“Getting Full Community Support For Activities” CADA Workshop (2021)

Community Support is about **Full Student Involvement** and real human **CONNECTION**

CURRENT U.S. student participation in ALL Student Activities: 27% (community – 15%)
In EDUCATION, you are marketing a CRITICAL HUMAN EXPERIENCE (valuable)
Questions: 1) What opens up the support that ‘athletics’ gets at your school?
2) What would it look like if there was only one sport offered (and it wasn’t football)? Music/Band Program that only allowed 20 kids?
3) Why does a ‘booster club’ offer significant support
4) What impact would come from a ‘total school’ booster club?

A.C.E. STORIES (South Lake – TJ Ware; Whitmer HS; Burbank HS + Boeing)

- Open up INCLUSIVENESS (not further “elitism”)
  - start building more participation OPPORTUNITIES for **all students**
  - develop ‘champions’ on staff and in community for programming roles
  - allow parents room for involvement and “leadership”

- Be INVITATIONAL (not “selective”) + Offer “ownership”
  - allow students to have their positions, their plans, own those plans
  - allow for new partnership with entire community “leadership” core

- Be INTENTIONAL (not “ambiguous”)
  - you have to ‘on-purpose’ open up the process for developing activities
  - best way to widen participation is through leadership retreats

**KEY INSIGHT:** you can’t really change the total campus culture if you don’t change the SOCIAL POSITION of every student in the community.

**A.C.E. CONCEPT** (Adopting Communities for Excellence)

Starting 30 years ago, a team of student trainers, executive directors, and youth experts were given the mission to redesign ‘student leadership’ + activities to get back to its beginnings.

- Represent **ALL students** (involve more, wider spectrum of representation)
  - have them present their plans, refine those plans, own those plans (Empowerment)
  - allow for some failure (it is necessary) and REVIEW “learning”

- Open up new leadership roles to the ENTIRE student community through **RETREATS**.
  - allow students to have true “ownership” of their ideas and ‘action plans’
  - partner with adult civic/business leaders
  - connect with ALL parents at the end of each retreat

- Connect to ENTIRE community
  - allow students to “solve” community problems, out-perform adults
  - have them solve problems, not just make a dent in problems

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