

LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Volume 15

A publication for Alberta's school administrators

Number 2



Autumn greetings everyone!

This edition of the Leadership Update contains valuable information to support you in the work that you do and to inform you of some ways you can access high-quality professional learning activities for school leaders in Alberta throughout the year. This update contains time-sensitive professional learning opportunities for November and international exchange and research project opportunities in Finland and Iceland.

Professional Learning Opportunities and News

For information about upcoming professional learning events and programs for school leaders and central office teachers and leaders, go to www.uLead.ca to access up-to-date news about school leadership in Alberta, provincial and regional professional learning events, and the uLead conference that takes place every year. The next uLead conference will take place May 12–14 in Banff. The call for proposals for uLead 2019 has already opened, and registrations will open shortly. Please visit uLead.ca on a regular basis as the events and news will be updated frequently.

The biggest pitfall I see is systems which don't think of leadership as a continuum... principals are expected to do everything!

**Louise Stall,
UCL Institute of
Education**

To find archived issues of *Leadership Update*, go to www.teachers.ab.ca and click on Publications > Other Publications > School Administrators.

Feedback is welcome. Please contact Jeff Johnson, executive staff officer, Professional Development, at jeff.johnson@ata.ab.ca.



Council for
School Leadership

Leadership Essentials for Administrators, November 19–20

The annual Leadership Essentials for School Leaders Conference will take place in Edmonton at the Fantasyland Hotel November 19–20. This is an annual event for school leaders (principals, assistant principals or central office teachers) serving in their first five years in the role or those who have recently moved to Alberta.

Whether you work at central office as a consultant or in a leadership role, or in a school as a vice-principal or principal, there will be content of interest to you. The Leadership Essentials for School Leaders Conference is a strong support to new school leaders in Alberta.

This year, the event will host two internationally known keynote speakers:

Rebecca Hare, who will speak about learning space design for school leaders, and Anne Davies, who will present on the role of assessment in the service of learning. There is no registration fee and space is limited, so apply early. Online registration is available at <https://atapd.ca/initiative/leadership>.

International Education Exchange Program: Take your vocation to another location!

Short-term administrator exchanges are available as two-week job shadow experiences for Alberta school leaders. Participants are billeted by their exchange counterpart and work shadow in their exchange partner's school for one to two weeks. They then host their counterpart for one to two weeks in the Alberta education system. Administrators arrange cultural visits to correspond with the interests of both parties. Opportunities exist in Australia, Germany, Spain and Iceland. Exchanges overseas occur during the summer months and counterparts are hosted in Alberta in September or October. Participants require an Alberta Permanent Professional Teaching Certificate and the approval

of their superintendent. For a successful, engaging experience, participants should be flexible, adaptable, positive, open to other cultures and comfortable with ambiguity. They should also have demonstrated leadership qualities. Interested? Find out more at www.ieep.ca.

Teachers in the network do not just scale up their solutions within their school with their peers. Innovative solutions to the learning challenges that teachers have been identifying are being shared with colleagues from other schools in the cohort and will be shared provincewide as well.

Recently, Alberta assistant principal Corey Haley shared that the learning sprints that are at the heart of the ATA Agile Schools initiative “give teachers the

structure for effective collaboration.” He added, “I have seen too many collaboration sessions where teaching professionals waste their most important resource, time, with conversations that do not ultimately lead to impacts on learning. Learning sprints give a structure and keep the conversation oriented to the intervention and the result.”

Regarding her school's participation in the ATA Agile Schools Network school principal Terri Lynn Guimond said, “How do I know learning sprints are having an impact? Because teachers and students are showing me ... sharing their stories of success and failure. Learning sprints have drastically changed the conversations teachers are having with one another, improving professional practice and student learning one sprint at a time.”

There is a great deal of interest throughout the province in the ATA Agile Schools initiative. One of the most positive elements of the program is that it represents teacher-driven change from the classroom level and incorporates

classroom teachers, school leaders and district-level leaders working together collaboratively, by design.

