

LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Volume 16

A publication for Alberta's school administrators

Number 2



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 the fall, and international exchange and research project opportunities in Spain, Germany 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. There you can 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 on April 4–7, 2020, in Banff. The call for proposals for uLead 2020 has opened and registrations will open shortly. Please visit uLead.ca on a regular basis for news and events as they unfold.

Fostering Effective Relationships with Parents

Every school leader (and teacher for that matter) knows the importance of having a broad palette of tools to use to build effective relationships with the school's parent community that will enhance the work of each teacher and have a positive impact on student learning. To that end, two podcasts recently published on Apple Podcasts may provide some ideas or offer food for thought.

Intersection Education—Toward Better Teaching and Learning

Creating School Communities

The first is Intersection Education, hosted by Alberta principal Corey Haley. It is a great podcast full of inspiring ideas for school leaders. The most recent episode features Bonnie Stelmach, from the University of Alberta, sharing her thoughts on creating school communities. Stelmach will be a featured presenter at uLead 2020 in Banff. You can listen to this podcast on Apple Podcasts at <https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/intersection-education-toward-better-teaching-learning/id1380397181?i=1000453586922>, or wherever you find podcasts.

The core capacity of leaders is to increase teacher capacity.
—Janice Mench



Council for
School Leadership

Bastow Educational Leadership Podcast

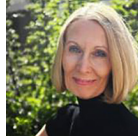
Debbie Pushor Champions Family Stories in Schools

The second is the Bastow Educational Leadership podcast out of Melbourne. The July 8 episode features Debbie Pushor from the University of Saskatchewan speaking on parent engagement as one of the strongest predictors of a child's success in school. Like Stelmach, Pushor will also be a featured presenter at uLead 2020. She shares a wealth of ideas about how school leaders might engage their parent community in the high-impact teaching strategies of family-centric schools. Listen to Pushor on Apple Podcasts at <https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/bastow-educational-leadership-odcast/id1451212671?i=1000443991865>, or wherever you find your podcasts.



Episode 1

Tony Mackay knows the power of networks and partnerships
February 12, 2019



Episode 2

Valerie Hannon says we need to question what learning is for
February 12, 2019



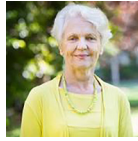
Episode 3

Kathryn Parker Boudett sees beauty in using data wisely
March 12, 2019



Episode 4

Steve Munby celebrates imperfect leadership
April 9, 2019



Episode 5

Viviane Robinson calls for quality conversations
May 14, 2019



Episode 6

Simon Breakspear says agile schools are self-improving schools
June 11, 2019



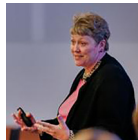
Episode 7

Debbie Pushor champions family stories in schools
July 9, 2019



Episode 8

Richard Gerver links leadership, passion and purpose in education
August 13, 2019



Episode 9

Dr Barbara Blackburn uses rigour to motivate and engage
September 10, 2019



Episode 10

Baroness Susan Greenfield explores the neuroscience of teaching, learning and digital technology
October 8, 2019

Foundations of Teaching Sprints Workshops

You may wish to start the year with a Foundations of Teaching Sprints workshop, which will be offered in Calgary and Edmonton as part of the ATA Agile Leadership Network professional learning series. This collaborative professional learning approach offers an opportunity to build teacher and team efficacy for teacher learning and continuous practice improvement.

Teaching sprints provides a simple, effective and field-tested approach to support your teachers in continually enhancing their practice. Teaching sprints is a flexible organizational routine that supports robust teacher professional learning. It consists of three phases: prepare, sprint and review. During the prepare phase, teams discuss student learning and consider relevant research to identify precise areas for improvement. Moving into the sprint phase, teams test out their new learning through short, manageable cycles of teaching in the classroom. A teaching sprint ends with a review phase, in which teams analyze the evidence of student learning and consider how to transfer new pedagogical knowledge and skills into future practice. Engagement in teaching sprints supports the adoption of evidence-informed practices and enables educators to collectively plan, act and evaluate their impact. The approach is aligned with the existing research evidence into the features of effective teacher professional learning and the science of behaviour change.

