CharacterPlus®

EJACE CharacterPlus Way dLACE TcLEAD AACE Schools of Character

social, emotional, and character strengths

2022-2023 Partnership Overview

POSITIVE CHANGE

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

5+

PERCENT OF STATE & NATIONAL SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER OUR CHARACTERPLUS REGION REPRESENTS NATIONALLY

20+

NUMBER OF CHARACTERPLUS PARTNER SCHOOL DISTRICTS, ORGANIZATIONS, & UNIVERSITIES

50+

NUMBER OF DONATING COMPANIES, INDIVIDUALS, & FOUNDATIONS TO HELP KEEP PER STUDENT PARTNERSHIP FEES LOW

150+

NUMBER OF REGIONAL EDUCATORS PARTICIPATING IN ONLINE WORKSHOP PLATFORM iCHARACTERPLUS

300+

NUMBER OF NCAA ATHLETES PARTICIPATING IN OUR AACE CHARACTER AMBASSADOR PROGRAM

400+

IMPACTED

Natasha Payne, Roosevelt High, SLPS Math Teacher of the Year TACE Graduate 2022

Lindsay Corsale, Mason Ridge Elementary, Parkway Elementary Teacher of the Year TACE Graduate 2022

Dr. Denise Funston, Principal, Windsor Elementary School

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

Dr. Karen Calcaterra, Principal, Lafayette High School

Dakota Sill, Missouri S&T, Baseball Team Captain, 2022 AACE Graduate

Dr. Lorinda Krey, Principal, Fairway Elementary School

PARTNERS

"This academy helps put character at the forefront of educating students…the professional development is highly collaborative and something I can use immediately in the classroom."

"It was incredibly energizing to be around educators who are SO invested in character education and working with children!!...thank you very much for your work and for sharing your expertise! Yesterday was the BEST professional development I've experienced in years!!!"

"…social emotional learning, restorative practices…the BEAUTIFUL THING about character education is that it incorporates all of that…"

"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 one more thing on your plate as a leader, IT IS the plate…"

"These sessions have changed the way I live my life and lead my team…at this point most of my team wants to participate, can they?"

"The c2audit 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!"

THE TEAM

Mike Park
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***CharacterPlus® Director of Programming,** Leading the nation in schools coached that have become State & National Schools of Character, Instructor, CharacterPlus Way Director, ndiehl@characterplus.org*

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***Lead Scholar Advisor**, Sanford N. McDonnell Professor of Character Education, UM Thomas Jefferson Fellow, Professor UMSL, Co-Founder The Center for Character & Citizenship*

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***Scholar Advisor**, Co-Director of the Center for Character & Citizenship, Senior Research Fellow Division of Educational Psychology, Evaluation & Research, College of Education UMSL*

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Julie Sperry, Ed.D.
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***CharacterPlus® Finance Manager** & Friends of CharacterPlus liaison, cmcmillin@characterplus.org*

Carol Burcke
***CharacterPlus® Director of Development,** Previous Chief Development responsibilities at Rx Outreach and Make-A-Wish Foundation, cburcke@characterplus.org*

Heather Nadenbush
Who holds all of this team together ☺
***CharacterPlus® Office Manager**, Entrepreneur & Community Volunteer, hnadenbush@characterplus.org*

PROGRAMS	IMPACT
CHARACTERPLUS WAY	*school climate, culture, & academic excellence*
TEACHER ACADEMY IN CHARACTER ED (TACE)	*expertly equip your future teacher leaders*
iCHARACTERPLUS	*character workshops & resources at the ready*
cSURVEY	*culture and climate measurement*
SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER (SOC) APPLICATION SUPPORT	*equip yourself to confidently lead the process*
ATHLEADERSHIP ACADEMY IN CHARACTER ED (AACE)	*character-focused athletes and coaches*
AT THE TABLE – WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP	*affirm women educators' noble purpose*
DISTRICT LEADER ACADEMY IN CHARACTER ED (dLACE)	*develop a chief character officer for your district*
EQUITY & JUSTICE ACADEMY IN CHARACTER ED (EJACE)	*just, equitable, and inclusive school culture*
SOCIO-EMOTIONAL LEADERSHIP FOUNDATIONS (SELf)	*lead with a social-emotional foundation*
CULTURE & CLIMATE ASSESSMENTS (C2AUDIT)	*an expert opinion for your building*
FOUNDATIONAL CERTIFICATION IN CHARACTER ED (FCiCE)	*create a solid character education foundation*
CHAMPIONS FOR CHARACTER	*schools dedicated to service learning*
DEVELOPMENTAL DISCIPLINE	*nurture positive long-term outcomes*
CULTURE CARRIERS	*educators beyond the classroom*

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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 Director of Programming, 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.

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INTENTION

The goal of TACE is to provide expert training and resources in character education to educators in the beginning 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

TACE is 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

Contact Dr. Julie Sperry, Director of CharacterPlus Program Expansion and Innovation, at jsperry@characterplus.org, or visit us online at CharacterPlus.org for specific information and registration.

