



**CENTRE COUNTY PREVENTION COALITION**  
*A SAMHSA Supported Drug-Free Community Coalition*  
*Led By Centre County Drug and Alcohol*



**ARTICLE 28 – September 24, 2008 –Success for Students in a Global Market**

Jennifer S. Brown is vice-principal of Bellefonte Area Middle School. This weekly column, published on Wednesdays, is a collaboration of Centre County *Communities That Care* serving Bald Eagle, Bellefonte, Penns Valley, and Philipsburg-Osceola Area School Districts, and Care Partnership: Centre Region *Communities That Care* serving the State College Area School District.

In today's ever changing educational world, the opportunity for every student to experience academic and personal success is at the heart of our schools and our communities. Schools are working diligently to shape students who can compete globally with an emphasis on meeting the specific needs of the individual student. Communities want to raise and mentor successful youth who are self-sufficient and contribute positively to society. This shared sense of urgency comes from assessing student performance data, state and government regulations and the overall success of the students within the school and community. The school and the community strive to foster young men and women who will experience academic and personal success enabling them to compete on a global level. A major component of this obligation is instilling the belief in students that they can be leaders within society. This task is a daunting and challenging endeavor that the school and community cannot accomplish without a cooperative effort. How can schools and communities combine their efforts for their seemingly common goals for their young learners?

One of the most important and powerful tools for obtaining these goals is the communication between the school and the home. Communications that are open, welcoming and honest create an environment where a positive parent/guardian relationship with the school is formed and student success cultivated. Effective communication between these two stakeholders, based upon mutual trust and respect, is a foundation for meaningful interactions between the school and home that will last a lifetime. The parents/guardians within our communities need to know that their views and input are invaluable tools when educating not only their child, but all children. If we can't effectively communicate with each other, how can we foster a successful school environment where all students learn and can compete globally?

Parents/guardians who are respected support the school and allow for the best possible education for the young learners. Schools that promote positive relationships with parents/guardians do so through meaningful communications and a genuine desire to listen while creating a supportive and trusting environment. Schools that embrace these qualities are more likely to experience a positive environment where student success is the standard, not just an expectation.

We must adopt and promote a mindset where parents/guardians and the school can work in conjunction, honoring and respecting our roles as stakeholders while sharing a common vision for student success. We can agree to disagree at times yet our lines of communication need to remain open. The community and parents/guardians working as a team is the most effective strategy to achieve our common goals for students. As a result of this teamwork, schools are able to realize success for all students in an ever-changing educational world.

Care Partnership: Centre Region *Communities That Care*  
*Serving State College Area School District*  
Dawn Taylor, Community Mobilizer  
814-861-7424  
dtaylor105@gmail.com  
Web address: [carecentreregion.org](http://carecentreregion.org)

Centre County *Communities That Care*  
*Serving the School Districts of Bald Eagle, Bellefonte, Penns Valley, and*  
*Philipsburg-Osceola*  
814-404-9511  
[centrecountyctc@yahoo.com](mailto:centrecountyctc@yahoo.com)  
Web address: [centrecountyctc.org](http://centrecountyctc.org)