

LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Volume 11

A publication for Alberta's school administrators

Number 3



November already!

November is a busy time with report cards and a wide range of activities taking place. We hope that this term in your school has gone well and will continue to do so. This edition of the *Leadership Update* contains valuable information to support 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.

Professional Learning Opportunities and News

This year, it is easier to obtain information about upcoming professional learning events and programs for school leaders than ever before. You need only remember the following phrase—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 will take place in March. Please visit uLead.ca on a regular basis, as the events and news will be updated frequently.

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 they work shadow in their exchange partners' schools for one to two weeks. They then host their counterparts 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. Your exchange occurs 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 superintendents. For a successful, engaging experience, participants should be flexible, adaptable, positive, open to other cultures and comfortable with ambiguity. They should also have demonstrated leadership quality. Interested? Find out more at www.ieep.ca.

**The school's
main mission:
To ensure
that young
people dare to
dream—and
that they will
be strong
enough to
keep their
wings.**

—Hans Renman



Council for
School Leadership

Distinguished Leadership Award

The Council for School Leadership is pleased to invite nominations from throughout Alberta for the CSL Alberta Distinguished Leadership Award, with recipients to be honoured in May.

The CSL Distinguished Leadership Award creates 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—the Council for School Leadership. Please consider nominating a deserving school leader for this honour.

What do I need to do?

- To nominate a school leader, click on the following link and complete your nomination online: <http://tinyurl.com/CSL-Leadership> (capital letters are required).
- 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 indicate 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.)
- 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.
- Prior to submitting the survey you will also have an opportunity to enter additional comments regarding the nominee, should you wish to do so.


Detailed information about the Principal Quality Practice Competencies can be found at bit.ly/AlbertaPQP. The deadline for nominations is midnight, March 31, 2015.

TGSE

Teacher Growth, Supervision, Evaluation and Practice Review
A Workshop for Administrators

The Alberta Teachers' Association is hosting a two-day Teacher Growth, Supervision and Evaluation and Practice Review workshop at Barnett House, in Edmonton, on February 2–3, 2015. The deadline for registration is January 23, 2015.

Register online at www.event-wizard.com/events/TGSE2015. For information visit www.teachers.ab.ca; go to For Members > Events Calendar or contact Joyce Sherwin at Barnett House, in Edmonton. Telephone: 780-447-9400 (Edmonton and area) or 1-800-232-7208 (toll free in Alberta).



The Alberta Teachers' Association

uLead Conference—March 15–18, 2015



A unique opportunity awaits. Join educational leaders from around the world in the beautiful World Heritage location of Banff, Alberta, at Canada's premier conference for school-based leaders, district-level leaders and provincial and state education leaders. Join us in March, 2015 for a rare and historic dialogue with the world's leaders in education 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 2015 is sponsored by the Council for School Leadership, a specialist council of the Alberta Teachers' Association.

School and district leaders from across Canada and around the world will gather to share their school leadership stories with international colleagues. Registrants already include delegates from Iceland, Norway, Nigeria, Singapore, Great Britain and Australia. We are also expecting education ministry representatives and national ministers of education from across the globe to join in a dialogue about best practices in educational leadership worldwide and in the

leadership Alberta demonstrates as one of the highest performing school jurisdictions in the world. This conference will be memorable and ground-breaking.

Invitees include the premier of Alberta, Jim Prentice, and Minister of Education Gordon Dirks. Confirmed keynote presenters include Simon Breakspear (Sydney, Australia), Pasi Sahlberg (Harvard), Dr. Andy Hargreaves (Boston College), Dr. Dennis Shirley (Boston College), Pak Tee Ng (Singapore), Abdul Chohan (Great Britain) and talented educational leaders from Canada, Australia, Iceland, Singapore, Finland, Norway, the USA and Nigeria.

Register before November 30 and receive a 20% discount.

uLead Pre-Conference—March 15, 2015

Two full-day pre-conference workshops will be held at the Banff Springs Hotel prior to the opening of uLead 2015. Corinne Gannon and a team of early childhood education experts will lead a full-day workshop on leadership for early childhood education that will provide delegates with a broad range of information, ideas and strategies for the development of powerful and transformative early childhood education programs in your school.

