

# LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Volume 12

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 very high-quality, professional learning activities for school leaders in Alberta throughout the year.

### Professional Learning Opportunities and News

To obtain information about upcoming professional learning events and programs for school leaders you need only remember the following phrase—[www.uLead.ca](http://www.uLead.ca)—in order 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. This year, uLead will take place from April 24–27. Please visit [uLead.ca](http://uLead.ca) on a regular basis as the events and news will change frequently.

**“Is PISA  
important?  
Yes and no.  
Our children  
are what  
is most  
important.”**

**—Pak Tee Ng**

## uLead 2016 Call for Proposals

Do you have a school leadership story to share with colleagues from around the world? A unique opportunity awaits. In April 2016, join educational leaders from around the world in the beautiful world heritage location of Banff, Alberta, at Canada's premier conference for school-based and district-level leaders, and provincial and state education leaders. A rare and historic dialogue with the world's leaders in education will be held in a setting that has been called the jewel of the Rockies. A wide array of world-class keynote speakers will animate the dialogue of those attending, and there will be myriad opportunities for spouses and family members to explore one of the most pristine wilderness areas in the world during the conference. uLead 2016 is sponsored by the Council for School Leadership, a specialist council of the Alberta Teachers' Association. We are expecting 800 principals, assistant principals, district leaders, education ministry representatives and national ministers of education from around the world to attend.

You are invited to submit a proposal to offer a presentation at uLead 2016. We would love to have you share your Alberta leadership story with the world. If you would like to do so, visit [tinyurl.com/uleader](http://tinyurl.com/uleader) to submit your proposal as soon as possible.



Council for  
School Leadership

**NOTE: Early-bird registration prices for uLead are in place until October 31.  
Find out more at [www.ulead.ca/Welcome](http://www.ulead.ca/Welcome)**

# **uLead Conference—April 24–27, 2016**

## **About uLead 2016— The Summit of Educational Leadership**

This year's uLead conference will be part two of a three-year trilogy of uLead summit events. At uLead 2015 we explored challenges and harm arising from the Global Education Reform Movement (GERM) worldwide.

This year, we will explore new narratives for education and school leadership that are emerging throughout the world, and we will engage in a conversation about how to make those narratives live within our schools, school districts and provinces. The conference will seek to equip those attending with the tools to create their own education story to help them thrive and meet the needs of today's students.

Invitees include Alberta Premier Rachel Notley and Minister of Education David Eggen. Confirmed

keynote presenters include Simon Breakspear (Sydney, Australia), Pasi Sahlberg (Harvard), Pak Tee Ng (Singapore), Carol Campbell (OISE), William Rankin (United States), Dr. Reshan Richards (Columbia University) and talented educational leaders from around the world. Visit [ulead.ca](http://ulead.ca) for further news regarding the exciting range of presenters at this event as more keynote speakers will soon be announced.

Our program team is working diligently to create an astounding lineup of speakers to animate our discussions at uLead 2016! uLead 2016 will be an extremely valuable event for those attending, among them national, provincial and state education ministry representatives, school district leaders, principals, assistant principals and teacher-leaders. Thought leaders from around the world will animate the dialogue as well as offer presentations and workshops. The conference speakers and workshop leaders have

been very carefully chosen to challenge those attending to return to their communities with a renewed sense of inspiration and many ideas to foster the growth of learning ecosystems that are creative, innovative and fully meet the needs of the students in our schools today.

The conference offers an ongoing dialogue on creativity and innovation in both leadership for our schools, and also in the programming we need to offer in those schools to allow the next generation of leaders to flourish. Innovative principals and district leaders from around the world will share their stories with conference delegates. An array of international thought leaders will challenge delegates to go beyond current practices and to consider what GREAT leaders do differently to help students to realize their dreams.

uLead 2016 is going to be an event that will truly transform the leadership practices of those attending in a positive way. The conference will fill up quickly, so please register early to ensure your place at uLead 2016!

NOTE: Early-bird discounts for uLead are available now for those registering prior to November 15. This conference is rapidly filling up! Registration is now open at [www.ulead.ca](http://www.ulead.ca).



