



CharacterPlus®

EJACE CharacterPlusWay cLEAD T iCSP AACE Schools of Character



2021-2022 Membership Programming Overview
the secret sauce for high quality humans in the making

POSITIVE

THE PERCENT INCREASE
CHARACTERPLUS MEMBER
SCHOOLS REFLECT ON STATE
STANDARDS & ACT TESTING

THE PERCENT OF STATE AND
NATIONAL SCHOOLS OF
CHARACTER OUR REGION
REPRESENTS NATIONALLY

THE NUMBER OF CHARACTERPLUS
MEMBER SCHOOL DISTRICTS,
ORGANIZATIONS & UNIVERSITIES,
UP IN A PANDEMIC YEAR

THE NUMBER OF DONATING
INDIVIDUALS, COMPANIES, &
FOUNDATIONS TO KEEP FEES VERY
LOW PER STUDENT

THE NUMBER OF REGIONAL
EDUCATORS ENROLLED IN OUR
RECENTLY LAUNCHED
ONLINE WORKSHOP PLATFORM

THE NUMBER OF NCAA ATHLETES
PARTICIPATING IN OUR AACE
CHARACTER AMBASSADOR
PROGRAM

CHANGE

5+

25+

50+

150+

300+

400+

PROGRAMS

THE CHARACTERPLUS
WAY

TEACHER ACADEMY IN
CHARACTER EDUCATION (TACE)

AUTONOMY, BELONGING, &
COMPETENCE

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IN CHARACTER ED (EJACE)

ATHLEADERSHIP ACADEMY IN
CHARACTER ED (AACE)

IMPACT

school climate, culture, and academic excellence

equipping your future teacher leaders

incorporate character best practices for students

affirming women educators' noble purpose

create a solid character education foundation

the US DOE's best character ed approach

navigating dilemmas youth face in daily life

an expert opinion for your building

adult leadership from a character foundation

character workshops and resources at the ready

equipping you to confidently lead the process

empowering students to be change agents

character-focused athletes and coaches



CharacterPlus®
programs, workshops & support

HIGH QUALITY

Dr. Denise Funston, Principal
Windsor Elementary School

Frank McMurray, Principal
Belton Middle School

Dr. Ce Andre Perry, Principal
Academy of Entrepreneurship
Studies Middle (AESM – SLPS)

Dr. Karen Calcaterra, Principal
Lafayette High School

Vince Bingham, Head Coach
Maryville University

Dr. Lorinda Krey, Principal
Fairway Elementary School

HUMANS

“...social emotional learning, restorative practices ...the BEAUTIFUL THING about character education is that it incorporates all of that...”

“Nicole was amazing in her support, suggestions, and sharing her personal experiences with SSOC. She was great at affirming the good work our students, staff, and parents have been putting in over the last few years. Nicole is a great listener and an enthusiastic guide on the side!”

“The AESM family is grateful to have the support of the CharacterPlus Way program in the building. The program has progressively transformed our school culture from year one until present. Students now report that they enjoy coming to school, and we have fewer altercations among students. Staff relationships have improved, and we have noticed an increase in the sense of ownership and belonging of our students...”

“...the narrative must be shifted: character education isn’t just more on your plate as a leader, IT IS the plate...”

“...CharacterPlus has made a tremendous impact on our team’s culture and performance in short order. This season our athletes’ performance and connectedness has been like no other as a result...”

“The State Schools of Character Readiness Assessment was one of the best assessments we have ever done, and it has provoked great conversations about what we can continue to improve upon! It’s definitely impacting and guiding our goals for the future, too!”



CharacterPlus®
character voices

THE FOLKS

Kristen Pelster, Ed.S.

Nicole Diehl

Emilie Johnson, Ph.D.

Julie Sperry, Ed.D.

Julie Sperry, Ed.D.

Debbie Brandt, Ed.S.

Claudia McMillin, M.B.A.

Heather Nadenbush

Marvin Berkowitz, Ph.D.

Melinda Bier, Ph.D.

Christopher Funk, Ph.D.

Mike Park

THE CHOPS

CharacterPlus® Senior Director of Programming, NSOC recipient, Character Education in Emerging Leaders (CEEL) Consultant, African Vision of Hope, Current UMSL Ed.D. Candidate
kpelster@characterplus.org

CharacterPlus® Director of Membership leading the nation in the number of schools coached that have become State and National Schools of Character, Instructor, CharacterPlus Way Director
ndiehl@characterplus.org

CharacterPlus® Senior Facilitator, Instructor, Professor of Teacher Education at Lindenwood University, with an emphasis on Psychology and Psychology of Teaching and Learning
ejohnson@characterplus.org

CharacterPlus® Director of Academies, National Schools of Character recipient, Adjunct Faculty UMSL, Leadership Instructor for 300+ Administrators, MA in Administration & Secondary Counseling
jsperry@characterplus.org

