



Talking Points for Wally Zastrow Leadership Academy Prospective Participants

- ***Influencing Your District*** – As part of the Academy you will have an opportunity to weave your learning into your daily work through a concrete connection to an improvement effort you are advancing in your district. The goal of the Academy is to provide practical skills for you to positively influence outcomes and support the leadership team in your district.
- ***Share Your Learning*** – The Wally Zastrow Leadership Academy’s focus is so universal that, no matter your role in your district, what you learn will be applicable to everyone you come into contact with. To validate your district’s sponsorship for you to attend the Academy, bring back what you learn and share it with your colleagues. This will also allow them to learn more about you and how you operate as a leader.
- ***Cohort Model*** – The Wally Zastrow Leadership Academy utilizes a cohort model to provide the best learning and networking opportunity possible. The same group of students will participate in the trainings throughout the year, providing a basis for open and honest discussion, as well as enhanced learning from peers and building a solid network to stay connected with in the future.
- ***Leadership Skills Transcend Jobs*** – The skills gained through the Wally Zastrow Leadership Academy will begin to build your leadership insight for your career. Given today’s job movement as compared to days past, the Academy will provide knowledge and abilities that will help you be successful in any job you may have. As opposed to technical training for a specific job, anyone in any role can utilize leadership skills throughout their career.
- ***Most Important, Consider your Role in Your Organization, Everyone is a Leader*** – Think about how you are, or would like to become a leader in your school district. Are you a Business Manager and looking to be more supportive and help lead the Community, Leadership Team, and the Superintendent? Are you a Facility Director looking to be a leader at the education table? Are you a custodian looking to lead school district colleagues and support your supervisor? Are you a business office support professional looking to model customer service? As a member of the team, do we all do our part our part to focus on kids and stakeholders? Do we model behaviors that bring pride to our educational profession? Everyone leads in a different way based on their role and personality. But everyone can be leader. The Wally Zastrow Leadership Academy is designed to advance your leadership skills in your present roles and forthcoming roles that you may aspire.

Here is a brief synopsis of the workshops contained within the Wally Zastrow Leadership Academy:

- ***“Taking Your Leadership Pulse”*** – Assess your current leadership strengths and opportunities for growth, along with developing a leadership goal and three core values to guide your leadership practice.
- ***“Leader as Innovator”*** – Understand the leader’s role in organization innovation, practice the skills of innovative leaders, create a systemic approach to organizational innovation, and develop problem-solving skills through creativity/design thinking.
- ***“Leader as Communicator”*** – Identify your own communication styles and learn how to best communicate with others who have a different style as well as how to measure the effectiveness of communication.



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- *“Building High Performance Teams”* – Assess your “EQ” and create a “User Manual” so team members know what you expect when working with you. Identify the team behaviors that interfere with high performance and learn why an Inquiry Mindset is essential to promote high performance.
- *“Leader as Change Agent”* – Explore an effective change management model and develop strategies for leading and sustaining change. Learn new tools for implementing an effecting change and practical ways to motivate followers, as well as when a group decision is or is not needed.
- *“Focus on the Future”* Apply everything you learned to date to work on a real-world problem and engage in upstream thinking. Develop new techniques to build community and balance stakeholder expectations while you leverage the purpose of leadership to pursue your mission and future.

The Basics

- **Location** – The Wally Zastrow Leadership Academy will meet at the Holiday Inn at the American Center in Madison.
- **Cost** – The cost to participate in the Academy is \$2,106. Where can you gain leadership development for \$175.50/day?
- **Schedule** – Most sessions will be from 10am - 5pm on Day 1 & 8am - 3pm on Day 2. The dates scheduled for the 2023-24 Academy is as follows:
 - Session: 1 October 19-20, 2023
 - Session: 2 November 9-10, 2023
 - Session: 3 December 7-8, 2023
 - Session: 4 February 1-2, 2024
 - Session: 5 March 13-14, 2024
 - Session: 6 April 25-25, 2024
 - Graduation: May 16-17, 2024