The mantra of teaching sprints is, “If it doesn’t work for teachers, it doesn’t

work.” The process has been designed to be simple, relevant and manageable for already overloaded teachers and their leaders. Most of all, it is designed to be adaptable to your school context and focused on the challenges specific to your classrooms and learners.

School leadership teams, working together, can take small steps that add up to enormous gains in teacher efficacy and expertise. This dynamic one-day workshop will provide school and teacher leaders with a thorough understanding of the teaching sprints approach that will allow you to get started in your school community.

Through teaching sprints, educators can

- make more effective use of available team collaboration time, supported by clear tools and protocols;
- benefit from more relevant, job-embedded professional learning focused on practical teaching and learning challenges in their classrooms;
- deepen their pedagogical content knowledge and be inspired to continually improve;
- better adopt and embed the use of research-informed practice and evaluate their impact through formative assessment;
- build trust within and across teacher teams and take collective action to help each other to improve; and
- more effectively share and spread best practices.

This dynamic one-day workshop provides school and teacher leaders with a thorough review of the teaching sprints approach to collaborative

teacher professional learning. Numerous research studies confirm that teaching quality has the largest in-school influence on student learning, and that high-quality professional learning can lead to improvements in student achievement. In this practical workshop, participants will be introduced to the teaching sprints process and leave equipped with the knowledge of what makes for successful team and school implementation. It is recommended that school leaders bring a team of teacher leaders to this event.

This program is designed to

- examine the importance of enhancing adaptive teaching expertise and the need for schools to support teachers to engage in deliberate practice;
- provide a systematic overview of the teaching sprints approach to collaborative teacher learning and practice improvement;
- upskill leaders to understand each phase of the teaching sprints process;
- show how robust and relevant research evidence can be used to inform practice improvement efforts;
- give practical guidance on how to successfully implement teaching sprints within their unique educational context; and
- demonstrate how to connect the teaching sprints process with teacher, team and school-level plans for improvement.

(continued next page)

Workshop Locations and Dates

Calgary, November 19
Facilitated by Ryan Dunne,
University of Melbourne
To register, go to
[https://event-wizard.com/
GOSPRINTCALGARY/0/
welcome/](https://event-wizard.com/GOSPRINTCALGARY/0/welcome/).

Edmonton, November 22
Facilitated by Ryan Dunne,
University of Melbourne
To register, go to [https://event-
wizard.com/GOSPRINT-
EDMONTON/0/welcome/](https://event-wizard.com/GOSPRINT-EDMONTON/0/welcome/).

Note: If you are unable to attend this workshop and would like to see one in your school district or area, please contact Jeff Johnson at jeff.johnson@ata.ab.ca.

Dialogue Dinners

An Evening with the Honourable Adriana LaGrange

Edmonton, November 27

The Council for School Leadership is proud to provide an opportunity for you to share dinner with your colleagues and hear insights from Minister of Education Adriana LaGrange. LaGrange will discuss topics and issues in education she feels are important to school and district leaders. If time permits, she may field questions from the audience following her presentation.

Registration is limited to 50 delegates, so participants are encouraged to register as soon as possible for the evening. To register go to [https://event-
wizard.com/CSL-Dinner-2019/0/welcome/](https://event-wizard.com/CSL-Dinner-2019/0/welcome/).

Teacher Growth, Supervision, Evaluation and Practice Review Workshop

for Administrators

January 30–31, 2020
Best Western Premier Calgary Plaza
Hotel and Conference Centre

To register and for more information go to
<https://event-wizard.com/events/TGSE0120>.
Register online by **January 24**.

MS-85-6 2019 09

International Education Exchange Program

Take your vocation to another location!

The Alberta Teachers' Association and Alberta Education are pleased to offer short-term exchanges for school administrators under the Educator Exchange Program (EEP). This program provides a suite of international professional development opportunities for school leaders and teachers. Visiting another education system is an effective and enjoyable way to promote cultural understanding and to reflect upon and enhance practice. The exchange offers a unique opportunity for teachers to learn, compare and contrast various aspects of education between systems.

How does it work?

The ten-day job shadow is a reciprocal arrangement. School administrators are matched with a partner administrator. The exchange administrators will shadow each other at their respective schools for approximately ten days.

