



Schools & Public Service

Collaboration: The Classroom and the Community

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5 min read





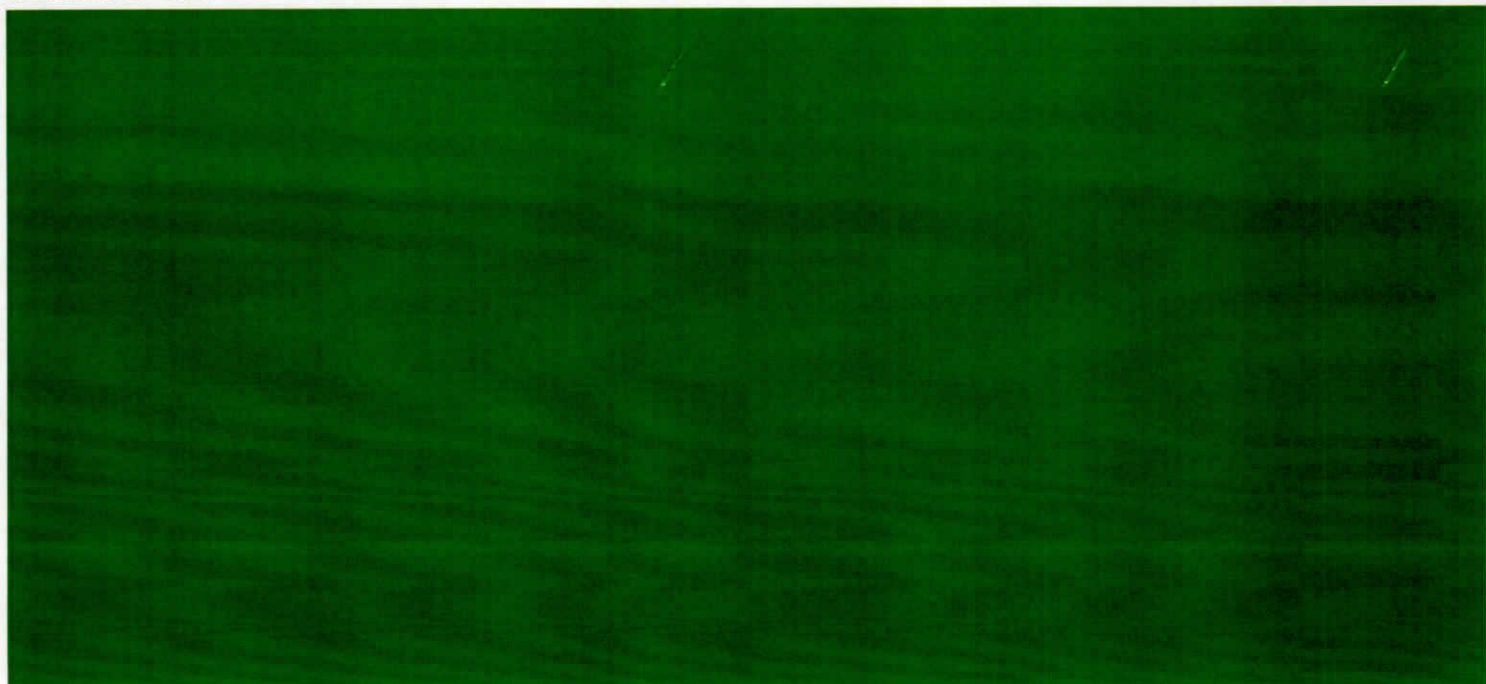
What do these two things have to do with the classroom? Well, let's just say a whole lot.

I am a high school teacher and the founder of two nonprofit organizations. I teach Health Science Theory Clinical Rotation, grooming our future health care professionals. My role as a teacher and a community advocate allows me to have a better understanding of how great of an impact the collaboration between the classroom and community can have. My personal slogan is, "Fusing education and community to build a better tomorrow."

The Classroom:

I am a fifth year secondary teacher. Over the past five years, I have seen and heard a great deal from watching and listening to my students and colleagues. I have seen the effects of students, who have all of the potential in the world but lack the confidence and drive to give it their all.

The reason is that they are tired from having to go to school every day and then go work full-time jobs during the evening hours and weekends. I have seen the effects of students who are basically parenting themselves and are pretty much at their breaking point. This can cause them to act out, lash out, or portray behavior that leaves the appearance that the student just doesn't care. I have seen the effects of homeless students who are doing everything to make sure that their classmates don't find out.





