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Abbe H. Herzig* (aherzig@uamail.albany.edu), Department of Educational Theory and Practice, 1400 Washington Ave, ED 109, Albany, NY 12222. *The Importance of Community in Supporting Diverse Learners in Mathematics.*

The small numbers of females and students of some racial and ethnic groups who persist into higher mathematics study and careers has become the subject of much controversy and concern. In this paper, I will discuss the critical role that communities of all sorts—including communities among learners, between learners and their teachers, and the multitude of communities outside of mathematics to which people belong—play in the academic progress of students. Some of these communities support student learning and development, and some hinder that progress, but all need to be considered carefully in order to understand how to attract and retain diverse populations of students and mathematical scientists. (Received September 14, 2006)