

LEADERSHIP UPDATE

Volume 12

A publication for Alberta's school administrators

Number 4



Winter Greetings Everyone!

We hope that you all had a great Christmas break! 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

For information about upcoming professional learning events and programs for school leaders you need only remember the URL 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 to 27. Please visit uLead.ca on a regular basis as the events and news will change frequently.

Agile Leadership for Learning Master Class

The Council for School Leadership, Edmonton Area, is pleased to present a full day of learning on Monday, January 25 with Dr Simon Breakspear focused on agile leadership for learning. Dr Breakspear is known internationally for his practical insights on learning innovation and system reform. As the founder and CEO of LearnLabs, a global learning research and design agency, he has advised educational leaders in over 10 countries, helping them to navigate disruptive change, develop innovation capabilities and drive continuous improvement for better learning.

Dr Breakspear is an internationally engaged keynote speaker and facilitator, having delivered presentations to over 80,000 people. His unique fusion of applied research, real-world experience and dynamic style enables him to help senior leaders rethink assumptions and find innovative ways of leading for the future of learning.

He lives in Sydney, Australia with his wife and two young children. You can find out more on his website, <http://simonbreakspear.com/>, or follow him on Twitter @SimonBreakspear.

To register for the event please use this link: tinyurl.com/Breakspear-MasterClass. This event is sponsored by the Council for School Leadership, the specialist council for school leaders of the Alberta Teachers' Association. We encourage all attendees to take advantage of the opportunity to make the Council for School Leadership their no-cost specialist council membership and enjoy a special, very low registration cost for this event.

**“Teach less—
learn more.”**

— Pak Tee Ng



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 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.

The Canadian Association of Principals Student Leadership Award

The Canadian Association of Principals (CAP) is proud to sponsor the CAP Student Leadership Award. The purpose of this award is to afford principals the opportunity to recognize one of their student leaders and to enter that student as a nominee for a national scholarship. Nationally, CAP will administer the scholarship program.

The CAP Student Leadership Award is designed to provide the broadest possible base upon which to evaluate candidates. For the 2015–2016 program, 12 scholarships of \$250.00 each will be awarded (one scholarship per CAP provincial/territorial affiliate). Only students graduating in the final year of high school from a Canadian high school are eligible for nomination.

Each school that wishes to participate in the scholarship program is asked to nominate one student leader who has demonstrated outstanding leadership. Nominees should be in the top 20% of their class. Nominations are not based on need. The method of selection of the principal's nominee is a local decision. Interested? Inquire at CSL-Events@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. They provide avenues for research and the sharing of best practices. This 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. Additional information about how to complete the nomination form once you click on the link to nominate a colleague is provided below.

The deadline for nominations is midnight, April 1, 2016. All nominees must be active members of the CSL 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 CSL to be eligible to receive the award. Nominees can join 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 at 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.

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 publications 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. This month's issue is focused on data-driven decision making: http://marketzone.ca/ebooks/CAP/2015/CAP_T0115_EMAG/.

European School Heads Association (ESHA)—The *ESHA Magazine* is published regularly throughout the

year and contains very interesting articles that highlight issues Alberta school leaders share with their European colleagues. This month's magazine contains a lengthy article about the recent visit by a delegation of principals from the Netherlands to Edmonton: <http://www.esha.org/sites/default/files/eshamagazinedownloads/Esha-Magazine-December-2015.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 equity:

<http://mydigimag.rrd.com/publication/?i=280470>.

Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL)—A massive, searchable and free collection of scholarly research materials on school leadership is available in AITSL's comprehensive archive: <http://www.aitsl.edu.au/school-leadership-collection>.

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. Currently, a range of new courses on Alberta's School Leader Standards is being added to the site.



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.

uLead Conference—April 24–27, 2016

About uLead 2016 – The Summit of Educational Leadership

Part two of a three-year trilogy of uLead summit events

This year's uLead conference will be part two of a three-part 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 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!

NOTE: Early-bird registration prices for uLead are in place until January 15, 2016.



Registration is now open at www.ulead.ca with discounts for those registering prior to January 15, 2016.

This conference is rapidly filling up!

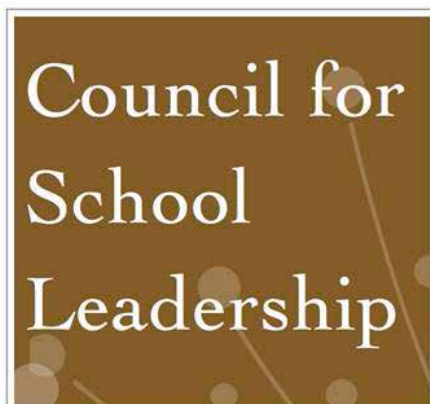
Alberta Teachers on iTunes U

This month we highlight a course called The Alberta School Leader Standards. It is well worth subscribing to and is full of good ideas that principals and assistant principals should consider regarding their work. The course contains many video clips of Alberta principals sharing how the Alberta School Leader Standard informs their role in their school. These video clips can be viewed as part of the course and can also be shared publicly at meetings and seminars. To access the site, please visit tinyurl.com/ATAiTunes or scan the QR code on this page.



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



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.