Inquiries can be directly made to exchanges@ata.ab.ca for applications and detailed information.

More information about the ATA Agile Schools Network is available at: <https://vimeo.com/ideafactory/review/186492968/3cab8d8eaa> or by contacting Jeff Johnson at jeff.johnson@ata.ab.ca.

Destination	Time frame for Alberta school administrator/teacher to job shadow overseas	Time frame for Alberta school administrator/teacher to host counterpart
Australia	Two-week period in July or August	Two-week period in May, September or October
Hessen, Germany	Two-week period in July or August	Two weeks in October
Asturias, Catalonia or Castilla y Leon, Spain	Two-week period to be determined based on holiday schedules	Two weeks in March, April or May
Other Canadian provinces	Two-week period to be determined based on holiday schedules	Two-week period to be determined based on holiday schedules
Iceland *Pilot for school leaders; five placements during pilot phase	Two-week period during spring break	Two-week period in September or October

Please note that exact dates are to be determined with the exchange liaison. Some dates may be flexible. Exchanges typically occur over breaks and holidays that stagger with the host country's school schedule.

Inquiries can be directly made to exchanges@ata.ab.ca for applications and detailed information.

uLead 2019 Call for Proposals

Do you have a school leadership story to share with colleagues from around the world? The uLead 2019 Conference offers a unique opportunity for an exchange of ideas with the world's leaders in education. The theme for uLead 2019 is **Reimagining School Leadership**, and it will prompt attending delegates to think about the role of the school leader in leading teacher learning.

Particular emphasis will be on examining the role of the school leader in helping improve teacher capacity, both individually and collectively, as the core capability of a leader of learning, whether as a school principal, a teacher leader or a central office leader. The resulting conversation will range from how leaders support teachers in continually enhancing their teaching practices to how those leaders

develop an understanding of how to design and lead professional learning approaches to have a positive effect on student outcomes and ensure a vibrant public education system for the future.

We would love to have you share your Alberta leadership story with the world. To submit a proposal for a presentation at uLead 2019, please visit tinyurl.com/PRESENT-AT-ULEAD19 by the end of October.



Join us at uLead this year
www.uLead.ca



U LEAD 2019

May 12-14, 2019

Register at: www.uLead.ca

uLead Conference
Banff Springs Hotel

Each year, the Council for School Leadership of the Alberta Teachers' Association hosts one of the most respected conferences worldwide for school leaders, aspiring school leaders and central office teachers in Banff.

We invite you to join us in May for uLead 2019, Reimagining School Leadership.



The Alberta Teachers' Association

uLead Conference—May 12–14, 2019

A unique opportunity awaits. Join educational leaders from around the world in the beautiful world heritage location of Banff, Alberta, at Canada's premier conference for school-based leaders, district-level leaders and provincial and state education leaders.

Please join us in May 2019, for a rare and historic dialogue with the world's leaders in education, in a setting that has been called the jewel of the Rockies. As always, the conference will feature a wide array of engaging, world-class keynote

speakers. We expect over 1000 principals, assistant principals, district leaders, national ministers of education, and education ministry representatives from around the world to attend. Spouses and family members are also welcome and will have myriad opportunities to explore Banff, one of the most pristine wilderness areas in the world.

Preconference full-day workshops will take place on May 12 and postconference full-day workshops on May 15. uLead 2019 is sponsored by

the Council for School Leadership, a specialist council of the Alberta Teachers' Association. Find out more at www.ulead.ca.

Registration for uLead 2019 is now open. The call for proposals for the conference will continue until the end of October. Super-early-bird discounts are available for those registering prior to October 15, 2018 with continued early-bird discounts offered for those registering prior to the end of December 2018

Great Sources of News for School Leaders

Are you searching for interesting articles and ideas about school leadership? You will find some very timely articles in a range of school leadership documents that are available online.

