

# LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Volume 13

A publication for Alberta's school administrators

Number 1



## 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)—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 9–12 in Banff. There will also be a French immersion and francophone uLead summit taking place in Calgary from April 7–9. Please visit [uLead.ca](http://www.uLead.ca) on a regular basis as the events and news will change frequently.

### Survey on the Work of School Leaders

The Council for School Leadership is supporting a national study by the Canadian Association of Principals (CAP) on the critical influences shaping the experiences of school leaders. This study, which began in June, includes opportunities for school leaders to have their views considered. Please follow the link <http://cap2016.ca/> to participate. Your voice is important! The survey takes approximately 15 minutes to complete and can be accessed now; however, if you've already completed it, we thank you and ask that you not take it again.

Thank you in advance for supporting the work of CAP and having your professional voice heard. **At the conclusion of the survey there is an option to have your name entered in a draw for an iPad mini.**

**There was a time, perhaps not even forty or fifty years ago, when education was not the subject of furious political debate. Education and the people who made it happen, the teachers, were regarded with trust.**

**—Jelmer Evers**



Council for  
School Leadership

# 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 counterparts and work shadow in their exchange partner's school for one to two weeks. Participants then host their counterparts for one to two weeks so they can experience the Alberta education system. Administrators should arrange cultural visits to correspond with the interests of both parties. Opportunities exist in Australia, Germany, Spain, Denmark and the United Kingdom. Exchanges occur during the summer months, and participants typically host their counterparts 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 Conference, November 21–22

We are pleased to share some timely information about the Leadership Essentials for Administrators (LEA) conference taking place in Edmonton November 21–22. This conference is an annual event for school leaders (principals or assistant principals) serving in their first two years in the role and for administrators who have recently moved to Alberta from outside of the province. Two keynote presenters will appear at LEA this year. **Carol Campbell** will present the opening keynote address. Dr Campbell is associate professor of leadership and educational change at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) at the University of Toronto, an appointed education advisor to the premier and the minister of education in Ontario, and director of the Knowledge Network for Applied Education Research (KNAER). She will present on how to lead with evidence for educational improvement. The closing keynote presenter for the conference, **Simon Breakspear** from Agile Schools in Australia, will speak about innovation for better learning. Breakspear's presentations are always well-received by Alberta school leaders. The LEA conference is a strong support to new school leaders in Alberta and will feature many concurrent sessions to assist those attending in their roles. Registration is now open at <https://atapd.ca/initiative/lea>.

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).

# Distinguished Leadership Awards

The Council for School Leadership (CSL) 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. It provides 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 consider nominating a deserving school leader for this honour.

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

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 will provide 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, March 31, 2017. 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 email 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
  - Understanding and responding to the larger societal context

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.

# uLead 2017 Conference in Banff—April 9–12, 2017

## About uLead 2017—The Summit of Educational Leadership

### Part Three of a Three-Year Trilogy of uLead Summit Events

This year's uLead conference will be part three of a three-year trilogy of uLead summit events. At uLead 2015 we explored challenges and harm arising from the Global Education Reform Movement (G.E.R.M.) worldwide. At uLead 2016 we explored new narratives for education and school leadership emerging throughout the world and engaged in a conversation about how to make those narratives live within our schools, school districts and provinces.

This year the conference will seek to equip those attending with the tools to create their own education story that can thrive and meet the needs of today's students. The focus is on agile leadership and will seek to answer the kinds of question that will allow the agile leader to lead a learning community driven by a vision that seeks to get better all the time. They ask, "Where am I going to take this

school or community next?" and "How will I lead this school or learning community on a radical incremental journey of growth, using the best of the past while designing for the future?"

Confirmed keynote presenters are as follows:

- **David Eggen**, Alberta minister of education
- **Adrian Piccoli**, New South Wales minister of education
- **Kate Jones**, Queensland minister of education
- **Simon Breakspear**, Agile Schools, Sydney, Australia
- **Carol Campbell**, OISE
- **Gillian Hamilton**, Glasgow
- **Dr Jim Watterston**, Queensland director-general of education and president of the Australian Council for Educational Leaders
- **Dr Reshan Richards**, Columbia University
- **Dr Dennis Shirley**, Boston College
- **Jelmer Evers**, the Netherlands
- **Pasi Sahlberg**, Finland
- talented educational leaders from around the world

Several additional ministers of education from around the world will also attend and participate in a panel discussion

There are two major uLead events this year. An international francophone and French immersion summit taking place at the Hyatt Hotel in Calgary from Friday, April 7 to Sunday, April 9. This will immediately be followed by the uLead English language conference from April 9–12 in Banff.

The second round of the call for proposals for uLead 2017 is currently open. If you would like to submit a proposal to share your story at uLead, visit [tinyurl.com/present-at-ulead17](http://tinyurl.com/present-at-ulead17).