CharacterPlus® Director of Academies, Ed.D., National Schools of Character Award Winning Principal, Adjunct Faculty at Fontbonne, Lindenwood, & UMSL, Masters in Specialist Counseling
jsperry@characterplus.org

CharacterPlus® Senior Facilitator, Ed.S. in Educational Administration, Retired LaSalle Springs Middle School Principal, NSOC recipient, Missouri Baptist University Instructor
dbrandt@characterplus.org

CharacterPlus® Finance Manager & Friends of CharacterPlus liaison. BA in Finance, M.B.A.
cmcmillin@characterplus.org

CharacterPlus® Office Manager & Board of Directors Administrative Assistant, Entrepreneur, Community Volunteer
hnadenbush@characterplus.org

Lead Scholar Advisor, Sanford N. McDonnell Professor of Character Education, UM Thomas Jefferson Fellow, Professor UMSL, Co-Founder The Center for Character and Citizenship, Co-Editor The Journal for Character Education
info@characterplus.org

Scholar Advisor, Co-Director of the Center for Character and Citizenship, Senior Research Fellow Division of Educational Psychology, Evaluation & Research, College of Education UMSL
info@characterplus.org

Data Analyst Consultant, Research Associate at the Center for Character and Citizenship (CCC) and adjunct faculty in the Department of Education Sciences and Professional Programs (ESPP)
info@characterplus.org

CharacterPlus® CEO, LACE Academy, The U.S. Army Intelligence Center & School, Wharton School Executive Program, University of Alabama, Center for Character & Citizenship Affiliate Scholar, Business Executive & Co-Founder WeBeSchools
mike@characterplus.org



CharacterPlus®
the team



PROGRAM DETAILS

CHARACTER GOES THE DISTANCE

THE CHARACTERPLUS WAY

TEACHER ACADEMY IN CHARACTER EDUCATION (TACE)

AUTONOMY, BELONGING, & COMPETENCE

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PRIMED FRAMEWORK FOR CHARACTER EDUCATION

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CULTURE & CLIMATE CHARACTER ASSESSMENTS

CHARACTER LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT (CLEAD)

CHARACTERPLUS ONLINE WORKSHOPS & PROGRAMS

SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER APPLICATION SUPPORT (SOC)

EQUITY & JUSTICE ACADEMY IN CHARACTER ED (EJACE)

ATHLEADERSHIP ACADEMY IN CHARACTER ED (AACE)

INTENTION

To improve overall school culture and climate, as well as increase academic achievement and decrease disciplinary incidents, regardless of a school's geographic, socio-economic, or demographic profile.

OVERVIEW

This CASEL-endorsed, evidence-based process's power and sustainability rests in its framework, which emphasizes core values and implementation unique to the school community. By using data for ongoing assessment, monitoring, and refinement, a comprehensive and sustainable process is created.

OUTCOME

Schools that complete the CharacterPlus® Way process show higher test scores and academic performance while decreasing disciplinary incidents. School culture and climate improves, relationships are strengthened, and belonging takes a front seat. Additionally, many schools are ready to go through the Schools of Character recognition process after implementation.

START

Contact CharacterPlus® expert Nicole Diehl at ndiehl@characterplus.org to begin the conversation on the goals you are seeking to accomplish for your educators, students, and school culture and climate.



CharacterPlus®
programs, workshops & support

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INTENTION

To provide expert training and resources in character education to educators in years 3-5 of their career and inspire and equip them as teacher-leaders with best practices and methods for social, emotional, and character development for students.

OVERVIEW

A year-long cohort led by experts in the field of SEL & Character Development. It will include the following topics: Understanding Self & Others; The ABC's (Autonomy, Belonging Competence) of Character; History & Frameworks; Class Meetings & Structures; Self-Care & Mindfulness; Positive Relationships; Classroom Management; Trauma, Diversity, Equity & Bias Awareness; Curriculum Integration; Building Effective Communication with Parents & Coworkers; & Student Empowerment.

OUTCOME

The outcome of this academy is to equip teachers to live their noble purpose by understanding the importance of character education, while also lowering teacher turnover and increasing job satisfaction.

START

Our inaugural cohorts begin this school year. Please Contact Dr. Julie Sperry, Director of Academies at kpelster@characterplus.org or for specific information please visit CharacterPlus.org/tace .



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INTENTION

Autonomy (voice and choice), belonging (being part of a community), and competence (the ability to do something successfully) are needs all humans have. These are especially true for students, and as educators, we need to create opportunities for students to experience these three things.

OVERVIEW

Learn activities and strategies to implement immediately at your school. Explore ideas to challenge and stretch your students to grow their sense of competence. Leave with a plan to ensure you are being intentional about creating a school community in which all students have a voice, belong, and feel like they matter.