European School Heads Association (ESHA) Magazine is published regularly throughout the year and contains articles that highlight issues Alberta school leaders share with their European colleagues. The most recent issue contains an interesting discussion about ideas for ensuring high school completion. Subscribe to it for free at <http://www.eshha.org/eshamagazine/>.

Principal is an award-winning magazine written specifically for K–8 principals and published by the National

Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP). This month's issue features great articles about the role of the school leader in fostering engagement within the school community. Find it at http://www.nxtbook.com/ygsreprints/NAESP/principal_20180910/.

You may also wish to check out their blog, **The Principal's Office**, which is full of great tips for school leaders, at <https://www.naesp.org/front-page-blog-archive>.

Principal Leadership is a publication of the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) that focuses on school leaders' real needs, offering them practical, hands-on strategies for improving their schools in a constantly evolving educational environment. The

September 2019 edition features articles about school safety and can be accessed at www.nassp.org/login/?from=/2018/09/01/principal-leadership-september-2018/.

The **Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership** (AITSL) has a massive, searchable and free collection of scholarly research materials on school leadership. Access AITSL's comprehensive archive at www.aitsl.edu.au/school-leadership-ecollection.

iTunes U—Each month new courses and materials are added to the Alberta Teachers on iTunes U site at tinyurl.com/ATAiTunes. Currently, new courses on Alberta's School Leader Standards are being added to the site.

To find archived issues of *Leadership Update*, go to www.teachers.ab.ca and click on Other Publications (under Publications), then go to School Administrators.

Feedback is welcome. Please contact Jeff Johnson, executive staff officer, Professional Development, at jeff.johnson@ata.ab.ca.

Distinguished Leadership Awards, May 2019

The Council for School Leadership is pleased to invite nominations from throughout Alberta for the CSL Alberta Distinguished Leadership Awards, with recipients being honoured in May 2019. Please consider nominating a deserving school leader for this honour.

The CSL Distinguished Leadership Awards create a learning community of outstanding principals throughout Alberta who can share professionally, interact collegially and act as mentors to new colleagues to provide avenues for research and the sharing of best practices. The corps of distinguished Alberta school leaders are people who are looking to challenge the status quo, improve learning in their contexts and be equipped for higher levels of leadership. These individuals will become role models in the Council for School Leadership, a vibrant network of educational leaders with the confidence and capabilities to lead innovative change for 21st-century learning.

The deadline for nominations is midnight, March 31, 2019. All nominees must be active members of the Council for School Leadership to be eligible to receive the award. Nominees can join the CSL at any time by going to bit.ly/joincsl. Complete your nomination online at tinyurl.com/CSL-Leadership following the guidelines below:

Compose a short description of your nominee's leadership in each of Alberta's Principal Quality Practice Competencies.

Provide proof that your nominee has consented to being nominated (required), and his or her school name, school telephone number and email address.

