Journal 8: Searra Richardson

Longwood University students have an enormous impact on the town of Farmville and the community. This impact can either be good or bad depending on what type of impact they are making. Students and Longwood University in general can influence the community and make it better or worse.

One way that Longwood impacts the community in a positive way is through the business that students bring. When school is in session, the population goes way up, and students bring revenue to many stores, restaurants, and attractions around Farmville. Students tend to go out to eat a lot and spend money way more than they should, so this brings money into the community and helps many businesses survive and thrive. Some stores, such as Pairet’s and the bookstore, are specifically for Longwood students for the most part so without the students they might not be in business. Students, of course, need to go buy their groceries and necessities so Wal-Mart gets a lot more business during the school year. Another positive way Longwood students impact the community is through community service. Many students help around Farmville with many different organizations such as the SPCA or F.A.C.E.S. They contribute to the community by giving back to those in need and volunteer at events where they are needed.

One way Longwood and its students negatively impact the community is by college student’s tendency to go out and party and drink or do drugs. These parties can lead to many disturbances at night including noise complaints and reports of suspicious activities. The police have to get involved more often in the community and be on guard more. These late night activities could upset some Farmville residents who are not students. Another way Longwood students can negatively impact the community is it causes more traffic. When school is in session, there is a higher number of young drivers out on the road in Farmville. This can lead to less parking space available and potential accidents.

As a student at Longwood University, I can enhance the positive impact Longwood has on the community. I can do this by being more involved on and off campus with the community and help whenever I can and wherever I am needed. Also, a big way I can enhance the positive impact is to be a good, respectful citizen and to not cause trouble. Students are the face of Longwood so our actions affect how the world and the community sees the university. By behaving and being active, I can show not only Farmville, but the world what Longwood University is all about.