

Leadership Advancing Character and Culture in Schools (LACCS)



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LACCS Changes Schools

“Character Education is one of the cornerstones of our school district. LACCS has helped South Milwaukee’s staff and administrators learn from national experts, see best practices in action, and create more inclusive environments in our classrooms and schools. Parents and community members continue to support our district because of our emphasis on respect, responsibility, honesty, kindness, and perseverance.”
- Rita Olson, Superintendent



In 2017, the School District of South Milwaukee was recognized as a National District of Character.

In 2016 Brown Deer Middle/High School was named a State and National School of Character. Through the Brown Deer Way (the school’s character education touchstone) students and staff are spreading its character principles throughout the school and the community.



“To date, about 50% of our staff has been through LACCS. We send a cohort each year because we’ve seen how it has opened the eyes, hearts and minds of the staff. It helps staff understand the “why” behind The Brown Deer Way. The site visits, guest speakers, and networking opportunities have been instrumental in our success. Over the six years we participated, we’ve seen a decrease in disciplinary referrals, an increase in GPA’s, and a decrease in staff turnover. A recent survey also reported students had a stronger connection to the school and staff.”
- Tosha Womack, Principal

Additional Professional Development Opportunities

- Continuing education for faculty meetings
- Professional development regarding CE topics for administrators and school staff
- Classes or presentations for parents (at PTA or parent meetings)
- Co-facilitation of student assemblies
- Facilitation of book clubs for faculty, staff and parents
- Book reviews for website regarding CE topics
- Ongoing consulting for LACE and LACCS alumni

What is LACCS?

Leadership Advancing Character and Culture in Schools (LACCS) is a unique, year-long learning community that provides you with the knowledge base, resources, and skills to effectively impact character development and social-emotional learning in your school community.

LACCS will support school leaders as they deepen their understanding of character education and positive school culture. They will learn to integrate character education into every aspect of a student's school day and learn to involve not just students, but teachers, parents, and community members in the process.

By integrating the Character.org's 11 Principles into each activity, LACCS leaders will guide participants in reflection and planning that will help them and their school team to advance their vision and create viable, sustainable initiatives.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Engage with national and local experts on social and emotional learning topics such as character education, restorative practices, mindfulness, equity and inclusion, service learning, and trauma-informed strategies.

Take away practical strategies for your school or classroom.

COACHING

Obtain personalized, on-site coaching with character education experts.

Cultivate leadership skills to successfully initiate a character education plan.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Develop a strategic action plan for your school's character initiatives.

BEST PRACTICES

Visit State and National Schools of Character, and learn best practices.

Network with peers from other schools that are engaging in character and climate work.

RESOURCES

Learn how the 11 Principles of Effective Character Education provides a framework for climate and culture change.

Access assessment tools and develop a character education library.

LACCS Program Leaders

Margaret Tackes, Ed.D. has been a school administrator for over 20 years at the elementary, middle and high school. She has directed teacher preparation programs at the college level and was the director of Administrative Leadership at Alverno College. Margaret has enjoyed working with students at all ages and stages of growth and learning. Her passion is guiding students, faculty, and parents into developing the social and emotional well-being of all.

Nancy Athanasiou, Ed.D., Professor of Education, has been teaching at Alverno College since 2001. She taught middle school in the Milwaukee Public School District and then moved to the Germantown School District where she worked as an Instructional Technology Resource Teacher and Instructional Specialist. Nancy has consulted with school districts and university faculty, locally and internationally, in the areas of assessment and feedback. She also conducts workshops for school personnel on building positive culture and climate in schools.

Julie Borgealt, M.S. is the Assistant Director of Outreach for Alverno College's Assessment and Outreach Center. Julie has worked with the college's character education programs, LACE and LACCS since their inception in 2010. She is the primary coordinator for Wisconsin's annual character education conference. Julie also serves as a representative for Alverno College at Wisconsin Women in Higher Education Leadership.

Amy Karsten, M.Ed. has nine years of teaching and four years of administrative experience at the middle school level. She holds a bachelor's degree in professional communication from Alverno College and a master's degree in education from Carroll University. As a Program Director and Outreach Coordinator for Alverno's Leadership Advancing Character and Culture in Schools, she works to assess and address each school's culture and climate and find solutions that meet their individualized needs.

How to Apply

Enrollment is limited and by application only.

We encourage teams led by school leaders (superintendents, principals, assistant principals) with 1-5 additional members.

Complete the application on-line. www.alverno.edu/laccs.

For more information, call [414-382-6435](tel:414-382-6435),

or email alverno.outreach@alverno.edu

LACCS is supported by  **Character.org**