



Training to Make a Difference

By Nicole Adrian

It's hard to believe I first wrote about ImpaQT Training in the December 2007 issue of *Education Brief*. At that time, the classroom course had just been piloted in Wisconsin's Holmen School District, and developers and trainers were working on the other two courses for schools and districts.

Today, there are a total of four courses—the set now includes a course on leadership training for organizational excellence. Each has been piloted, and school districts throughout the country are realizing what an asset the training is for their schools, teachers, staff and students.

This training provides a fully integrated and aligned systems-based approach to continuous improvement through these four courses. Each course can be used to create districtwide professional learning communities (PLCs). ImpaQT strives to:

- Create sustainable PLCs to champion school improvement.
- Build capacity and shared leadership in school.
- Align professional development practices to district, school and classroom improvement plans.
- Integrate quality tools into the continuous improvement cycle.

With the direction of education in the United States today, ImpaQT training is a valuable resource to use in developing systems of continuous improvement by using data to inform, knowing how to do formative assessments and putting tools into the hands of the students so they become self-directed learners.

In this issue, each of the course developers writes about the course he or she helped create and implement. The authors provide insight into how and why they developed the course the way they did and describe in detail what the training entails and what will come if it.

A few months ago, I was fortunate enough to see ImpaQT training with my own eyes. I spent a morning watching Ann Haggerty-Raines, ImpaQT trainer and author in this issue, present the district course to administrators and teachers from the Mequon-Thiensville School District, just a few miles from ASQ's headquarters in downtown Milwaukee.



While I saw only a sliver of the training, even in just a few hours, I got a sense of the value the administrators and instructors could get from the training. They engaged in small-group discussion that incorporated real-world examples from their district, developed a to-do list and discussed their visions of what an ideal district would look like. What a great first step in making a district the best it can be.

For more information on ASQ's ImpaQT Training, visit www.asq.org/impagt.