# International Education Exchange Program

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 the exchange partner's school for one to two weeks. You then host your counterpart for one to two weeks so they can experience the Alberta education system.

Administrators arrange cultural visits to correspond with the interests of both parties. Opportunities exist in Australia, Germany, Spain, Denmark and the United Kingdom. You exchange during the summer months and you typically host your counterpart 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, of course, have demonstrated leadership quality. Interested? Find out more at [www.ieep.ca](http://www.ieep.ca).

## Leadership Essentials for Administrators

A wonderful opportunity to grow as a professional awaits all principals and assistant principals who are in the first two years of their appointment or administrators new to the province of Alberta. There is no registration fee and you can still register for this event! Grant-in-aid for Association members is also available (as per Association guidelines). There are two wonderful keynote speakers for this year's Leadership Essentials for Administrators conference. Pasi Sahlberg (Harvard) will open the conference, and the renowned David King, former minister of education for Alberta will be the closing speaker. Come and learn with colleagues from across the province who are entering the wonderful world of school leadership!

Find out more at [tinyurl.com/LEA-PD](http://tinyurl.com/LEA-PD)

## Council for School Leadership

As an Alberta school principal or assistant principal 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 follow the link you see on this page, [bit.ly/joincsl](http://bit.ly/joincsl), and follow the steps to join this school leadership specialist council. It is custom-made for school leaders and aspiring school leaders.



# Distinguished Leadership Awards

The Council for School Leadership is pleased to invite nominations from throughout Alberta for the CSL Alberta Distinguished Leadership Awards. Recipients will be honoured in May.

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. They provide avenues for research and the sharing of best practices. The cadre 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 a vibrant network of educational leaders with the confidence and capabilities to lead innovative change for 21st century learning—the Council for School Leadership.

Please nominate a deserving school leader to be considered for this honour.

To nominate a school leader, click on the following link and complete your nomination online: <http://tinyurl.com/CSL-Leadership> (the URL is case sensitive).

Once you have entered the nomination site, you will be asked to make a short comment related to your nominee's leadership in each of Alberta's Principal Quality Leadership dimensions. The following CSL Distinguished Leadership Awards primer provides you with additional information about how to complete the nomination form once you click on the link to nominate a colleague.

The deadline for nominations is midnight, April 1, 2016. All nominees must be active members of the Council for School Leadership to be eligible to receive the award.

## What will I need to do?

- Once you have entered the nomination site, you will be asked to make a short comment related to your nominee's leadership in each of Alberta's Principal Quality Practice Leadership dimensions.
- You will be asked to provide an indication that your nominee has consented to being nominated (required) and provide the nominee's school name, school

telephone number and e-mail address. Your nominee must be a member of the Council for School Leadership to be eligible to receive the award. Nominees can join the CSL now at [bit.ly/joincsl](http://bit.ly/joincsl).

- You will then be asked to enter your supporting evidence (several sentences) for your nominee's leadership for each of Alberta's Principal Quality Practice Competencies including
  - Fostering Effective Leadership,
  - Embodying Visionary Leadership,
  - Leading a Learning Community,
  - Providing Instructional Leadership,
  - Developing and Facilitating Leadership,
  - Managing School Operations and Resources and
  - Understanding and Responding to the Larger Societal Context.

Detailed information about the Principal Quality Practice Competencies can be found at [bit.ly/AlbertaPQP](http://bit.ly/AlbertaPQP).

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.

## CSL Community Conversation in Red Deer

November CSL Event—  
Thursday, November 5—  
Save the Date!

You will want to set aside this evening for a very community conversation with Dr. Joel Westheimer at the Black Knight Inn in Red Deer.

Register at [tinyurl.com/next-Alberta](http://tinyurl.com/next-Alberta). Dr. Westheimer will engage attendees in a conversation tied to Alberta's realities and based on his new book called *What Kind of Citizen? Educating Our Children for the Common Good*. Find out more by viewing the attached poster.

## An Evening with Alberta's Minister of Education

November CSL Event—  
Monday, November 9—  
Save the Date!

