

LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Volume 16

A publication for Alberta's school administrators

Number 3



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 and new Alberta-based exchange opportunities for principals as well as international exchanges to 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. From this website, 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 April 5–7, 2020, in Banff, with a full-day preconference workshop happening on Saturday, April 4. The call for proposals for uLead 2020 has opened, and a second round of presenters will be selected in February. Hundreds of delegates from around the world have already registered for this made-in-Alberta event. Please visit uLead.ca on a regular basis for news and events as they unfold.

Catholic School Leadership Action Research Exchange Project

This fall, the Council for School Leadership (CSL) launched a timely initiative that seeks to broaden our knowledge about impactful school leadership practices that can be shared with system and school leaders across the province. Known as the Star Crossed Alliance, the initiative is an action research exchange partnership with the teachers' organizations of New South Wales and Queensland that is engaging Alberta school principals and district leaders with opportunities to expand their knowledge and leadership skills and share exemplary practices in areas of common interest with one another and with other stakeholders both inside and outside of their schools, jurisdictions, provinces and countries.

The launch of the program has been so successful that the CSL will add three additional principals or district-level leaders to the Star Crossed Alliance, with these participants specifically focused on school or district leadership in the Catholic school environment and partnered specifically with school or district leaders from Australian Catholic schools.

The CSL is now accepting expressions of interest from Alberta K–12 principals or school district leaders who want to participate in this initiative, which is open to CSL members only. It will require a three-year commitment on the part of both the school or

Everyone
has the
potential and
right to work
as a leader.
Leading is
skilled and
complicated
work that
every
member of
the school
community
can learn.

—Linda Lambert



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district leader and his or her school division. Of those who express interest, only three will be selected. The likely partner organization for this initiative is Melbourne Catholic Schools, but individuals may be paired with colleagues from a Catholic school or district elsewhere in Australia.

Expressions of interest must be submitted before midnight on Monday, February 3, 2020 at www.surveymonkey.com/r/2WN39SH. Please direct questions or comments to Jeff Johnson at jeff.johnson@ata.ab.ca or call 780-934-7460.

Educator Exchange Program

New! One-week exchange for principals within Alberta! Apply now!

The Alberta Teachers' Association and Alberta Education are pleased to offer a short-term exchange for school administrators under the Educator Exchange Programs (EEP).

EEP is offering a week-long job shadow with another school leader in the province. Matches are made based on the topic you wish to explore, and program support is provided by our

program throughout the exchange process. Here are some examples of what past exchanges focused on:

- How do other school communities lead a learning community?
 - Rural and remote schools
 - Inclusion
 - Indigenous education
 - Instructional leadership
 - Leadership development
 - ELL, immigration and newcomers
 - School culture
 - Wellness
 - FSL, second language learning, minority languages
 - STEM/STEAM
 - Technology and innovation in the classroom
- ... and the list goes on!

How does it work?

- The one-week 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 one week.

When does the exchange happen?

- Alberta principals will typically host each other during a break when the other school is in session, usually arranged when spring breaks are offset.

How much does it cost?

- Alberta principals are responsible for travel costs, and you are billeted by your exchange counterpart.
- EEP will provide program support throughout the exchange process.

Who is eligible?

- Fluency in languages other than English is not required.
- 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.

Where can I go?

- Opportunities exist to exchange within Alberta and to Spain, Germany and Iceland (2020/21). 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 780-447-9404.

What Really Matters in Education Systems



One of the many benefits that comes from having a global perspective provided to us by involvement in a variety of international research partnerships is that it has established the Alberta Teachers' Association as a recognized leader in the field of education around the world. With great power comes great responsibility. The recent PISA test results underscore that Alberta is a genuine "education superpower" worldwide—our system of education is the envy of the world, and we offer an equitable, democratic approach to education that has placed us firmly within the top 10 education systems in the world.

One of the reasons for that success is that, in addition to many systems looking to us in a quest for the "secret sauce" that makes Alberta great, we, in turn, are also constantly looking outward for inspiration from the best practices and brightest ideas in education from across the planet. As part of that practice, we share with you two exemplary podcasts. The first is from Intersection Education. *Intersection Education* is an Alberta-

based podcast created by Corey Haley, an Alberta principal. This month we share the podcast episode "Adrian Piccoli, Education from a Minister's Perspective." Adrian Piccoli, former minister of education of New South Wales, has been called by Pasi Sahlberg the best minister of education Australia has ever had. This is a sentiment shared by many in Australia's education system and worldwide. In this episode of the podcast, Piccoli discusses his book *12 Ways Your Child Can Get the Best Out of School* and the work he is doing now as professor of practice at the School of Education and director of the Gonski Institute for Education, both at the University of New South Wales. Listen to podcast 56, "Adrian Piccoli, Education from a Minister's Perspective" on Apple podcasts, <https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/intersection-education-toward-better-teaching-learning/id1380397181?i=1000449248343>, or wherever you find your podcasts.

Adrian Piccoli will be a featured speaker at uLead 2020.

The second podcast we recommend is from Bastow Educational Leadership, based in Melbourne, Australia. It's not paint-by-numbers, and there's no rule book, so how do we lead ourselves and others to make the biggest difference in our schools? Steve Munby, the creative leader behind the world's first school leadership institute, talks about power, love and the strength of imperfect leadership. Listen to podcast 4, "Steve Munby Celebrates Imperfect Leadership" on Apple podcasts, <https://podcasts.apple.com/ca/podcast/bastow-educational-leadership-podcast/id1451212671?i=1000434461448>, or wherever you find your podcasts.