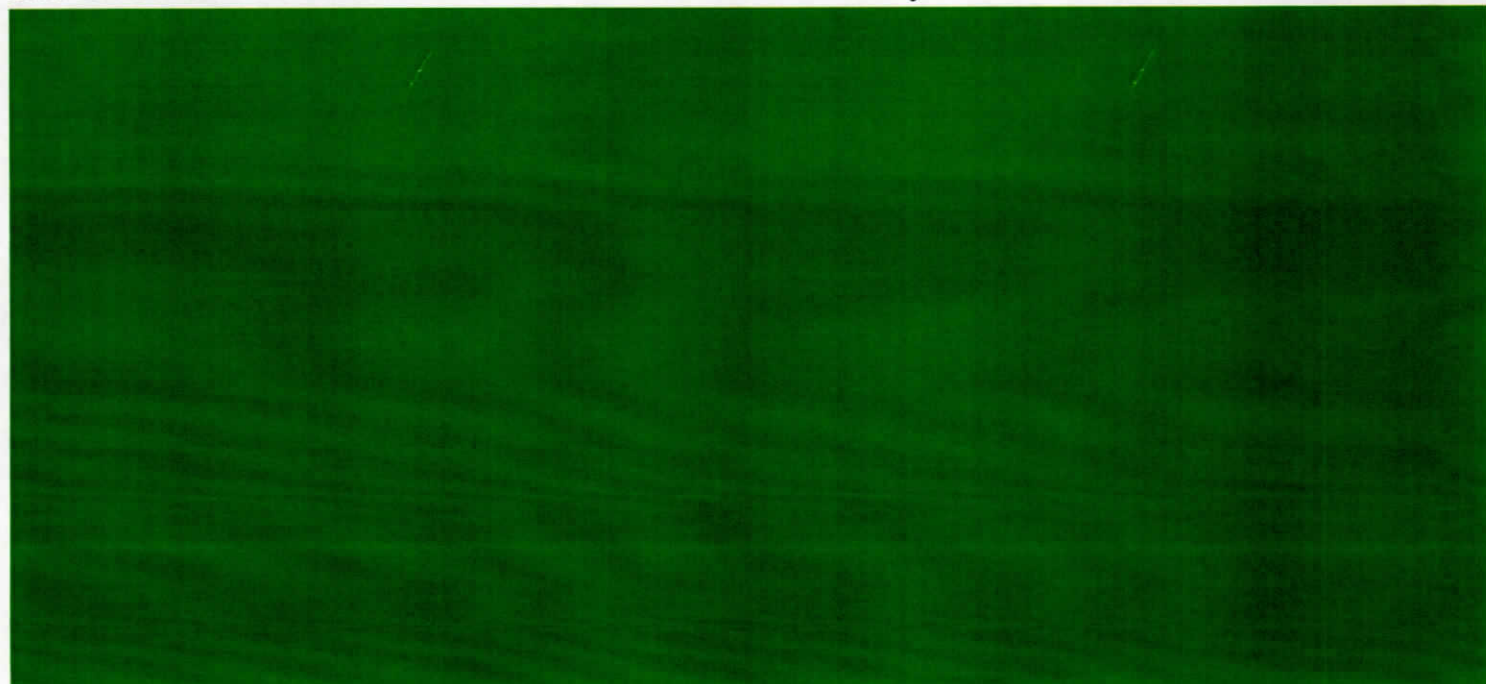
The community holds a major piece to the success of our students. The community is who will benefit from the great happenings in the classroom. We need the community to be in support of our classrooms.

The students are learning more than just reading, math, science and social studies. We are offering our students programs that are going to allow them to enter directly into the workforce out in their communities. We need our communities to freely and genuinely offer their services and support to teachers, our students, and our classrooms.

One of my nonprofit organizations is called H.U.G.S. Unlimited Mentoring Program. H.U.G.S. stands for Helping Underserved Girls Succeed. This program was launched from a need that I saw with my own students and just observing all students.

H.U.G.S is a community program that is offered to girls ages 15 – 18. When I think about when I reach out to organizations and businesses in the community in an effort to bring the community into the classroom, oftentimes the efforts are unsuccessful. Which is discouraging.

If I could have my way, I would go door to door and rally all that I could to become more visible and vocal! Think about how awesome the lifelong effect that that could have in creating a strong bond and collaboration between the classroom and the community.





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