

## Using Common Formative Assessment to Assure Student Learning

We know that Common Formative Assessments written, administered, and used by teams of teachers can have a significant impact on student achievement. They are often described as the “tipping point” in the work of Professional Learning Communities when collaborative teams begin to really understand how to make a difference for their students. Participants in this three-day workshop will learn key ideas about how to design and use quality assessments in ways that are both practical and effective.

Guided by Dr. Chris Jakicic, a *Solution Tree* Associate, the 2012 Leadership Academy will provide an understanding about why assessments are so important, as well as provide specific tools and protocols teams can use when writing and using assessments. Participants are encouraged to attend as teams. Bring a copy of your standards, and any other resources that will help you in the design process. A team laptop will be helpful for downloading the tools and templates as well as saving your work.

During the first two days, you’ll learn how to identify which standards are essential for your course or grade level, so that your formative assessments become more focused and provide specific ideas for team response. We’ll explore how to plan each assessment so that you’ll be confident the

information you get back is both valid and reliable. As part of assessment design, we’ll also look at how to write questions that provide good information so you know what to do next for students. The third day, led by Billie Finco, PLC Facilitator at CESA #4, will provide time for participants to develop district, school, or team plans.

This workshop will also focus on building an assessment culture that includes student participation and addresses grading practices that make sense. We’ll explore how to link the data from formative assessments to the PRTI framework ensuring that students are getting the time and support they need to be successful.

Chris Jakicic, Ed.D., served as principal of Woodlawn Middle School in Long Grove, Illinois, from its opening day in 1999 through the spring of 2007. Under her leadership, the staff shifted toward a collaborative culture implementing PLC practices. During that time student achievement increased each year and Woodlawn Middle School was one of the first schools to be included in the “Evidence of Effectiveness” list on the allthingsplc.info/ website. Dr. Jakicic began her career teaching middle school science before serving as principal of Willow Grove Elementary School in Buffalo Grove, Illinois, for nine years.

Through her work with teachers and administrators across the country, Dr. Jakicic emphasizes that effective teaming is the heart of PLCs. She also shares practical knowledge about how to use common formative assessments to improve student achievement. She is the co-author of *Common Formative Assessment: A Toolkit for Professional Learning Communities at Work™*. She is the author of book chapters in the *PLC Anthologies: The Collaborative Teacher, Teacher as Assessment Leader, and Principal as Assessment Leader*, as well as articles for a variety of professional journals.



### Important Note:

Districts that wish to participate, but have not attended a previous Leadership Academy or other PLC training, need to attend a one-day “Foundations of PLCs” training, to be held June 12, 2012 at CESA #4, facilitated by Billie Finco and Julie Jensen.

## Leadership Academy

July 16-18, 2012

8:30 am – 3:00 pm

Lunda Center

Western Technical College

319 7th Street North

La Crosse, WI



Dr. Chris Jakicic  
*Solution Tree*

### Fees and Credit:

\$410 per person plus non-refundable \$50 registration fee (\$370 plus \$50 registration fee per person for teams of 4 or more). Includes meals/handouts.

1st Graduate Credit: \$125

2nd Graduate Credit:

\$430.56 for Independent

Study option through

UW-La Crosse