You will find more information about the conference by visiting [tinyurl.com/ULEAD17](http://tinyurl.com/ULEAD17).

Register now at super-early-bird rates: <http://ulead.ca/Welcome.html>.

Registration for the francophone/French immersion summit in Calgary is also now open at [tinyurl.com/uleadfr](http://tinyurl.com/uleadfr).

NOTE: Super-early-bird registration prices for uLead are in place until November 15, 2016



Registration is now open at [www.ulead.ca](http://www.ulead.ca) with discounts for those registering prior to December 31, 2016.

This conference is rapidly filling up!

# 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 [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.



# Alberta Teachers on iTunes U

This month we highlight several new courses to support leadership for inclusive education called *Winning Strategies for Struggling Students*, *Differentiated Instruction: Leveraging Learning Preferences* and *Addressing Learning Disabilities in the Inclusive Classroom*. 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. They will also be of value to all Alberta classroom teachers. The courses provide an opportunity to look in depth at best practices for inclusive education within the Alberta context. To access the site, please visit [tinyurl.com/ATAiTunes](http://tinyurl.com/ATAiTunes) or scan the QR code below.



# 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.

## Canadian Association of Principals (CAP)

The CAP Journal is published quarterly and is the official voice of the Canadian Association of Principals. It's available at <http://cdnprincipals.org/blog/2016/06/20/winter-2016-cap-journal/>.

## European School Heads Association (ESHA)

ESHA magazine is published regularly throughout the year and contains very interesting articles that highlight issues Alberta school leaders share with their European colleagues. The most recent issue contains interesting discussions on the topic of entrepreneurial leadership. <http://www.esha.org/sites/default/files/eshamagazinedownloads/ESHA-Magazine-July-2016.pdf>.

## National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP)

"Principal" is a document produced by the NAESP and features a monthly preview of the magazine. This month's preview features a great article about new approaches to instruction. [http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/manifest/principal\\_20160910/](http://www.nxtbook.com/nxtbooks/manifest/principal_20160910/).

## National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)

"Principal Leadership" is a document produced by the NAESP and features a monthly preview of the magazine. Published monthly September through May, it focuses on school leaders' real needs, offering them practical, hands-on strategies for improving their schools in a constantly evolving educational environment. <https://www.nassp.org/news-and-resources/publications/principal-leadership/principal-leadership-archives/principal-leadership-volume-17-2016-17/principal-leadership-september-2016>.

## Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL)

A massive, searchable and free collection of scholarly research materials on school leadership is available at AITSL's comprehensive archive. <http://www.aitsl.edu.au/school-leadership-ecollection>.

## iTunes U, Alberta Teachers on iTunes U

Each month, new courses and materials are added to the Alberta Teachers on iTunes U site at [tinyurl.com/ATAiTunes](http://tinyurl.com/ATAiTunes). A range of new courses on Alberta's School Leader Standards is currently being added to the site.



# *Leadership Essentials*

## FOR ADMINISTRATORS

*November 21–22, 2016*

*Fantasyland Hotel, Edmonton*

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://atapd.ca/initiative/lea>

Grant-in-aid for Association members is available (as per Association guidelines).

### *Keynote Speakers*

Carol Cambell—Leading with Evidence for Educational Improvement

Simon Breakspear—Innovation for Better Learning

### *Network with colleagues and learn about*

Fostering Effective Relations • Embodying Visionary Leadership • Leading a Learning Community • Providing Instructional Leadership • Developing and Facilitating Leadership • Managing School Operations and Resources  
• Understanding and Responding to Larger Societal Context

### *Breakout Sessions*

- Understanding Alberta's First Nations, Métis and Inuit People • Getting on the Same Page: Discipline Strategies • Leading and Managing a School Effectively • The Role of the School Administrator in Fostering an Inclusive Learning Community • Top Ten Sections of the *School Act* • Technology Traps and Treasures • Dealing with Difficult People and Difficult Issues • Interpreting and Understanding Collective Agreements • *Teacher Growth, Supervision and Evaluation Policy 2.1.5* (including Practice Review)
- Teacher Supervision... Implications for Administrators • Dealing with Bullying (including Cyberbullying)
  - The Principal and Investigations: To Do or Not to Do • Working with Sexual Minorities in Schools: What School Administrators Need to Know • Learning Coaches—Support for the Inclusive Classroom
- The Alberta Professional Practice Competencies for School Leaders, the School Leadership Framework, and Administrator Professional Growth • Support for Administrators of French Immersion Programs
- Student Privacy and Confidentiality Issues Relating to Counseling • Beginning the Evaluation Process

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).



This conference is organized with the Council for School Leadership of the Alberta Teachers' Association.



**The Alberta Teachers' Association**