On Monday, November 9 the Council for School Leadership, Edmonton Area, is proud to provide an opportunity for you to share dinner with your colleagues and engage in dialogue with the minister of education.

This event will fill up quickly, so participants are encouraged to register as soon as possible for the evening at [tinyurl.com/Minister-Eggen](http://tinyurl.com/Minister-Eggen).

The Honorable David Eggen, minister of education, will discuss topics and issues in education of importance to school and district leaders. If time permits, he may field questions from the audience following his presentation.

## CSL Workshop – Building Leadership Practice Through Effective Questioning in Grand Prairie

November CSL Event—Thursday, November 19—Save the Date!

Register for this one-day interactive workshop focusing on re-imagining goal setting for school administrators. Consider how effective application of the inquiry model can support school administrators in developing and following through on individual and school goals, as well as increasing alignment with system goals. The day will provide participants with an immediate opportunity to build skills and consider applications. Dr. Pamela Adams from the University of Lethbridge will lead this workshop. To register go to [tinyurl.com/CSL-NORTH](http://tinyurl.com/CSL-NORTH) (the URL is case sensitive).

**What Kind of Citizen in the Next Alberta?**

A Conversation with  
Dr. Joel Westheimer

*Given Alberta's vibrant growth, plurality is our new reality. How can schools develop the attributes required for a strong democracy to flourish? What kind of citizens will the world need Albertans to be?*

**Thursday, November 5**  
**Black Night Inn**  
**2929 50 Ave, Red Deer**

6:00 – 7:00 pm  
Reception and  
Book launch:  
**What Kind of  
Citizen? Educating  
Our Children for the  
Common Good**

7:00 – 8:30 pm  
Keynote and  
Discussion

Reception and book signing to follow

Sponsored By...  
ata:Red Deer  
The Alberta Teachers' Association

In Partnership With...  
Alberta Social Studies Council  
Public Interest Alberta

# Classroom Walk-Through


As a wise principal, you know that supervision of teachers is relationship-based, complex, contextual and multifaceted. No one can simplify supervision and sell it to you in a box or as an app. Implementation of supervisory practices requires flexibility, encourages risk-taking by teachers and administration, and encourages creativity and problem solving rather than compliance with overly simplistic measures and checklists. Effective supervision promotes teacher collaborative networks and focuses discourse on optimizing learning experiences for students. All of this involves frequent observations of the pedagogical practices of the teachers in the school. Classroom walk-through practices typically get principals into classrooms often, so that is positive, but that is only the simple first step. What a principal does after that in order to weave networks, invite journeys of professional growth, motivate discourse about teaching and learning and promote pockets of good practice is the true art of supervisory practices. Interested? There is a great article on the practice of the classroom walk-through just a click away.

Find out more at [tinyurl.com/TIPS-4-ADMIN](http://tinyurl.com/TIPS-4-ADMIN).

# Alberta Teachers on iTunes U

This month we highlight a course called *Foster Effective Relationships*. It is well worth subscribing to and is full of good ideas that principals and assistant principals should consider regarding their work. The course provides an opportunity to look in depth at the recent Canada-wide study on the principalship conducted by the ATA on behalf of the Canadian Association of Principals. To access the site, please visit [tinyurl.com/ATAiTunes](http://tinyurl.com/ATAiTunes) or scan the QR code on this page.







## *Leadership Essentials* FOR ADMINISTRATORS

**November 16–17, 2015**  
**Sheraton Cavalier Hotel, Calgary**

Open to administrators who are in the first two years of their appointment or administrators new to the province of Alberta. There is no registration fee. Space is limited; apply early. Online registration is available at <https://event-wizard.com/events/LEA2015/>. Grant-in-aid for Association members is available (as per Association guidelines).

**For further information, please contact Jeff Johnson at Barnett House at 780-447-9473 (local calls) or 1-800-232-7208 (toll free in Alberta) or visit the ATA's website at [www.teachers.ab.ca](http://www.teachers.ab.ca).**

The Alberta Teachers' Association

To find archived issues of *Leadership Update*, go to [www.teachers.ab.ca](http://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](mailto:jeff.johnson@ata.ab.ca).