

# Community Support for Student Success

<b>WHO</b> <i>is community?</i>	<b>WHAT</b> <i>is community?</i>
<p><b>COMMUNITY MEMBERS</b> Individuals from the school community</p> <p><b>BUSINESSES AND CORPORATIONS</b> Local businesses, national corporations and franchises</p> <p><b>EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS</b> Colleges and universities; community colleges; vocational, trade and technical schools; feeder schools, private schools</p> <p><b>HEALTH CARE ORGANIZATIONS</b> Hospitals, health care centers, mental health facilities, health departments, health foundations, and associations</p> <p><b>GOVERNMENT AND MILITARY AGENCIES</b> Fire departments, police departments, chambers of commerce, city councils and other local and state government agencies</p> <p><b>NATIONAL SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS</b> Rotary Club, Lions Club, Kiwanis Club, Shriners, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, YMCA, United Way, AmeriCorps, Urban League</p> <p><b>FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS</b> Churches, mosques, synagogues, other religious organizations and charities</p> <p><b>SENIOR CITIZEN ORGANIZATIONS</b> Retirement communities, assisted living facilities, senior volunteer organizations</p> <p><b>CULTURAL &amp; RECREATIONAL INSTITUTIONS</b> Zoos, museums, libraries, and recreational centers</p> <p><b>MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS</b> Local newspapers, radio stations, cable networks (including foreign language outlets), and other outlets</p> <p><b>OTHER COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS</b> Fraternities, sororities, foundations, neighborhood associations, alumni associations, and service organizations</p>	<p><b>A community is a group of people that comes together for a common purpose.</b> The group is bonded by mutual commitments and a collective responsibility to each other. Community members form a tightly knit web of meaningful relationships and possess a set of shared values and beliefs.</p> <p><b>Members of a Community:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Feel a sense of <i>belonging</i></li> <li>• <i>Care</i> for and <i>help</i> one another</li> <li>• Make and keep <i>commitments</i></li> <li>• Feel <i>responsible</i> for themselves and others</li> </ul>
	<b>WHY</b> <i>connect?</i>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enhance student success</li> <li>• Reveal and mobilize community assets, strengths and resources</li> <li>• Develop a sense of connectedness and accountability</li> <li>• Strengthen human, social and economic foundations</li> <li>• Acculturate students into the community</li> <li>• Increase social and political capital</li> <li>• Bolster civic awareness and social responsibility</li> <li>• Create a better educated and more stable workforce</li> </ul>
	<b>HOW</b> <i>to connect.</i>
	<p><b>DEFINE YOUR COMMUNITY:</b> Review the categories in “Who is Community” and canvass the neighborhood, making note of what different groups belong to your community.</p> <p><b>SPREAD THE WORD:</b> Share your school newsletter with neighbors.</p> <p><b>NEIGHBORHOOD PORCH VISITS:</b> Visit individuals and community organizations surrounding your school, validate their contribution to the community, and invite a relationship. Ask how you can be a better neighbor.</p> <p><b>OPEN HOUSE:</b> Invite community groups and individuals to your Open House or host an activity specifically for community members to meet the principal and staff, learn about the school’s strengths and needs, and tour the school.</p> <p><b>SOLICIT INPUT FROM COMMUNITY MEMBERS:</b> Invite members to serve on Site Council or another action team. Place suggestion boxes at community sites to collect information from community members.</p>