When does the exchange happen?

Alberta school leaders will host their overseas counterpart typically in the fall. Alberta principals will typically travel during spring break when the other school is in session.

How much does it cost?

Alberta principals are responsible for airfare and travel costs, and they are billeted by their exchange counterpart. EEP will provide program support throughout the exchange process.

Who is eligible?

Principals (K–12) must be Canadian citizens, have a permanent teaching certificate and have district approval. Applicants should demonstrate flexibility, adaptability, intercultural skills, and a strong capacity to act as an ambassador for their school authority and the exchange program.

Proven communication skills, resourcefulness, initiative and community involvement are all desirable attributes. Fluency in languages other than English is not required, as the overseas teacher is fluent in English.

Where can I go?

Opportunities exist to exchange to Spain (20/21), Germany (20/21) and Iceland (20/21), but please consult the ATA website regularly to stay up to date, or call us directly with your query.

For more information and exchange locations, please contact Carolyn Freed, Exchange Liaison, EEP at Carolyn.Freed@ata.ab.ca or call 780-447-9404.

uLead 2020 Call for Proposals

Do you have an Alberta school leadership story to share with colleagues from around the world? You are invited to submit a proposal to offer a presentation at uLead 2020. Visit tinyurl.com/PRESENT-AT-ULEAD20 to submit your proposal.

uLead Conference April 4–7, 2020

A unique opportunity awaits. Join educational leaders from around the world in April 2020, at the Banff Springs Hotel, for a rare and historic dialogue with the world's leaders in education at Canada's premier conference for school-based leaders, district-level leaders and provincial and state education leaders.

What does it mean to be a school leader within the teaching profession? The theme for uLead 2020 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 given to 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.

As always, the conference will feature a wide array of engaging, world-class keynote speakers. We expect over

1,000 principals, assistant principals, district leaders, national ministers of education and education ministry representatives from around the world to attend. Planning for uLead 2020 is underway and the call for proposals is resulting in a breadth and diversity of school leaders from around the world planning to share their stories. This conference will be memorable and groundbreaking. Spouses and family members are also welcome and will have myriad opportunities to explore the beautiful world heritage location of Banff, one of the most pristine wilderness areas in the world. Find out more at www.ulead.ca.

Registration for uLead 2020 is now open at www.ulead.ca, with early-bird discounts available. A host of keynote speakers will be announced within the coming weeks. Already confirmed as keynote speakers are Beatriz Pont, senior education policy analyst with the OECD; Barbara Watterston, author of *Step In, Step Up—Empowering Women for the School Leadership Journey*; and Steve Munby, the driving force behind the UK's national organization for school leadership. There will also be preconference full-day workshops on April 4.



Distinguished Leadership Awards

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 2020. 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 February 28, 2020. 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 e-mail 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 here:

https://education.alberta.ca/media/3739621/standardsdoc-lqs-_fa-web-2018-01-17.pdf.

You will also be asked to describe a promising practice in leadership that your nominee, if selected to receive the award, would be prepared to share at a Council for School Leadership professional learning event in the following year.

Prior to submitting the survey you will also have an opportunity to enter additional comments regarding the nominee, should you wish to do so. Please consider nominating a worthy candidate today.

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 tinyurl.com/JOIN-CSL and follow the steps to join this school leadership specialist council. It is custom made for school leaders and aspiring school leaders and for all those to whom the new Leadership Quality Standard will apply (principals, assistant, associate and vice principals; school jurisdiction leaders, including central office teachers such as assistant superintendents, consultants and other certificated teachers).



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 publications 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 September issue contains an interesting article about inclusive education: www.esha.org/eshamagazine/.

Principal is an award-winning magazine written specifically for K–8 principals published by the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP). The September/October issue features great articles on using personalized learning to transform schools. Find it at www.nxtbook.com/ygsreprints/NAESP/principal_20190910/.

Check out their blog, **The Principal's Office**, which is full of great tips for school leaders, at 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 issue features articles on leading learning and building culture and supportive school environments: www.nassp.org/2019/09/01/principal-leadership-september-2019/.

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/.

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.

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An ATA/CSL publication for school administrators



The Alberta Teachers' Association