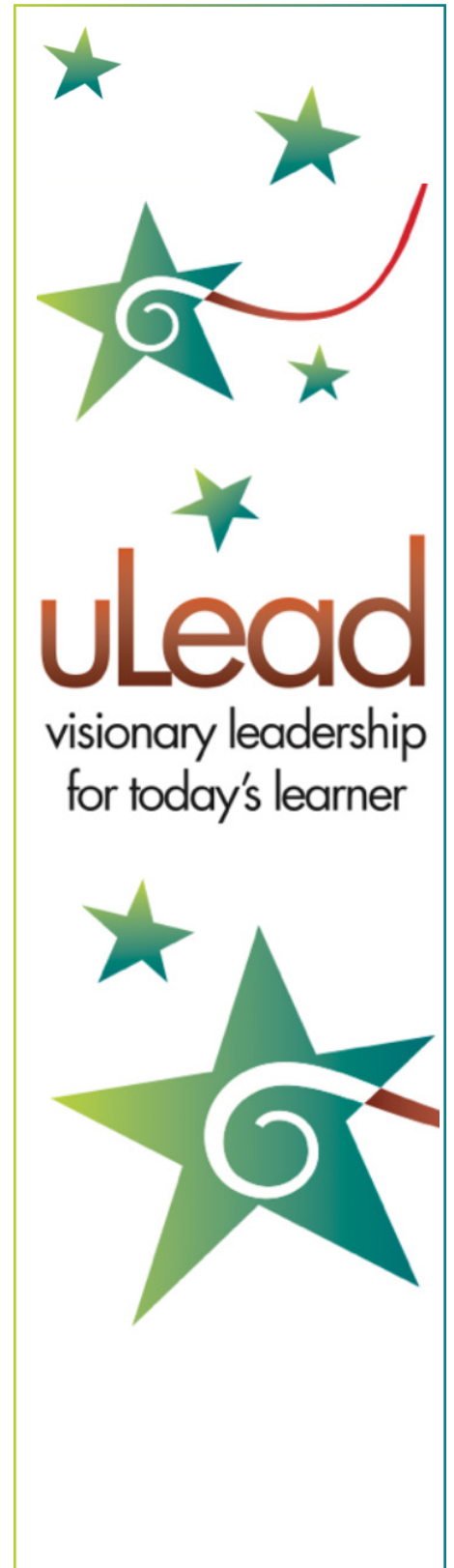
Provide supporting evidence of your nominee's leadership in each of Alberta's Principal Quality Practice Competencies:

- Fostering effective leadership
- Embodying visionary leadership
- Leading a learning community
- Providing instructional leadership
- Developing and facilitating leadership
- Managing school operations and resources
- Understanding and responding to the larger societal context

Detailed information about the Principal Quality Practice Competencies can be found at tinyurl.com/PQPCOMPENCY. Prior to submitting the survey you will also have an opportunity to enter additional comments regarding the nominee, should you wish to do so.

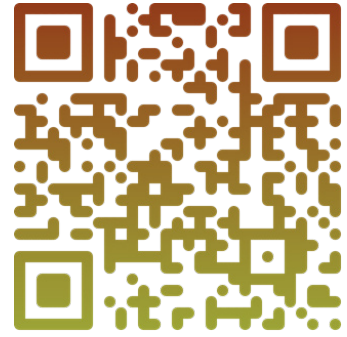
Registration for uLead 2018 is already open, and hundreds of delegates have already taken advantage of super-early-bird registration rates. The call for proposals for the conference has already begun, but there is still time for you to make a proposal to present if you would like to do so.

Registration is now open at tinyurl.com/ulead18 with super-early-bird discounts for those registering prior to midnight on October 31, 2017 and continued early-bird discounts for those registering prior to the end of December 2017.



Alberta Teachers on iTunes U

In October, you will see a variety of new videos featuring Alberta school leaders sharing their thoughts about the new professional practice standards for the teaching profession, including the Leadership Quality Standard that will become active in September 2019. These are well worth subscribing to and are full of good ideas that principals and assistant principals should consider regarding their leadership work in this area, and they are also valuable to all Alberta classroom teachers. The courses provide an opportunity to look in depth at best practices for inclusive education within the Alberta context. Watch for a variety of new courses, added over the summer, to support you in your leadership role. To access the site, please visit tinyurl.com/ATAiTunes or scan the QR code on this page.



Council for School Leadership

As an Alberta school principal, assistant principal or central office teacher, you are encouraged to select the Council for School Leadership as your automatically renewing specialist council. If you are not already a member of the Council for School Leadership, please take a moment today to go to bit.ly/joincsl and follow the steps to join this school leadership specialist council. It is custom-made for school leaders, aspiring school leaders and all those to whom the new Leadership Quality Standard will apply (principals; assistant, associate and vice principals; school jurisdiction leaders, including central office teachers, assistant superintendents, consultants and other certificated teachers).

