

Ministry of Education

Ministère de l'Éducation

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MEMORANDUM TO:

Directors of Education
Supervisory Officers and Secretary-Treasurers of School Authorities
Director of the Provincial Schools Branch

FROM:

Kevin Costante
Deputy Minister

DATE:

November 15, 2010

SUBJECT:

Request for Participants – Principal Congress 2011: Fostering Student Engagement

It is my pleasure to invite you to identify practicing principals from your board to participate in the third Principal Congress to be held on February 15, 2011 at the Fairmont Royal York hotel in Toronto. Information, including the 2011 registration process and travel and accommodation guidelines, is attached in the *Instructions to Boards* document. A number of superintendents and directors of education will also be invited through their professional associations.

The Principal Congress is an Ontario Leadership Strategy (OLS) commitment to strengthen the ministry's relationship with school and system leaders and to advance the cause of sustaining school improvement, enhancing student learning, and moving the system to new heights of success.

Participant evaluations for Principal Congress 2009 and 2010 overwhelmingly told us that they benefited from the leadership-focused content, the engagement with tri-level partners, the affirmation of their own successful leadership practices, and the new insights about leadership needed to close gaps in student achievement. You can learn more about Principal Congress 2009 & 2010, and view video clips from both congresses at: www.ontario.ca/eduleadership.

Principal Congress 2011

The theme for Congress 2011 is "Fostering Student Engagement: Mobilizing Leaders' Knowledge to Close Achievements Gaps in Ontario Schools." Student engagement was identified as an issue of concern to principals at Congress 2010. As you know, increased student engagement is key to helping struggling students achieve, so this theme will provide an opportunity to drill down on a specific area of gap-closing. Dr. Douglas Willms of the University of New Brunswick and co-author of "What Did You Do in School Today: Transforming Classrooms through Social, Academic and Intellectual Engagement" will be the keynote speaker.

Professor Ken Leithwood of OISE/UT and the advisor on the Ontario Leadership Strategy will be guiding the discussions during the day.

If you have any questions, please contact Laurie Pedwell, Leadership Development Branch, at 416-325-7692 or Laurie.Pedwell@ontario.ca.

Thank you for your continued support of this important leadership initiative. I am looking forward to engaging school and system leaders in dialogue as we continue to help Ontario's two million students reach their full potential.

Sincerely,

Original Signed By

Kevin Costante

Attachments

C:

Kathie Mitchell, Minister's Office

Denys Giguère, Executive Assistant, Deputy Minister's Office

Marla Hume, Policy and Briefings Co-coordinator, Deputy Minister's Office

Assistant Deputy Ministers, Ministry of Education

Executive Assistants to Assistant Deputy Ministers

Kit Rankin, Director, Field Services Branch

Regional Managers, Field Services Branch

Ginette Plourde, Director, French-language Education Policy and Programs Branch

Eleanor Newman, Senior Executive Officer, Literacy Numeracy Secretariat

Rob Andrews, Director, Student Success/Learning to 18, Implementation, Training & Evaluation Branch

Doris McWhorter, Director, Education Research and Evaluation Strategy Branch

Barry Finlay, Director, Special Education Policy and Programs Branch

Council of Ontario Directors of Education

Conseil ontarien des directrices et directeurs de l'éducation de langue française

English Catholic Council of Directors of Education

Association des gestionnaires de l'éducation franco-ontarienne

Ontario Catholic Supervisory Officers' Association

Ontario Public Supervisory Officials' Association

Association des directions et directions adjointes des écoles franco-ontariennes

Catholic Principals' Council of Ontario

Ontario Principals' Council

Institute for Education Leadership