

Nancy Athanasiou, EdD

Nancy Athanasiou, Dean of the School of Education and Associate Professor, has been teaching at Alverno College since 2001. Nancy is an alumna from Alverno College where she received her B.S. in Elementary Education. Her M.S. and Ed.D. degrees are from Cardinal Stritch University in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. She taught middle school for six years in the Milwaukee Public School District and then moved to the Germantown School District where she worked for five years 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.

Linda Johnson-Dyrek, MA

Linda Johnson-Dyrek is an Adjunct Professor at Alverno College, teaching in the Art, Education, and Liberal Arts Departments. Ms. Johnson-Dyrek received her B.A. in Art Therapy/Art Education with a Minor in Psychology and M.A. in Education from Alverno College. She also attended The Center for Performance Assessment where she was trained in developing performance assessments. She taught Art and Adaptive Arts in the Franklin and Whitnall School Districts from 1992-2005, prior to teaching at Alverno College. In addition to teaching, she has worked with Alverno College faculty to assist school districts in implementing assessment reform. She is currently a Doctoral Candidate at Marquette University in Educational Policy and Leadership.

GRADUATE CREDIT OPTIONS

Participants in LACCS who want to earn 3 or 6 graduate credits can do so through completing the LACCS assignments, submitting a summative reflection, and paying a nominal fee.

HOW TO APPLY

Enrollment is limited and by application only. Participants must include school leaders (superintendents, principals, assistant principals). We encourage teams of 1-5 additional members led by the school leader. Download the application from www.alverno.edu/lacccs/. Please complete the entire application and submit it with the required letter of support. Send by email, fax or US mail to the contact information below:

Alverno College Institute
PO Box 343922
Milwaukee, WI 53234-3922
Fax: 414-382-6088
Email: institute@alverno.edu

For more information, contact Judith Reisetter Hart at judith.reisetter@alverno.edu or at 414-382-6431.



Leadership Advancing Character & Culture in Schools



WHAT IS LACCS?

Leadership Advancing Character & Culture in Schools (LACCS) 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 a vision to see the importance of developing morally responsible students.

A leader in character education training for the past four years, Alverno College has transformed their year-long program, the Leadership Academy for Character Education (LACE) in response to participants' and school's needs. Now following the academic year, LACCS will kick-off in August and commence with graduation in May. The new initiative—LACCS—combines input (speakers, workshops, experiences, readings) with ongoing reflection (both individual and circle time with the whole group), team work (at sessions and on-site), and on-site consultation with LACCS leaders.

LACCS will support a cohort of school leaders to 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 Education Partnership's 11 Principles into each activity and assignment, LACCS leaders will guide participants in reflection tasks that help them and their school team to develop key dispositions for character education.

GOALS FOR PARTICIPANTS

The program is guided by a set of outcomes—made explicit in each activity and assignment.

Through LACCS, you will develop the ability to:

- Understand how schools most effectively impact students' character development and social-emotional learning
- Consistently use a moral lens to assess how all aspects of school culture and practice affect the character of students
- Build and maintain a commitment to discourse with colleagues, students, and the community about the implementation of character education principles and practices
- 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
- Thoughtfully create a strategic plan of action for the 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



LACCS LEADERS

Daniel Tackes, MS

Dan Tackes currently is the assistant director of Summer School for the Hamilton School District in Sussex, Wisconsin. As a school administrator, he has worked with students and faculty at all levels. He has been a principal at the elementary level and alternative setting for students with handicapping conditions. As a director of Leadership Advancing Character and Culture in Schools (LACCS), he consistently assists school teams to target their work for outcomes that advance attendance, academic achievement, and good citizenship through appropriate knowledge, skills, and dispositions. He continually works to develop character education with schools by working with teachers, administrators, schools, and districts as they learn and develop concrete plans for youth and their families for the advancement of positive and productive citizens.

Margaret Tackes, EdD

Margaret Tackes, Ed.D. is the outgoing principal of Willow Spring Learning Center in the Hamilton School District, in Sussex, Wisconsin. She has been a school administrator for over 20 years at the elementary, middle and high school levels. Additionally she has directed teacher preparation programs at the college level and was the director of Administrative Leadership at Alverno College. Margaret has enjoyed students at all ages and stages of growth and learning. A passion of hers has been guiding students, faculty, and parents into developing the social and emotional well-being of all. As a director of Alverno's Leadership Advancing Character and Culture in Schools (LACCS) she supports the development, implementation, and advancement of character education that ensures that students become productive citizens.