The quality of a school’s character education program depends first and foremost on the commitment and training of its principal. The Leadership Academy in Character Education was established primarily to give school principals that essential training.”

— Sanford N. McDonnell
Co-Founder and Chairman Emeritus of the Character Education Partnership

While LACE is new to Southeastern Wisconsin, we are building upon the experience of the St. Louis program, developed by Marvin Berkowitz at the University of Missouri-St. Louis, about which participants have said:

“The most awesome, meaningful educational experience I have had in 21 years in the field. It changed my outlook and as a result, changed my school. It ought to be a requirement for all building principals.”

— Amy Johnston, Francis Howell Middle School
National School of Character

“The Leadership Academy in Character Education was … rich with theoretical frameworks, practical suggestions and meaningful relationships.”

— Mary Anne Hoppe, McKinley Jr. Classical Academy

“Intelligence plus character, that is the goal of true education.”

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

“To educate a person in mind and not in morals is to educate a menace to society.”

— Theodore Roosevelt
The Leadership Academy for Character Education produces positive results in student behavior, social/emotional development, and academic performance. Creating and maintaining a meaningful approach to character education requires strong leadership and a principal with the vision to see the importance of developing morally responsible students.

Beginning in 2010, the Alverno College Leadership Academy for Character Education will support an annual cohort of school leaders to deepen their understanding of character education and to integrate character education into every aspect of a student’s school day. Principals will learn to involve not just students, but teachers, parents, and community members in the character-building process.

Through sustained learning, conversation, study and writing, participants will create a community of school leaders dedicated to character education and to integrate character education into every aspect of a student’s school day. Principals will learn to involve not just students, but teachers, parents, and community members in the character-building process.

Academy benefits include a full year of training in character education, a starter library in character education for the school, peer networking, participation in workshops given by national experts, participation in a character education conference, and guided development of a character education school plan.

**Academy Goals for Participants**

Through the academy, you will develop the ability to

- Thoughtfully create a strategic plan of action for your school to address ethical, social, emotional, and academic growth, building upon understanding of the process of change and the necessary leadership skills to promote change
- Develop and initiate a school-wide character education program with the goal of developing the core ethical values needed to be a good human being and to enable staff and students to perform at their highest potential in school and any other endeavor
- Build and maintain a commitment to discourse with colleagues, students and the community about the implementation of character education principles and practices
- Consistently use a moral lens to assess how all aspects of school culture and practice affect the character of students
- Understand how schools most effectively impact students’ character development and social-emotional learning
- Create opportunities for staff and students to apply values such as compassion, responsibility, and fairness in everyday interactions and discussions as well as through community service
- Create opportunities for staff and students to grapple with real-life challenges and reflect on their moral choices
- Become familiar with and utilize a local and national network of relevant resources

**Program Directors**

**Margaret Tackes, Ed.D.**, is Director of the Administrative Leadership Program at Alverno College and Principal, Willow Springs Learning Center in the Hamilton-Sussex School District. She is a strong advocate for building school cultures that support the ethical, social, and emotional development of young people, as well as their academic achievement.

**Daniel Tackes, M.S.**, retired principal of Fairview South in the Elmbrook School District, works part-time at Alverno College. In his work with special needs students, he built a reputation for building professional community focused on working with the whole child.

**Mary Diez, Ph.D.**, Professor of Education and Graduate Dean at Alverno College, has directed the Southeastern Wisconsin Assessment Collaborative (SEWAC) for the past 10 years. She chairs a national task force on Teacher Education as Moral Community and has been active in work focused on identifying, nurturing, and assessing teacher dispositions.

**Program Consultant**

Marvin W. Berkowitz, Ph.D., Sanford N. McDonnell Professor of Character Education at University of Missouri-St. Louis