Contents

Dedication and Acknowledgments		ix
Al	oout the Authors	xiii
Introduction		1
1.	What It Means to Be "In It Together" in Education Why Are Partnerships Important? Why Empowerment May Be Essential to	5
	Person and Group Success References	9 10
2.	An Involved Classroom Community The Critical Importance of Building Partnerships	11 13
	The Status Quo in Education "Just Ain't Gonna Work" Either Understanding Interconnected	14
	Spheres of Influence	16
	The Crucial Importance of Family Involvement	23
	Summary	30
	References	31
3.	Infusing the Assets of Students	
	and Families Into Classroom Learning	33
	The Importance of Interaction	35
	What Involvement and Engagement of	
	Students and Their Families Is Meaningful?	38
	Summary	45
	References	45
4.	Preparing for Classroom Community Asking Questions About	47
	the Classroom Community	48

	Asking Questions About Diverse		
	Learners and Learning Needs	51	
	Setting a Reassuring, Positive, and Safe Tone	55	
	Low-Investment Activities	55	
	High-Investment Activities	58	
	Optional-But-Useful Relationship-		
	Building Activities	61	
	Laying the Foundation for a		
	Community Around a Classroom	66	
	Summary	67	
	References	67	
5.	The Academic Learning Benefits of Being "In It Together" Imparting a Positive Message That	69	
	All Learners Can Learn	73	
	Understanding That All Learners and Families		
	Are Smart and Can Contribute to Learning	78	
	Making Learning Socially and Personally Relevant	78	
	Creating a Caring Community of Learners	80	
	Understanding the Process and Task		
	Elements of Academic Interactions	83	
	Making Learning Visible and Transparent	85	
	Using the Support of the School		
	Community to Make Learning Work	86	
	Working With the Community at		
	Large to Encourage Learning	89	
	Summary	94	
	References	94	
6.	Using Classroom Events to		
	Empower Students and Families	97	
	Giving Students a Choice	98	
	Why Do This?	99	
	Understanding the Importance of Partnerships	99	
	Partnerships and Classroom-Based Events	102	
	Understanding the School Year		
	Calendar to Plan for Optimal Involvement	102	
	Types of Classroom-Based Events	104	
	Building Student-to-Student Community	112	
	Summary	114	
	References	115	