J. Saunders Redding, and educator and essayist, said, “The pathos of man is that he hungers for personal fulfillment and for a sense of community with others.” I believe that most people do desire a sense of community, the feeling of belonging to some group or station. If humans did not have this desire, I doubt our existence would continue. Similarly, I feel that not only community involvement is important to the average person, but is definitely important to student success. In addition to community involvement, parental participation is just as important.

When parents are involved in their children’s lives, particularly education, the child feels nurtured and realizes the importance of receiving an education. A child whose parents do not take part in the education process may feel there is no need to try because they have no affirmation for their achievements or actions, which may be negative or positive. On the other hand, a child who has involved parents not only feel cared for, but may also strive to do well because it is expected of them. I believe that parents who do make an effort to be part of their children’s education know the importance of education and its relation to being a productive citizen.

A productive citizen, will in tum, benefit the community. Not only will the community reap the rewards of the educated, but a productive community can also produce successful students, forming a positive cycle. As important as feeling nurtured by parents, feeling a sense of belonging to a community also enforces the desire to do
well. A feeling of connectedness will urge the student to want to give back to the community in the future. Community service offers students, as well as other citizens, the chance to be part of a positive change. It provides the chance to take action in the community and become part of it by giving themselves and their time.

In summary, student success is based on living a fulfilling life. When one lacks the sense of fulfillment, be it emotional, mental, social, or economical, success in anything—much less education—is difficult. To feel loved and needed, to possess a desire to do more, and to belong in some niche is simply to be human. Since a goal of education is to create informed, productive, caring citizens, what better way to do so than first instilling these qualities into the citizens of the future?