

Saskatchewan Chapter

A Year in Review - December 2018

From the Chapter President

Saskatchewan Members,

I would like to take the opportunity to recap some of the highlights over the past 12 months. As current President, I would like to thank Chris Roszell for his tremendous efforts as our Past President. This has been an exciting year for the Board as we are planning the regional PNW conference in Saskatoon.

Your A4LE membership offers more than the Chapter conference, for additional information log on to the [A4LE website](#).

My personal highlight from this year was [LearningSCAPES in Chicago](#). Several Saskatchewan Chapter members were able to attend this conference, details can be found in the body of the newsletter. LearningSCAPES 2019 is in Anaheim, if you can attend, you will not be disappointed.

I sincerely thank the members of the Saskatchewan Chapter for your continued support. I look forward to seeing you at the January AGM and at the Pacific Northwest Conference in Saskatoon, May 2019.

I hope everyone has safe and happy holidays.

Governor's Report

Following another great Saskatchewan Chapter Conference in January, I attended the Regional Conference, held in Seattle in May 2018. The

event presented a great opportunity to get to know my fellow board members and to gain a broader understanding of the issues our A4LE Regional members are working hard to advance. The Conference theme – Open Your Umbrella: Empowering Students Through Design – included speaker sessions and tours of future forward schools that demonstrated how students are enjoying active learning environments meant to encourage STEAM pedagogies. One of my favourites actually had an outdoor hill incorporated into the design, letting kids run and roll to get rid of some of that excess energy!



Congratulations!

Congratulations to Kirstin Mahan-Thompson on accepting the role of the Pacific Northwest Regional President. Kirstin will still assist the Saskatchewan Chapter; however, the majority

of her time will be occupied with Regional activities.

Opportunities

Our chapter has several positions available on the executive team. Please contact Tyler Ottenbreit or an executive member if you would like to discuss future opportunities.

Upcoming Events and Conferences in 2019

Pacific Northwest Regional Conference

We are excited to host the Pacific Northwest Regional Conference in Saskatoon on May 29-31, 2019, the theme this year is The Sky is the Limit. You will want to save the date for this as it promises to be another great event.

The planning committee would like to invite any interested people to assist with this endeavor. If interested, please contact any member of our executive team.



AGM

As we are hosting the Pacific North West Regional Conference in May, our [AGM will be a one day event on January 31, 2019](#) in Regina. Despite this being a single day event, we have developed an exciting program for that will warrant a day trip to Regina. At the AGM we will elect new members to the executive team.

20Under40

The Pacific Northwest Region will again be hosting their exclusive event this spring in Seattle, Washington. This event is designed for 20 members under the age of 40(ish), on March

31-April 2, 2019. They will bring together industry professionals, school district representatives, educators, architects, designers, engineers, and planners for a collaborative and fun gathering.

This event will provide a one of a kind opportunity for the next generation of leaders within our industry and province to:

- Engage with 20 of their peers from around the Pacific Northwest Region.
- Explore new and progressive educational facility projects from a design, construction, processes, and user point of view.
- Define and hone leadership skills and principles to carry forward in their careers.
- Discuss opportunities and strategies to further the mission of A4LE.
- Enjoy Seattle and all the wonderfully vibrant things it has to offer.



For more information on how to attend this event please contact: [Heather Morgan](#), Saskatchewan Governor or [Tyler Ottenbreit](#), Saskatchewan Chapter President.