Steve Munby will be a keynote speaker at uLead 2020.



INTERSECTION
EDUCATION



Adrian Piccoli – Toward better teaching and learning



Steve Munby – Imperfect leadership

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 an expression of interest to offer a presentation at uLead 2020. The first round of presenters has already been selected for the conference, and a second-round call for expressions of interest will be open until February 2020. We would love to have you share your Alberta leadership story with the world. If you would like to do so, visit tinyurl.com/PRESENT-AT-ULEAD20 to submit your proposal by the end of February 2020.

uLead Conference, April 5–7, 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 under way and the call for proposals is resulting in a breadth and diversity of school leaders from around the world planning to share their stories. School leaders from Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Denmark and beyond have already registered for uLead 2020. A group of 40 principals from Iceland will be bringing their perspective to the event. Expressions of interest for presentations at uLead have been pouring in, and the opportunity to share your voice at uLead will remain open until the end of February 2020. Find out more at www.ulead.ca.

A host of keynote speakers will be announced in the coming weeks. Already confirmed as keynote speakers are

- Beatriz Pont, senior education policy analyst, Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development;
- Carol Campbell, Ontario Institute for Studies in Education;
- Barbara Watterston, author of *Step In, Step Up: Empowering Women for the School Leadership Journey*;

- Steve Munby, author of *Imperfect Leadership* and the driving force behind the UK's national organization for school leadership;
- Pasi Sahlberg, professor of education policy, University of New South Wales; and
- Adrian Piccoli, director, Gonski Institute for Education and former minister of education of New South Wales.

Three things to remember about uLead 2020

- You are invited to share your story at uLead 2020 from April 5–7, 2020. Expressions of interest for presentations can be shared at tinyurl.com/PRESENT-AT-ULEAD20.
- Registration is open now at www.ulead.ca, with early-bird discounts for those registering prior to February 3, 2020, and continued discounts for those registering in the weeks that follow.
- In addition to the discount offered to Council for School Leadership members, Alberta registrants have access to an additional \$100 discount to attend uLead 2020. Please contact your ATA local for a discount code prior to registering.

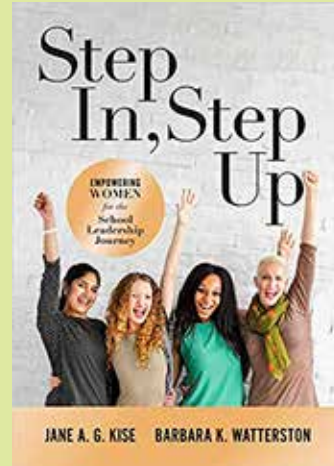
An exciting full-day preconference workshop is planned for April 4. Please note details in the following article.



uLead Preconference Full-Day Workshop—Saturday, April 4, 2020

Empowering Women for the School Leadership Journey, with Barbara Watterston

With recent restraint measures being taken in Alberta school divisions, it may be difficult for you to be away from your school to attend uLead 2020. Do not fear, you can still participate in a significant professional learning event at the conference by attending our annual Women in Education Leadership full-day preconference workshop, at which Barbara Watterston will discuss her recent book, *Step In, Step Up: Empowering Women for the School Leadership Journey*. You do not need to register for uLead to attend this full-day Saturday workshop in Banff. A separate registration is available at http://ulead.ca/Pre-Conference_Workshop_1.html



About Barbara Watterston

Barbara Watterston has extensive experience in education and has held a number of school and executive leadership positions across Australia within the education and not-for-profit community sectors. She specializes in facilitation and research focused on the design and delivery of professional learning programs to develop, enhance and promote the work of the education profession—in particular school and system leadership—to ensure that learning for all can thrive. She has been recognized for her contribution to leadership and professional learning, and she has served in an advisory capacity as a member of numerous university, departmental, school and professional boards.

In Australia, her national research report, *Insights: Environmental Scan Principal Preparation Programs*, contributed to five major national recommendations for preparing future school leaders. As coeditor of the 2010 book *Women in School Leadership: Journeys to Success*, she advocated for women in leadership. In her most recent book, *Step In, Step Up: Empowering Women for the School Leadership Journey*, Watterston provides a practical guide for current and aspiring women leaders through a twelve-week leadership journey.

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 to be 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 <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/TFK97YW>. 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 at 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.



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 most recent issue contains an interesting discussion about ideas for ensuring high school completion. 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 most recent issue features great articles about the what it means to lead a learning community. It also highlights the NAESP's publication *Leading Learning Communities: Pillars, Practices and Priorities for Effective Principals*. www.nxtbook.com/ygsreprints/NAESP/principal_20191112/.

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 December 2019 edition features articles on distributed leadership. www.nassp.org/2019/12/01/principal-leadership-december-2019/.

Topics is the journal of the Australian Catholic Primary Principals' Association (ACPPA). It contains a variety of articles of interest to school leaders, particularly Catholic school leaders. Find the latest issue at <https://acppa.schoolzineplus.com/topicsjournal?nid=23>.

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/.

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.



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.

LEADERSHIP UPDATE

An ATA/CSL publication for school administrators



The Alberta
Teachers' Association



**JOY, FASCINATION
AND HOPE.**

They are the faces of education.
We are the Alberta Teachers' Association,
and we believe in them.



The Alberta
Teachers' Association