



“I believe character development is relational and fostered in a lifelong process of navigating and developing our inner and moral selves as we engage with others and cultivate our wisdom, courage and compassion.”

Dr. Julie Nagashima

*Visiting Assistant Professor of Ethical Leadership;
Coordinator of Character Education Certificate Program*

CHARACTER EDUCATION CERTIFICATE

**Targeted to meet the needs of
educators and administrators**

Goals of the Certificate Program:

- Foster a school culture of character that is caring, empowering and inclusive for students and staff
- Infuse social-emotional character development into the school culture
- Tackle equity through a commitment to the development of student and staff potential

Benefits of the Certificate:

- Professional development hours for license renewal
- A portfolio of resources
- A supportive network with which to connect



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Program Modules

- Earn 15 continuing education credits per module
- Five online sessions per module
- Modules are intended to be taken in sequence

"This course confirmed for me that character development is not a stand-alone curriculum, as it is often presented. It is a series of daily decisions that educators make to weave into their interactions the opportunity for students to be validated for their skills, interests, and ideas."

Angela

Classroom Science Teacher

MODULE 1

Examining your Personal Character: *Self as a Moral and Ethical Leader*

Introduction to character, starting from the self and the various ways our roles affect students' character development.

- Explore a virtue ethics approach to character development.
- Reflect on educational aims and beliefs that affect students' sense of agency, belongingness, and character development.
- Understand power dynamics and systemic challenges to students' character development.
- Recognize the practice of dialogue to cultivate character.

MODULE 2

Fostering an Environment for Character Development: *Character Education in the Classroom*

Introduction to virtue framework, virtue language and literacy: moral, civic, intellectual and performance virtues.

- Examine the role of moral exemplars and the ways morality permeates the classroom (caught).
- Identify the intentional ways to embed character and virtue language in the classroom (taught).
- Explore the College's character/virtue framework.
- Operationalize and create your personal framework to implement in the classroom.

MODULE 3

Creating School Cultures of Character: *Character Education as a School Ethos*

Introduction to effective practices for fostering a school culture of character.

- Examine character education from a whole school perspective.
- Conceptualize and develop a plan for cultivating an inclusive, caring and empowering school environment (sought).
- Develop an assessment plan to foster a culture of character in your school.

To learn more about the Character Education Certificate, contact

Marsha Webster, Character Initiatives Outreach and Recruitment Coordinator,
at mbwebster@noctrl.edu or **630-637-5842**.