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INTENTION

Every educator deserves access to high quality character education professional development, and for the first time in our history, CharacterPlus partners have access to free online programming. iCharacterPlus provides the opportunity for educators to grow in their knowledge of why character education is important, as well as the best practices to put in place.

OVERVIEW

Content is focused on relevant topics around social, emotional, and character development. Every educator in your district can now achieve Foundational Certification in Character Education, learn how to conduct Class Meetings, or develop a deeper understanding of the ABCs. iCharacterPlus modules are self-paced and can be utilized individually, with a PLC/grade/content team, or for a faculty meeting.

OUTCOME

Our goal is resolute: helping students and staff in our partner districts build the character they need to flourish. Access to this kind of professional development paves the way for classrooms and schools of character to be built.

START

Contact CharacterPlus Director of Programming, Nicole Diehl, at ndiehl@characterplus.org for your access code and to learn more.

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INTENTION

CharacterPlus is now offering our Qualtrics-based Culture and Climate Survey platform to administrators in their quest to better understand where excellence can be attained in their school or district.

OVERVIEW

cSURVEY questions are age/participant appropriate and thoughtfully brief. Participation rates are high on our mobile-friendly platform, and cSURVEY is customized with your school name. The CharacterPlus results report allows a school team to easily see gaps in perceptions between all stakeholder groups surveyed: students (third grade and up), staff, and parents/guardians.

OUTCOME

The cSURVEY questions will give you clear visibility to the following climate and culture categories in your school:

Feelings of Belonging; Sense of School as Community; Sense of Autonomy and Influence; Sense of Competence; Sense of School Safety; Parents' Involvement at Home; Parents' Involvement at School; Student Engagement

START

Contact CharacterPlus Director of Programming, 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.

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INTENTION

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

OVERVIEW

Workshops are offered in the fall to equip schools with the knowledge to confidently apply for Schools of Character. The first workshop is an overview of the application process, including best practices in creating a strong portfolio. This session is also available online at iCharacterPlus. The second workshop is a mentoring opportunity for applicants, who bring their draft portfolio for feedback from experienced leaders from National Schools of Character schools.

OUTCOME

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

START

Contact CharacterPlus Director of Progamming, Nicole Diehl, at ndiehl@characterplus.org to learn more.

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INTENTION

CharacterPlus has adapted its ABCs process for creating Autonomy (voice and choice), Belonging (being a valued part of a community), and Competence (knowing you can do what's expected of you) for college and high school coaches and their athletes. AthLEADers from each school will become aware of and 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, or high school selects two student-athletes from every sport to attend AACE training, allowing them to become AthLEADers.

OUTCOME

Athletes and coaches gain an 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 Dr. Nathan Hostetler, Director of HS ACCE, at nhostetler@characterplus.org or Dr. Andy Croley, Director of Collegiate AACE, at acroley@characterplus.org.

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INTENTION

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

OVERVIEW

At the Table is a series of four evenings for regional women leaders in education, who will be inspired to walk in their noble purpose and lead with character through thought-provoking conversations with women leaders in the community. Each evening will take place at a different local restaurant, and your registration fee will include dinner.

OUTCOME

Experience the positive possibilities that happen when you understand and live your noble purpose through a commitment to character.

START

Contact Kristen Pelster, Senior Director of Programming, at kpelster@characterplus.org for more information.

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INTENTION

dLACE is designed to develop highly competent district-level character education experts (we endearingly call them Chief Character Officers) who will determine best practice implementation, as well as how to advocate and lead character education best practices in a district.

OVERVIEW

Learn to use character education essentials as part of school improvement practices district-wide to ensure a comprehensive, intentional, and proactive approach to student development. dLACE scholars can positively impact academic performance, school culture, climate, referral rates, and teacher job satisfaction. The ideal dLACE scholar is someone who has the ability and is empowered to lead this work in the district.

OUTCOME

Understand character skill-building's impact on self and others, character education frameworks, character education best practice implementation, how to advocate and lead character education in a district, assess the social, emotional, and character strengths and needs of the district, lead the implementation process of the culture and climate survey and interpret the data report created, and lead their district in the implementation of best practices.

START

Contact Kristen Pelster, Senior Director of Programming, at kpelster@characterplus.org for more information.

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INTENTION

Many marginalized groups of people experience culture and identity stress, which impacts their health and emotional well-being. The Equity and Justice Academy in Character Education (EJACE) aims to change this in St. Louis schools by bringing school staff and students together to develop a mission, vision, values, practices, and narrative that foster a positive impact, thus breaking long-held biases and systemic intolerant attitudes.

OVERVIEW

EJACE is a year-long cohort experience designed to get at the core of what is fundamental for the well-being and success of all. Each school will bring a 4-person team of staff (including the principal). We will look at elements of school culture through the lens of equity and justice, resulting in a journey to create communities where each child, family, and staff member feels safe, welcomed, included, and valued.