OUTCOME

When students feel empowered and that they have a voice, it provides leadership opportunities, creates a positive school community, and can ultimately transform your school environment.

START

This classroom changing workshop is offered online at [Characterplus.teachable.com](https://characterplus.teachable.com) or it can be scheduled at your school as whole-staff professional development. Please contact Nicole Diehl, CharacterPlus Director of Membership at ndiehl@characterplus.org for more information.



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INTENTION

Designed for trailblazing women educators CharacterPlus has assembled a selection of the region's most notable and successful women business and social change leaders who have lived their noble purpose with character as their foundation.

OVERVIEW

Four dinner evenings of empowering regional educational women leaders through thought provoking, inspiring, character and purpose driven lives as shared by fellow transformational women leaders in the community.

OUTCOME

Experience what positive possibilities can come when you understand and live your Noble Purpose through a commitment to character.

START

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INTENTION

This workshop will provide the instruction needed to create a solid foundation around the basic tenets of character education. If you are ready to transform your school or classroom into a true community of learners, move your school or classroom from good to great, and increase student achievement while decreasing discipline incidents, this is for you.

OVERVIEW

This online workshop is led by experts in the field of character education and includes: history and theory of character education, framework for effective character education, building a learning community based on autonomy, belonging and competence, and best practices in effective character education.

OUTCOME

Participants will receive CharacterPlus Foundational Certification upon completion of this workshop, indicating their foundational understanding of Character Education and the ability to return to the classroom ready to implement best practices.

START

This Foundations workshop is offered online at CharacterPlus.Teachable.Com. Please contact Nicole Diehl, CharacterPlus Director of Membership at ndiehl@characterplus.org for more information.



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INTENTION

This workshop will focus on classroom-level character education prioritization, relationship building among students and teachers, using intrinsic motivation to help youth internalize ethical and performance values, the impact of modeling ethical and performance behavior, empowerment opportunities for youth leadership and voice, and practicing identified skills as hallmarks of effective ongoing character development.

OVERVIEW

The U.S. Department of Education said, “When considering character education, states might use a framework researchers have summarized using the acronym PRIMED: Prioritization, Relationships, Intrinsic Motivation, Modeling, Empowerment, and Developmental Pedagogy.” PRIMED is the work of Dr. Marvin Berkowitz. Participants will get a deep dive understanding of the process, and immediate ways to begin laying this foundation in their school, classroom, and personal life.

OUTCOME

The U.S. Department of Education reports that classrooms that use this framework will often experience higher student engagement, which leads to stronger academic performance. Practiced well, this approach will see classrooms reduce disciplinary incidents. And as classroom culture and climate improves, relationships strengthen, and student belonging takes a front seat to feeling isolated or disconnected.

START

This workshop is being developed for 2020 – 2021 contact our Program Director Kristen Pelster at kpelster@characterplus.org for more information.



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INTENTION

Focusing on middle school students, WeBeSchools ignites curiosity, and a personal understanding of the positive possibilities wise choices create. It does this by leveraging timely, authentic, and age-relevant dilemmas middle school students face in everyday life. The program creatively places students at the apex of a decision, where they must grapple with their character.

OVERVIEW

WeBeSchools is the first online middle school program specifically designed to build social, emotional, and character muscle in adolescents. Animated dilemmas, created by a team of scholars, teachers, interactive designers, animators, and writers, center on how today's youth communicate and learn. Visit kindness.webeschools.com to see an example.

OUTCOME

A 2019 study conducted by Character Lab (co-founded by Angela Duckworth, author of Grit and University of Pennsylvania MacArthur genius grant recipient) reflected a 10% increase in a student's inclination to make more favorable decisions when faced with difficult dilemmas. Students using WeBe's program reported they would be more likely to self-advocate, advocate for others, and question bad choices. This program is available to member middle schools to use in their schools immediately.

START

Contact Kristen Pelster at kpelster@characterplus.org for more information.



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INTENTION

We are often asked by schools how they know if they are ready to apply for Schools of Character recognition. We created a new tool in 2019, based on our years of experience helping schools transform their culture and climate, called the School of Character Readiness Assessment.

OVERVIEW

Two consultants from our programming team will spend 2-3 hours at your school during a typical school day. They will tour the building and meet with the administration and/or culture/climate team to learn about the level of character education implementation in the school.

OUTCOME

This process will create a list of implementation possibilities aligned with the requirements of the School of Character framework, as well as a recommendation regarding the school's timing for applying to Schools of Character.

START

Contact Kristen Pelster at kpelster@characterplus.org to schedule your assessment or for more information.



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INTENTION

Effective leadership is an essential and often defining factor to ensure all team members achieve at their highest potential. Leaders, who foremost seek to understand themselves first and do so humbly, are able to intentionally create a culture where their colleagues not only achieve, but thrive.

