COMMUNITY BUILDING:
CIRCLES TRAINING, SUPPORT & COACHING

What is a Community Building Circle?
A Community Building Circle is a classroom ritual and practice you can use with your students to play games, build connectedness, foster relationships, make collaborative plans, discuss difficult topics, and teach social emotional skills.

Circles conversations are regulated by the use of a “talking piece.” In a Circle, the Keeper presents a prompt, question, or topic to the group, and a talking piece is passed sequentially around the Circle. Each person is invited to speak when the talking piece reaches them. Circles ensure that all voices are heard, and that each member of a class feels like a valuable part of the community. A Circle takes about fifteen minutes from start to finish.

In PLC’s Community Circle Training, you will get:

- On-site professional development consisting of four 1-hour sessions on Circle practices.
- Classroom support and coaching around implementation of Circles.
- An opportunity to build community with 10-15 of your colleagues, while learning how to implement Circles in your classroom.
- Ongoing support as needed.
Circles Training

Conducted over four 1-hour sessions, PLC’s Community Building Circles training is scaffolded so that new skills are learned slowly and deliberately. We conduct the training in a Circle so that it feels experiential and engaging. You will be telling your story, finding out more about your colleagues, and reflecting on your practice as you learn to Circle Keep in your own classroom.

Circles Coaching

Along with training, PLC provides timely classroom support around implementation of Circles. Your Circles trainer or trainers will schedule a time that is convenient for you and your students to hold a Circle. We will help you trouble shoot space issues, transition your students in and out of Circle, and introduce the concept of Circles. We will participate in your Circles and look for strengths and ideas to grow your practice.

We are thought partners to analyze dynamics within the Circle and can help you come up with prompts related to academics, social emotional skills, or issues you might be having in the classroom. These coaching sessions are not evaluative and the feedback you receive from a coaching session stays between you and the trainer. This is not AN OBSERVATION. Think of it as a hang out.

Ongoing Support

A Circle takes about fifteen minutes from start to finish. We will work with you and your administrators to figure out a way of rolling out Circles in a thoughtful and intentional way in your school so that everyone feels supported. Because of the PLC’s unique partnership with your school, we can offer ongoing support for Circles as needed—whether whole group or with individual teachers. We are only an email away!

If you have questions about Community Building Circles training or want to know more, contact Miranda, PLC’s Restorative Practices Coordinator, at mselbst@uft.org