OUTCOME

Through a shared purpose and clear vision, the Academy will focus on changing the narrative through examining the following elements: telling our story (Narrative); where are we going and how are we getting there? (Mission, Vision, Values); who are we? (People); where/what are we? (Place); how do we do what we do? (Practices).

START

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INTENTION

To help leaders understand that effective leadership is an essential factor in ensuring all members of a school community achieve at their highest potential. Leaders who humbly seek to understand themselves first are able to intentionally create a culture where their community members thrive.

OVERVIEW

Participants will engage in a variety of leadership experiences that will results in creating a new cultural foundation for their school. Participants will be ready to apply and integrate relevant SEL learning and practical applications into their schools to qualitatively make a positive impact on all stakeholders.

OUTCOME

Participants will develop their capacity to be their best self in order to create thriving school communities. They will build an awareness of the power of capacity mapping, future planning, and SEL in order to affect change. They will bridge the gap between awareness and intentionality into action by cultivating a culture of character (SEL-aligned) and connect learning to evidence-based character and SEL frameworks.

START

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INTENTION

We are often asked by school how they know if they are ready to apply for Schools of Character recognition. We create a tool called the C2Audit, which is based on our years of experience helping schools transform their culture and climate.

OVERVIEW

Two consultants from our programming team will spend two to three hours at your school during a typical day. They will tour the building and meet with the administration and/or the culture and 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 Nicole Diehl, CharacterPlus Director of Programming, at ndiehl@characterplus.org to schedule your assessment or for more information.

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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 iCharacterPlus. Please contact Nicole Diehl, CharacterPlus Director of Programming, at ndiehl@characterplus.org for more information.

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INTENTION

Champions for Character raises awareness about the value of school-wide Service Learning.

OVERVIEW

Cardinals Care has sponsored the Champions for Character Service Learning recognition program in cooperation with CharacterPlus since 2004. The program goal is to increase awareness of the benefits of service learning, and encourage schools to move from one-time service projects to more long-term, school-wide service learning. The recognition program honors three schools in the metro area that have a school-wide ethos of service learning.

OUTCOME

The three recognized schools are honored with tickets to a Cardinals game for members of their school community, a banner, and representation on the field before the game.

START

Contact CharacterPlus Director of Programming, Nicole Diehl, at ndiehl@characterplus.org to learn more.

CHARACTER GOES THE DISTANCE

CHARACTERPLUS WAY

TEACHER ACADEMY IN CHARACTER ED (TACE)

iCHARACTERPLUS

cSURVEY

SCHOOLS OF CHARACTER (SOC) APPLICATION SUPPORT

ATHLEADERSHIP ACADEMY IN CHARACTER ED (AACE)

AT THE TABLE – WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

DISTRICT LEADER ACADEMY IN CHARACTER ED (dLACE)

EQUITY & JUSTICE ACADEMY IN CHARACTER ED (EJACE)

SOCIO-EMOTIONAL LEADERSHIP FOUNDATIONS (SELf)

CULTURE & CLIMATE ASSESSMENTS (C2AUDIT)

FOUNDATIONAL CERTIFICATION IN CHARACTER ED (FCiCE)

CHAMPIONS FOR CHARACTER

DEVELOPMENTAL DISCIPLINE

CULTURE CARRIERS

INTENTION

Done well, developmental discipline empowers students to take responsibility for their actions and mend the damage they may cause. This approach strives to ensure that students understand why their behavior is inappropriate and how it has impacted others physically, emotionally, or both.

OVERVIEW

"Using induction (praising or disciplining with explanations that include a focus on the consequences of the child's behavior for other's feelings) produces children with relatively more mature empathy, conscience, altruism and self-esteem." The Science of Character Education, Marvin W. Berkowitz

OUTCOME

One of an educator's greatest challenges is student behavior. Educators want to guide students to behave in ways that are safe, pro-social, and conducive to learning, but what does that look like? Developmental discipline encourages relationships with the intent to nurture the long-term positive social and emotional development of students.

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INTENTION

Ensure your school thrives with every interaction by building positive character, social, and emotional skills with your educators beyond the classroom. Create stronger bonds and a sense of belonging for all support staff in your school by giving bus drivers and all support staff the tools to strengthen relationships on buses, in the lunchroom, and throughout the building.

OVERVIEW

For hundreds of children in your school district, their bus driver, custodial staff, lunchroom team, before-school care, nurse, para-professionals, and administrative assistants are the first educators they interact with as they begin their school day. As a result, your school's character initiative is put in motion long before students enter the classroom.

OUTCOME

An increased sense of belonging and safety in every school setting for students. An in-depth understanding of why each staff member matters in this effort, and how their actions and words strengthen school climate and culture Shared real-world examples of how students view all adults in their school community as role models. Positive relationships being forged even in the micro-moment interactions found between student and members of your support staff.

START

Contact Lynn Clapp, Director of Culture Carriers, at lclapp@characterplus.org to learn more.

CharacterPlus®

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