Findings:

While fiscal resources continue to dwindle, the mandates of NCLB have placed restraints on those who can be hired and schools are expected to continue to do more to meet the intellectual, social and emotional needs of students, what can be done to realistically help meet the increasing demands? Developing and maintaining partnerships with a variety of stakeholders, may be a way to accomplish this.

There is more to this than the adopt a school model or the school needs money and/or materials, so what can a partner do to provide them? According to Sammon and Becton (2001) 90% of partnerships fail in a year because of these approaches. Currently, successful programs are taking the time to grow and nurture their partnerships. In fact, according to the latest research, funding should not be part of the equation when soliciting partnerships. These relationships should be about providing opportunities for student growth.

Establishing and developing partnerships
- Develop a vision, then determine goals.
- Identify knowledge, skills and abilities needed to accomplish the goals.
- Assess the current situation and what will be needed in terms of resources (i.e. people, materials and financial).
- Establish a core group of people with whom to work to determine a timeline as well as how the goals will be implemented, assessed and changed as appropriate. It should include a point person, most likely a school administrator, teachers, students, parents, professors from local colleges and universities, and members from the community that comprise representatives from business, youth groups and support agencies. One school has its Student Council work with the faculty and community leaders to promote "unity and school spirit" (Leckie, p. 35).

- Develop clear and measurable outcomes and define what successful ones would look like.
- Approach potential partners with the vision and goals. Identify a person who has an "in," which often works well to initially get the door opened. Keep track of contacts through the use of a database. Work together to develop mutually beneficial goals. One school used data from partnerships to put together a scrapbook to show to current and future partners (Getz).
- Sustain the partnership and keep lines of communication open. Provide ample opportunities for the partners and the school community to learn about, appreciate and understand each other. One school painted murals based on concepts learned from the partners (Getz).
- Communicate regularly with the community to let them know the school values them.
- Work together to designate time for the partners and teachers to work together as well as provide and receive training as appropriate.

Some ways to utilize partners
- Mentoring
- Providing internships
- Helping to develop curriculum and/or teach courses
- Supplying job shadowing opportunities
- Being a guest speaker
- Offering services outside of the school day such as counseling, coaching, tutoring, etc.
- Awarding scholarships
- Researching trends
- Applying for grants
- Developing and interpreting survey data
- Providing additional resources as appropriate

Online Resources:

- ASA launches new link with high school sociology
  This piece explains the benefits of their organization (sociology) for high school teachers.
  http://www.asanet.org/footnotes/dec02/indexthree.html

http://www.educationpartnerships.org/

- Bensen, L. & Harkavy, I. (2001, May/June). *Leading the way to meaningful partnerships*. Principal Leadership, p. 54-58.
  Reasons that universities and school districts must work together for systemic change and one program in PA is explained in this article.
  If you are a member of NASSP you can access this article online.
  http://www.principals.org/s_nassp/bin.asp?TrackID=C7C5ULWDDBYT8Y2A7HNTMYA2GZRGAPCP&SID=1&DID=48160&CID=498&VID=2&DOC=FILE.PDF

- Blank, M. J. & Langford, B. (2001, September). *Strengthening partnerships: Community school assessment checklist*. Principal Leadership, p. 62-63.
  This brief article provides information on what principals need to know when beginning a partnership program and includes a checklist about the community's resources.
  If you are a member of NASSP you can access this article online.
  http://www.principals.org/s_nassp/bin.asp?TrackID=C7C5ULWDDBYT8Y2A7HNTMYA2GZRGAPCP&SID=1&DID=48825&CID=741&VID=2&DOC=FILE.PDF

- Coalition for community schools
  This website provides information on what community schools are and has active links to an abundance of research on this topic.
  http://www.communityschools.org/

- Examples of partnerships focussed [sic] on information literacy
  This site gives information on many different partnership programs.
  http://www.ala.org/ala/ourassociation/governanceb/pastpresidents/nancykranich/informationliteracypartnerships.htm

- Frey, N. & Pumpian, I. (2006, November). *Teaching and learning conditions improve high school reform efforts*. Principal Leadership, p. 15-20.
  This article uses the analogy of building a physical structure to that of developing a partnership.
  If you are a member of NASSP you can access this article online.

http://www.21stcenturyskills.org/documents/twc_2-pager.pdf

- Getz, P. (2003, January). *School and community partnerships: Cultivating friends*. Principal leadership, p. 32-34.
  The primary components necessary for establishing partnerships are provided in this article.
  If you are a member of NASSP you can access this article online.
  http://www.principals.org/s_nassp/bin.asp?TrackID=C7C5ULWDDBYT 8Y2A7HNTMYA2GZRGAPCP&SID=1&DID=46780&CID=479&VID =2&DOC=FILE.PDF

- Leckie, S. (2004, September). *Opening doors to the future*. Principal Leadership, p. 34-37.
  A description of ways in which a high school's student council members work with faculty, parents and community is provided in this piece.
  If you are a member of NASSP you can access this article online.
  http://www.principals.org/s_nassp/bin.asp?TrackID=C7C5ULWDDBYT 8Y2A7HNTMYA2GZRGAPCP&SID=1&DID=47482&CID=741&VID =2&DOC=FILE.PDF

- Making the difference in community schools
  This is a full report on the data about community schools and the work that has been done in order to build positive and productive relationships with community and the school.
  http://www.communityschools.org/CCSFullReport.pdf

- Mindsurf networks schools of innovation evaluation overview
  This is an overview of the goals of the Mindsurf Network programs for schools.
  http://cct.edc.org/report_summary.asp?numPublicationId=107