An additional workshop on school redesign will be available: Teaching the Jetsons! Relevant Practices of Today with an Eye on Tomorrow! Three Calgary high schools. Vastly different clientele. All attending to the needs of the 21st century learners in their midst. This session will share three varied learning models designed (and evolving) for student success. Registration for both events is open now at <http://tinyurl.com/uLead15-PRECONFERENCE>.



Alberta Teachers on iTunes U

The Alberta Teachers' Association has joined Apple's iTunes University to offer free course content to educators in Alberta and beyond. With one billion downloads and counting, Apple's iTunes U is the world's largest online catalogue of free educational content, allowing teachers to create and manage courses for a customized student learning experience. In a recent training event on iTunes U, one delegate declared "My brain is so full of ideas, it's bursting!" "Learning and using new technologies to increase the level of engagement in my classroom is something that I'm really excited about," said Calgary teacher Shannon Roy, as she tapped through the iTunes U site on her iPad. "Students are always up for new and innovative tools to learn with, so I think this will go over very well."

Dozens of Alberta principals and assistant principals have already been trained to create courses in iTunes U that are populating the site. These

courses will connect directly to Alberta's Professional Practice Competencies for School Leaders and offer participating school leaders the opportunity to share their knowledge with others throughout Alberta, across Canada and around the world.

Users install free iTunes software on their devices (PC, Mac or a wide array of portable devices) to access content by searching or browsing the iTunes store. An option exists to download the iTunes U app on your iPad that provides enhanced capabilities such as note-taking for students participating in a course. Each course is conveniently divided into Info, Posts, Notes and Materials sections. Interactive assignments can be made part of courses during their design or even after a course has been launched. Interactivity can be further enhanced as students/participants can share their notes with one another. Watch for upcoming training opportunities for the creation of interactive iTunes U courses, and opportunities to become a

course contributor for the Alberta Teachers iTunes U site.

This month we highlight a course created by Alberta school leader Jeff Fillion addressing the Alberta Professional Practice Competency for School Leaders on Visionary Leadership—Visionary Leadership & Developing Leadership Capacity. It is well worth subscribing to and includes the opportunity for a guided reading of *Uplifting Leadership* by one of uLead's keynote speakers, Dr. Andy Hargreaves. To access the site, please visit tinyurl.com/ATAiTunes or scan the QR code on this page.



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.

Council for School Leadership:

As an Alberta school principal or assistant principal you are encouraged to select the Council for School Leadership as your first 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, and follow the steps to join this school leadership specialist council. It is custom-made for school leaders and aspiring school leaders.



ULEAD 2015

THE SUMMIT OF EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP

BANFF, CANADA ~ MARCH 15-18, 2015

This year's conference lineup is truly outstanding! Ulead 2015 will be an extremely valuable event for those attending with thought—leaders from around the world animating the dialogue, presentations and workshops that attending national, provincial and state education ministry representatives, school district leaders, principals, assistant principals, and teacher-leaders will enjoy. 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.

WWW.ULEAD.CA

Call for Proposals : <http://tinyurl.com/uleader>

Conference Site and Registrations : bit.ly/ulead15

*NOTE : Early Bird Registration Prices for Ulead are 20% lower until November 30

Find out more...

bit.ly/ulead15



ulead
visionary leadership
for today's learner





STUNNING KEYNOTE PRESENTATIONS!

Ulead 2015 will provide delegates with inspirational speakers unrivalled in conferences for educational leaders worldwide. The Ulead mainstage will see presentations from many exciting presenters including

- Ministers of education (both from Canada and around the world)
- Pasi Sahlberg (Harvard)
- Dennis Shirley (Boston College)
- Abdul Chohan (London, UK)
- Simon Breakspear (Sydney, Australia)
- Andy Hargreaves (Boston College)
- Pak Tee Ng (Singapore)

~ JOIN US IN BANFF AT ULEAD 2015 ~
THE SUMMIT OF EDUCATIONAL LEADERSHIP
Hundreds of school leaders make Ulead their annual conference focussed on the needs of school leaders. Principals and headmasters will be stimulated by thought-provoking discussions shared by experts in school leadership. We invite you to join us in March in this UNESCO World Heritage setting of Banff National Park in Canada.

