

LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Volume 12

A publication for Alberta's school administrators

Number 3



Late fall 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—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://www.uLead.ca) on a regular basis as the events and news will be updated frequently.

**“Learn fast—
fail well.”**

**—Simon
Breakspear**

International education exchange program

Short-term administrator exchanges are available as two-week job shadow experiences for Alberta school leaders. Participants are billeted by exchange counterparts and work shadow in an 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 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 counterparts are usually hosted in September or October. Participants require an Alberta Permanent Professional Teaching Certificate and superintendent approval. 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.



Council for
School Leadership

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 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 consideration 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 attached 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, 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.

- You will then be asked to write several sentences as supporting evidence 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 here: 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.

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.

Classroom walk-throughs

You will find some timely and well-thought-out ideas on a positive approach to daily walk-throughs by the well-known principal Chris Lehmann at <http://practicaltheory.org/blog/2010/09/26/daily-walkthroughs-with-googleapps-and-the-ipad/>. Chris shares some ideas about how school leaders can approach the role of ongoing supervision in a way that builds up both the teacher and the school leader while enhancing their relationship at the same time.

In our last issue of *Leadership Update* we shared that, as a wise principal, you know the 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, 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.



Teacher Growth, Supervision, Evaluation and Practice Review Workshop

You are invited to attend a
Teacher Growth, Supervision, Evaluation and Practice Review Workshop
February 1–2, 2016, at Barnett House,
in Edmonton

The provincial Teacher Growth, Supervision and Evaluation Policy (Policy 2.1.5) deals with accountability and continuous professional growth and ensures that a teacher's professional practice is under ongoing supervision. The Teacher Growth, Supervision and Evaluation Policy defines the process, and the Teaching Quality Standard defines the competencies for professional practice. This workshop focuses on the principal's critical role and the duties he or she must perform as outlined in the *School Act* and Policy 2.1.5.

Register online at <http://tinyurl.com/TGSE2016>. The deadline for registration is January 22, 2016. For information visit www.teachers.ab.ca; go to For Members > Events Calendar.

Alberta Teachers on iTunes U



This month we highlight a course called **Visionary Leadership** by Edmonton principal Jeff Fillion. 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 Andy Hargreave's book *Uplifting Leadership*. To access the site, please visit tinyurl.com/ATAiTunes or scan the QR code on this page.

Elections for CSL Treasurer (2016/2018) and CSL President Elect (2016/2017)

The Council for School Leadership is pleased to invite nominations from throughout Alberta for the table officer positions of treasurer (2016/2018) and president elect (2016/2017) with duties commencing in the fall.

Please consider nominating a colleague to serve in one of these roles. You must be a CSL member in order to nominate a colleague. Completed nomination forms (included) must be postmarked no later than January 15, 2016 or submitted electronically to CSL-Events@ata.ab.ca by midnight on January 15, 2016.

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, and follow the steps to join this school leadership specialist council. It is custom-made for school leaders and aspiring school leaders.



~ President Elect - 2016/2017 Nomination Form ~

CSL President Elect duties

- ★ assume the duties and responsibilities as may be delegated by the president and assist the president as required, acting in that capacity when the president is absent;
- ★ as president elect, prepare for the presidency by becoming thoroughly familiar with all the operations, current issues and concerns of the Council;
- ★ be responsible for identifying and recommending additional services to be made available to members of the Council;
- ★ act as chair of the selection committee for the Dr Julius S Buski Leadership Grant; and
- ★ review and update the CSL Handbook as needed.

We, the undersigned, wish to nominate

Name:	
Home Address:	Home Phone:
Office Address:	Business Phone:
Current Position:	Employer:

Nominees must be regular members of the Council for School Leadership.

In support of this nomination we wish to bring to the attention of all CSL members the following information, which will be distributed to members with the election ballots:

Nominators must be members of the Council for School Leadership (three required)

Name:	Address:	Telephone:	Signature:

**Completed forms must be postmarked no later than January 15, 2016 if sent by mail.
If submitted electronically, they must be sent by midnight on January 15, 2016.**

**Submit electronically to
CSL-Events@ata.ab.ca**

Or

**Submit by mail to
The Alberta Teachers' Association
Council For School Leadership
11010 142 Street NW
Edmonton, Alberta T5N 2R1**

~ Treasurer - 2016/2018 Nomination Form ~

CSL Treasurer duties

- ★ be responsible for directing an ongoing program to encourage membership in the Council;
- ★ be responsible for the proper handling and accounting of all funds of the Council and its committees;
- ★ prepare a budget, in consultation with other executive members, for consideration of the Executive, provide interim membership and financial statements for each executive committee meeting, and prepare the audited financial statement of the annual operation for presentation at the Annual General Meeting;
- ★ scrutinize and pay all accounts and make necessary disbursements of funds as authorized by the Executive;
- ★ maintain liaison with the staff of the ATA to facilitate the administration of membership fees, subscriptions and the Association grant; and
- ★ require an acceptable financial statement from the treasurer of each conference or committee operation that receives or disburses funds on behalf of the Council.

We, the undersigned, wish to nominate

Name:	
Home Address:	Home Phone:
Office Address:	Business Phone:
Current Position:	Employer:

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CSL

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Be a Presenter at uLead 2016

Do you have a school leadership story to share with colleagues from around the world? One of the two full-day preconference workshops at uLead on April 24 is focused on women in education leadership. If you have an interest in presenting at the full-day workshop, please visit tinyurl.com/WomenED before November 15 to submit your proposal.

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 (G.E.R.M.) worldwide. This year, we will explore new narratives for education and school leadership that are emerging through 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 that can 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)**, **Nancy Duarte (United States)** and talented educational leaders

from around the world. Visit uLead.ca for further news regarding the exciting range of presenters at this event as more keynote speakers will be announced.

Our program team is working diligently to create an astounding line-up of speakers to animate our discussions! uLead 2016 will be an extremely valuable event for those attending, with thought leaders from around the world animating the dialogue, and 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.

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. People from around the world have already registered for the event! The conference will fill up quickly so please register early to ensure your place at uLead 2016!

Registration is now open at www.ulead.ca, with early-bird discounts for those registering prior to November 30, 2015. Find out more at www.ulead.ca/Welcome.