- New options for the modern student
  This report from ASCD examines the use of flexible schedules and community partnerships to better meet the needs of high school students.
  http://www.ascd.org/portal/site/ascd/template.MAXIMIZE/menuitem.1f7 f8e4a1b4bac58dd1b2110d3108a0c/?javax.portlet.tpst=d5b9c0fa1a49326 6805516f762108a0c_ws_MX&javax.portlet.prp_d5b9c0fa1a4932668055

16f762108a0c_journaltypeheaderimage=%2FASCD%2Fimages%2Fmult
ifiles%2Fpublications%2Fibmast.gif&javax.portlet.prp_d5b9c0fa1a4932
66805516f762108a0c_viewID=article_view&javax.portlet.prp_d5b9c0fa
1a493266805516f762108a0c_journalmoid=da0f799340ff3110VgnVCM1
000003d01a8c0RCRD&javax.portlet.prp_d5b9c0fa1a493266805516f762
108a0c_articlemoid=e73f799340ff3110VgnVCM1000003d01a8c0RCRD
&javax.portlet.prp_d5b9c0fa1a493266805516f762108a0c_journalTypeP
ersonalization=ASCD_IFB&javax.portlet.begCacheTok=token&javax.po
rtlet.endCacheTok=token

- Pfeifer, R. S. & Robb, R. (2001, May/June). *Beaming your school into the 21st century*. Principal Leadership, p. 30-34.
  A partnership between a relatively new high school in Maryland and Mindsurf Networks is described in this article.
  If you are a member of NASSP you can access this article online.
  http://www.principals.org/s_nassp/bin.asp?TrackID=C7C5ULWDDBYT
  8Y2A7HNTMYA2GZRGAPCP&SID=1&DID=48160&CID=498&VID
  =2&DOC=FILE.PDF

- Project description-Mindsurf Networks
  A brief description of the program supported by this group regarding handheld computers in the classroom is given in this piece.
  http://cct.edc.org/project_summary.asp?numProjectId=746

- Samon, G. & Berton, M. (2001, February). *Principles of partnership*. Principal Leadership, 1, 6.
  The areas to consider when establishing and maintaining partnerships are outlined in this piece.
  If you are a member of NASSP you can access this article online.
  http://www.principals.org/s_nassp/sec.asp?TrackID=C7C5ULWDDBYT
  8Y2A7HNTMYA2GZRGAPCP&SID=1&DID=48923&CID=501&VID
  =2&RTID=14&CIDQS=&Taxonomy=False&specialSearch=False&sear
  chquery=TrackID=C7C5ULWDDBYT8Y2A7HNTMYA2GZRGAPCP
  @qu=partnership@otherSections=False@selCategory=0@Taxonomy=F
  alse@selTopic=0@specialSearch=False@RN=11@isNew=False@DID=
  54994@dtEndYear=2007@advanced=True@searchtype=0@pg=2@sear
  chaction=@resetForm=False@CIDQS=@PubsArchiveID=1%2C+3%2C

+4%2C+2@pagesize=10@imgSearch.x=37@imgSearch.y=4@CID=117
6@NID=@searchDomain=doc@SID=1@RTID=14@dtStartMonth=07
@sortSearch=rank@btnSearch=%2C+@searchPhraseLocation=text%2C
+title%2C+subject@dtStartYear=1999@dtEndMonth=07@pageDomain
=doc

- Englen, J. T. & The Council for Corporate and School Partnerships.
  (2003, January). *The funding challenge*. Principal Leadership, p. 36-39.
  The goals of the Council for Corporate and School Partnerships are
  outlined in this article along with a sidebar on one high school's program
  outcomes.
  If you are a member of NASSP you can access this article online.
  http://www.principals.org/s_nassp/bin.asp?TrackID=C7C5ULWDDBYT
  8Y2A7HNTMYA2GZRGAPCP&SID=1&DID=46778&CID=479&VID
  =126&DOC=FILE.PDF

Grants
- Arts participation-DeWitt Wallace Reader's Digest Fund
  This is a brief description of the goals for funding for the arts in school.
  http://www.wallacefoundation.org/GrantsPrograms/FocusAreasPrograms
  /Building+Appreciation/

- Charles Stewart Mott Foundation
  The mission of this foundation is to support efforts that promote a just,
  equitable and sustainable society. Home page.
  http://www.mott.org/about.aspx
  Grant information and description
  http://www.mott.org/grantseeker.aspx

- Education leadership-DeWitt Wallace Reader's Digest Fund
  This is a description of the goals for funding innovative leadership
  practices.
  http://www.wallacefoundation.org/GrantsPrograms/FocusAreasPrograms
  /EducationLeadership/

- Funding guidelines-DeWitt Wallace Reader's Digest Fund

This is an explanation of the guidelines for the programs in arts appreciation, education leadership and out of school learning.
http://www.wallacefoundation.org/WF/AboutUs/FundingGuidelines/FundingGuidelines.htm

- Out of school learning-DeWitt Wallace Reader's Digest Fund
  A description of the goals for out of school learning experiences is given in this article.
  http://www.wallacefoundation.org/GrantsPrograms/FocusAreasPrograms/Out-Of-SchoolLearning/

- Corporation for National Service-Learn and Serve America
  Home page for this organization on service learning.
  http://www.learnandserve.org/
  Grant information and how to sign up for notices when grants become available.
  http://www.learnandserve.org/for_organizations/funding/index.asp

Submitted Date: 8/2/07   By: Dr. Karen Walker Lebanon Valley College

---

http://www.educationpartnerships.org/