OVERVIEW

Our process helps move your leaders further down that path or in some cases get them on it. With this in mind the program is designed to provide participants with a foundational understanding of the leadership competencies essential to developing their skills and abilities. Leader Participants will engage in a variety of CLEAD experiences that will result in relevant learning and practical application back in their respective areas of responsibility.

OUTCOME

Participants will increase leader self-awareness in order to better lead their team. Participants will identify and model the characteristics of an ideal team leader and team player by embodying the concepts of humility, social awareness, and the desire to be more and do more for the team. Participants will be equipped to lead the necessary change to ensure that a healthy and productive culture in their department exists for all.

START

Please Contact our Director of Academies Dr. Julie Sperry at jsperry@characterplus.org to schedule this workshop and or for more information.



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INTENTION

Our goal remains resolute: helping students in our member schools and districts build the character they need to flourish. In addition, we remain committed to the human interaction you've come to expect and appreciate. In line with that commitment, many of the online modules will have built-in opportunities for interaction/feedback with CharacterPlus staff.

OVERVIEW

For the first time, CharacterPlus Members have free online programming access. Content-focused on relevant topics in the area of social, emotional, and character development will be added throughout the school year, and regular updates will be provided on this site and with your District Leader. Hosted on our Teach:able platform, the training modules are self-paced and can be utilized individually, for a PLC/grade/content team, or for a faculty meeting.

OUTCOME

Every educator in your District can now achieve Foundation Certification in Character Education using our on-line workshop. In our Signature Training Modules, you'll find our most popular workshops, including Class Meetings, ABC's (Autonomy, Belonging, and Competence), Structures, Service Learning, and the State School of Character Process. These take the place of our half-day workshops. Class Meetings and SSOC are currently available, with the rest to come soon.

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INTENTION

The Schools of Character application process begins with a rigorous self-evaluation and creation of a large portfolio demonstrating a school's character education implementation. This process can seem overwhelming, and because we think it is so valuable, we want to support schools through the application process.

OVERVIEW

Two half-day workshops are offered in the fall every year to help equip schools with the knowledge they need to confidently apply for Schools of Character. The first is an overview of the application process, including best practices in creating a portfolio. The second workshop, is a mentoring opportunity for schools. Potential applicants bring their application, and experienced leaders from National Schools of Character read through their drafts and offer feedback.

OUTCOME

School teams feel empowered to confidently lead their school through the Schools of Character process.

START

Register for the workshops on our website or contact Nicole Diehl at ndiehl@characterplus.org for more information.



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INTENTION

Students of color experience culture and identity stress impacting health, socialization and emotional well-being. The Equity and Justice Academy in Character Education (EJACE) changes this sequel in St. Louis schools by bringing school staff and students together to develop a mission, vision, values, practices and narrative that fosters a positive impact breaking the chain of long held biases and systemic intolerant attitudes.

OVERVIEW

A year-long experience in leadership growth & development through the Equity and Justice Lens. Each school will bring a 4-person team of staff to include the building principal. The other three members are selected by the Principal. We will look at these elements through the characteristics of autonomy, belonging, competence and dignity - resulting in a journey to create communities where each child, family and staff member feels safe, welcomed and included and valued.

OUTCOME

Through a shared purpose and clear vision to get at the core of doing what is fundamental for the well-being and success of all members, the Academy will focus on changing the narrative through unwrapping and recreating the following elements; Telling our story (Narrative); Where are we going and how are we getting there? (Mission, Vision, and Values); Who are we? (People); Where/What are we? (Place); How do we do what we do? (Policies, practices, systems).

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ATHLEADERSHIP ACADEMY IN
CHARACTER ED (AACE)

INTENTION

CharacterPlus has adapted its' evidence-based ABC's process for creating Autonomy (voice and choice), Belonging (being part of a community), and Competence (the ability to do something successfully) for college coaches, high school coaches and their athletes. Furthermore, Character Ambassadors will become aware of and/or hone their own virtue and character strengths and leadership potential to help their team thrive and succeed.

OVERVIEW

The Athleadership Academy in Character Education (AACE) provides character education skill building for NCAA and High School athletes. Annually, each participating university, college and or high school selects two student-athletes from every collegiate sport to attend AACE training on their way to becoming NCAA Character Ambassadors.

OUTCOME

Athletes and coaches gain an honest awareness of the relationship hurdles impeding high performance team culture. Participant athletes reflect the personal commitment outcomes we love to see at CharacterPlus - athletes feeling valued (free of bias), team culture where everyone belongs (welcomed regardless), and empowering leadership (voices heard, ideas appreciated).

START

Contact Kristen Pelster at kpelster@characterplus.org for more information.



CharacterPlus[®]
programs, workshops & support



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1460 Craig Road
St. Louis, MO 63146
Office 314.692.1252
info@characterplus.org