

LEADERSHIP UPDATE

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Educational Leadership Academy (ELA) Presents Dr Todd Whitaker

What Great Administrators Do Differently

This year's Educational Leadership Academy (ELA) will be held at the Banff Centre from July 6 to 12, inclusive. ELA is an annual event, now in its 18th year, and is sponsored by the Alberta Teachers' Association and its Council on School Administration. ELA is an exceptional, five-day, in-residence program for principals, assistant-principals and others in educational leadership positions, as well as individuals who are aspiring to leadership positions.

Dr Todd Whitaker is a professor of educational leadership at Indiana State University. Prior to his professorship, he was a middle and high school principal in Missouri. In addition, Dr Whitaker served as a middle school coordinator in Jefferson City, Missouri, where he supervised the development of two new middle schools. Dr Whitaker's work focuses on principal effectiveness, teacher

leadership, change, staff motivation, instructional improvement and middle-level practices. His books include *What Great Principals Do Differently: 15 Things That Matter Most*; *Dealing with Difficult Teachers*; *Motivating and Inspiring Teachers: The Educational Leader's Guide for Building Staff Morale*; *Dealing with Difficult Parents (and with Parents in Difficult Situations)*; *Teaching Matters: Motivating and Inspiring Yourself*; and *Feeling Great! The Educator's Guide for Eating Better, Exercising Smarter, and Feeling Your Best*.

The brochure and registration form will be available on the ATA website under Resources for School-Based Administrators—Educational Leadership Academy. If you have any questions or need further information, please call the ELA director, Konni deGoeij, at (780) 447-9472 or Leslie Kaun at (780) 447-9410 (Edmonton and area) or 1-800-232-7208 (elsewhere in Alberta) or e-mail leslie.kaun@ata.ab.ca.

**In every
success
story,
you find
someone
who has
made a
courageous
decision.**

Peter F Drucker



Alberta Education's Severe Disabilities Realignment Review: Moving Forward

Over the past few months, Alberta Education conducted a Severe Disabilities Realignment Review. The review focused on funding requirements and documentation in the files of nearly 17,000 students whom jurisdictions had identified as having severe disabilities. Overall, this review concluded that jurisdictions are providing a wide range of services to a broad range of students. The review also concluded that there is a disconnect between current funding mechanisms, coding criteria and the desire of jurisdictions to be flexible in providing programming and services to students with special education needs.

Alberta Education, under the direction of the deputy minister, will be using the review as a springboard to further examine options to provide funding to school authorities to help them serve students who have special education needs.

School districts will have to play a pivotal role in developing a new framework for delivering resources for students with special education needs. Alberta Ed has approved a plan to develop policy, accountability measures and a new distribution model for special education funding. This will involve extensive research, data analysis and consultation with education stakeholders, including school authorities, professional organizations, advocacy groups, and those who employ or educate our students after they leave basic education.

The project will begin this month, and implementation of the new framework will be determined at a later date. For more information, please contact Ron Taylor, Acting Director in Special Programs Branch, Alberta Education. He can be reached by e-mail at rtaylor@gov.ab.ca or by phone at (780) 422-6326, toll free at 310-0000.

Update on the Principal Quality Standard Stakeholder Advisory Committee

The Principal Quality Standard Stakeholder Advisory Committee had its final meeting on November 21, 2007. At this meeting the committee received information that senior officials in Alberta Education were recommending that the working draft of the *Principal Quality Practice Standard* be endorsed and voluntarily implemented by all education stakeholders as a document to inform principal practice. After a long discussion the advisory committee unanimously agreed that the working draft be forwarded to the minister of education with a recommendation that he approve the document as the provincial standard for principal practice.

At its December meeting, the ATA Provincial Executive Council passed a motion for President Frank Bruseker to send a letter to the minister of education urging him to approve the advisory committee's working draft as the provincial standard for school principals. That letter has been sent; however at the time of publication, there has been no response from the minister. The advisory committee's final draft of the *Principal Quality Practice Standard: School Leadership in Alberta* can be accessed on the

Association website www.teachers.ab.ca by clicking on Resources for School Administrators.

Early in January the Association was invited to name 12 representatives, 10 of whom should be teachers, to attend a one-day symposium on school leadership being organized by Alberta Education. The Council on School Administration (CSA) received an invitation to send two representatives to the symposium. On January 9, the Association received notification that the symposium had been postponed and will likely be rescheduled for a date following the provincial election.

As more information becomes available, it will be shared with school administrators in *Leadership Update*. In the meantime the Association continues to provide workshops that support the leadership dimensions outlined in the draft standard.

To book a leadership workshop, please contact Professional Development staff at 1-800-232-7208. For more information on the PQS Stakeholder Committee, contact Jacqueline Skytt, Coordinator, Professional Development, at (780) 447-9469 or 1-800-232-7208 (toll free in Alberta).

Attention School Administrators, Teachers and Policy Studies Graduate Students and Faculty

Rethinking Educational Leadership: Challenging the Conventions with Dr Nigel Bennett

You are invited to enjoy an evening with Nigel Bennett, one of the United Kingdom's most distinguished contributors to educational policy discussion and debate. For this event, Dr Bennett will draw upon his extensive work on educational leadership to provide a sophisticated intellectual framing of the discussion/debate with grounded practical intervention.

The charismatic transformational leader who creates a vision for the future of his or her organization and persuades others to follow is now the dominant vision that underpins government policies towards leadership development in the English-speaking world. Dr Bennett will offer a much-needed corrective to this orthodoxy by focusing on current research and

thinking about *leadership* rather than *leaders*. He will test alternative leadership models against recent research projects and then demonstrate how his analysis is relevant to all countries where leadership is an issue. Major topics include alternative theories to understanding the nature of leadership, analysis of leadership, reanalysis of recent research carried out by contributors in light of alternative theories, and implications of alternative perspectives for leadership training.

Dr Bennett will challenge your thinking, raise critical questions and provide a unique perspective on issues of concern to all educators.

When: March 5, 2008 from 6:00–8:00 PM

Where: Barnett House room 502

Time: 6:00–7:00 PM (dinner)
7:00–8:00 PM (presentation)

Cost: Dinner and presentation \$27 (no host wine bar)

To register, please contact Lisa Wright at lisa.wright@ualberta.ca

**Registration deadline:
March 1, 2008**

