

Dear School Leader,

There is a lot of discussion about academic achievement and test scores these days. Those of us involved in these discussions also know in our hearts that a single-minded focus on academics is not enough. When our students become our neighbors some day we want them to be good people, not just smart people. We know how important a person's character is to both their life and the life of our communities.

So what's an educator to do? How do we move toward developing the whole child? Where can we hear from and talk to other professionals that feel the same way we do? The *Best Practices in Character Education* presentation at Alverno College on Monday, September 14 may be your next step in addressing these questions.

Beginning in January, Alverno College, in conjunction with the Wisconsin and national Character Education Partnership, is bringing to the Milwaukee area a highly successful program called the Leadership Academy for Character Education (LACE). LACE has trained hundreds of educators in the St. Louis area. They have seen students respond to, and become part of, community efforts to improve the climate of their schools. They have seen results similar to national studies that indicate that an emphasis on character has resulted in decreased discipline referrals, suspensions, bullying, and expulsions at the same time as attendance and test scores have **gone up!** The St. Louis area has been awarded more National School of Character and National District of Character awards than any other area in the country, largely due to LACE.

LACE is a year-long program that will provide you as a participant with:

- Presentations from some of the best-known national experts in character education.
- Foundational knowledge about character education
- Strategies for implementing character education in your school without adding another program or taking time from your already packed daily schedule. (Teachers in character-focused schools often indicate increased instructional time.)
- An introduction to award-winning schools and a chance to talk with the leaders of those schools.
- A library of books and materials to help you learn more about character education and how to implement it in your school.
- A series of steps that will help you develop a character education plan for your school.
- Feedback from mentors during the development of each phase of your school plan.
- A chance to learn from peers who share your desire to educate well-rounded, ethical students.

- A way to improve to improve climate and instruction for all students, minimizing the need for tier 2 or 3 interventions in either the Response to Intervention (RTI) or Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) approaches.
- A 3 or 6 credit option through Alverno.

If any of this sounds interesting, we are offering an opportunity to learn more from successful principals from the St. Louis area at a *Best Practices in Character Education* presentation at Alverno on Monday, September 14th. Whether you are interested in finding out more about what schools are doing in character education and/or the Leadership Academy, please join us for one of these free introductory sessions:

- The morning session will include a continental breakfast and will be held from 7:30 (breakfast) until 10:30 a.m.
- The afternoon session will be held from 2:00 until 4:30 p.m. and will include a beverage and a snack.

You will have a chance to meet principals from the St. Louis area as well as the local LACE coordinators, and ask any questions you may have.

Please join us, and, if you can, please RSVP to Judith.Reisetter@alverno.edu so we can prepare handouts, food and beverages. We hope to see you on September 14th. We believe LACE has the potential to help transform your school and community into the type of school and community you'd want for your children.

LACE Program Directors:

Margaret Tackes

Daniel Tackes

Mary Diez





LACE Superintendents Advisory Committee:

Kathy Cooke, Hamilton-Sussex School District

Conrad Farner, Greenfield School District

John Hill, Milwaukee School District

William Hughes, Greendale School District

Blane McCann, Shorewood School District

Anita Pietrykowski, Milwaukee School District

Michael Schwartz, Jefferson School District

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John Thompson, Greenfield School District