

Forum: Week 10 - 11 Article

Date: Sun Oct 14 2007 11:01

Author: Howerton, Linda Sue <Linda-Howerton@utc.edu>

Subject: School-community partnerships

In table one (page 158) five needs stood out: violence prevention, social skills group, parent support & education classes, mentoring programs, & summer programs. Look at these five and discuss what they have in common in regards to student's behavior and academic achievement. Also, give examples of how the community & business sector can get involved in these five areas.

Forum: Week 10 - 11 Article

Date: Mon Nov 05 2007 22:26

Author: Pressley, Craig Andrew <Craig-Pressley@utc.edu>

Subject: Re: School-community partnerships

Linda,

I just want to say that your question really captures what I am looking for regarding the discussion on the blackboard system for this class. I think this for a few reasons:

- 1) Relevance to the article.
- 2) Your question is not answered in the article, it forces the reader to extend themselves beyond the scope of the article and demonstrate mastery over other aspects of the practice.

I feel this article is very relevant to the kind of work I find myself doing throughout the week. I know we talk a lot about the aspects that SSW's play on a micro level, but this gets to the heart of what social workers can do on more of a mezzo level - connection of organizations. The term synergy was used in this article. I like this word because it captures what SSW's are really good at (or could be good at), connecting folks with services and need.

Now regarding the question: I think the business sector has a tremendous amount to offer to the school setting and has the resources to provide many of the prevention services listed in Table 1. In the community that I serve there is a real lack of after school programming, or what the article mentioned as OST. Who better to teach leadership than a business leader, who better to talk about character education than a healthy business leader that uses good character and leadership in their pursuits? I think an argument needs to be made for the business community that connecting with kids through OST programming may be good for their bottom line as a business owner, and that they have a stake in that process. Creating a healthy foundation of future consumers not only benefits the community, but also supports a future with a growing consumer base. Of course, these sorts of arguments take work, and development of relationship, but social workers have a real knack for this sort of thing.

Craig