Community-Based Education: Innovation Beyond the Classroom

Dr. Lawrence Allen, Dean of Clemson University's College of Health, Education, and Human Development
Graduation Rates (1990-2010)
Effective Education Involves Coordinated Effort

- Student
- School
- Family
- Community
In-school Factors

- Teacher Quality
- School Leadership
- School Climate
- Class Size
- School Facility
“Decades of social science research have demonstrated that differences in quality of schools can explain about one-third of the variation in student achievement. But the other two-thirds is attributable to non-school factors.”

—Richard Rothstein, 2010, How to Fix our Schools
Individual and Family Factors Impacting Student Achievement

- Parents’ Beliefs and Expectations About Education
- Family Economic Status
- Physical and Mental Health
- Persistence or Absence of Violence in a Child’s Life

Student Achievement

National Dropout Prevention Center/Network at Clemson University
Community Factors Impacting Student Achievement

- Access to Social Services
- Strength of Community-School Connections
- Availability and Quality of Childcare
- Opportunities for Constructive Out-of-School Activities
Coordinated Community-Based Efforts: Eight Strategic Efforts

1. Comprehensive and integrated early childhood development effort: 0-5
Coordinated Community-Based Efforts: Eight Strategic Efforts

2. Strong parent support system
Coordinated Community-Based Efforts: 
Eight Strategic Efforts

3. Ensure that all students are reading at grade level, especially by grade three
Coordinated Community-Based Efforts: Eight Strategic Efforts

4. Address chronic absenteeism
Coordinated Community-Based Efforts: Eight Strategic Efforts

5. Build adult and peer support systems
Coordinated Community-Based Efforts: Eight Strategic Efforts

6. Develop integrated after-school, and summer enrichment and remediation programs
Coordinated Community-Based Efforts: Eight Strategic Efforts

7. Develop a seamless system of health care services and other public services on the school campus. Build adult and peer support systems
Coordinated Community-Based Efforts: Eight Strategic Efforts

8. Develop an effective alternative school model for at-risk students
“Efforts to improve educational outcomes in these schools, attempting to drive change through test-based accountability, are thus unlikely to succeed unless accompanied by policies to address the out of school factors that negatively affect large numbers of our nation’s students.”

— Berliner, 2009, Poverty and Potential: Out of School Factors and School Success