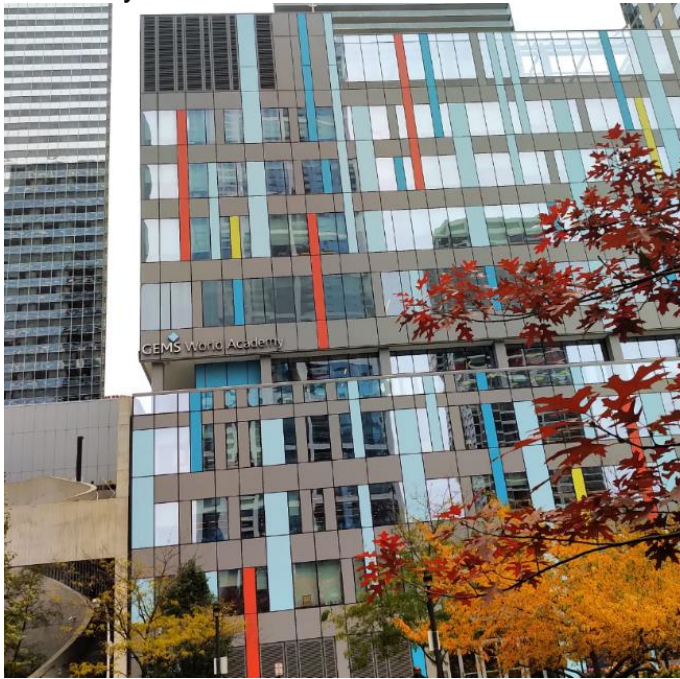
LearningSCAPES 2018



Tyler Ottenbreit's Review

Buses took attendees to various schools throughout the city for tours. Of note, one of the high schools had 4,000 students on campus. The tours I managed to get onto were two private kindergarten-12 schools, [Bennet Day School](#) and [Gems World Academy-Chicago](#). One of the schools consisted of two sections, a 10 storey building in Downton Chicago and the [upper school](#) will be a seven storey building on

the adjacent courtyard. The views will be spectacular as it is built on the Chicago River, only a block from the mouth of Lake Michigan and Navy Pier.



Heather Morgan took in the Microsoft session and noted how young students no longer distinguish between the physical world and its digital equivalent. Our educational environments have to support future career paths that do not currently exist – a daunting task but an exciting one.



Conference Overview

Here are a few quick takeaways from one of the Saturday Keynotes, Dr. Hinajosa –has worked in six different public school divisions as either CEO or as a superintendent. Here are a few quotes that stuck with me:

- Culture eats strategy for breakfast.
- A vision is a dream with a deadline.

- Nothing great happens in the absence of enthusiasm.

Here are six questions Dr. Hinajosa asks his staff and board members when starting:

- What do you expect of me coming into this position?
- What would you do first, if you were me?
- Who is most respected in the organization?
- In your opinion, what are the top three things to be done?
- Who are the external stakeholders?
- What three things in the last five years are you most excited and most disappointed in or about?

The closing keynote entitled Tools to Build Resilience and Enhance Our Well-Being, was presented by [Karen Reivich](#). Karen is a leader in the field of resilience and optimism at the Positive Psychology Centre for the University of Pennsylvania. Her focus is on assisting educators, first responders, and the US Army. At the conclusion of her presentation, we were left feeling ready to take on any challenge and sure of our next success in life and in our careers.

Resiliency is the capacity to recover quickly from challenges. Learned optimism means noticing and expecting the positive, focus on what you can control and take purposeful action.

Optimism is a skill anyone is able to learn and use. It is like a muscle, the more you use it the stronger it becomes.

<p>Notice the good</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is positive in this situation? • What is positive in other aspects of my life? 	<p>Focus on solutions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are possible solutions? • What resources can I leverage?
<p>See opportunity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is exciting about this? • How will I grow through this? 	<p>Take purposeful action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What productive action can I take? • What is my first step?
<p>Control the controllables</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What can I control? • What do I need to accept? 	<p>Reach out</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who can help me? • What support do I need?

Pacific Northwest Region's 20Under40, Vancouver 2018

The 2018 20Under40 event was hosted by studioHuB in Vancouver, BC. Our local Chapter had four representatives, Bertrand Bartake, Sarah Turnbull, Ron Tolentino, and Lyndi Dyck.



Bertrand Bartake's Review

I was honoured to participate in the A4LE PNW 20under40 event this spring in Vancouver. It was a great opportunity to meet educational leaders from different parts of the region and to discuss the state of education facilities from the perspectives of design, facility management, and municipalities. The workshops and leadership training allowed us to explore the nuances of our particular roles and gave us some tools to address the challenges we face on a daily basis. I particularly valued the facility tours, which contrasted a four storey elementary school in downtown Vancouver delivered in a traditional design-bid-build contract with the massive Emily Carr University delivered with a P3 model. If you have a chance to attend this event, I would definitely recommend taking advantage of it.



Lyndi Dyck's Review

This event showcased a variety of learning environments and discussed the various obstacles they had to overcome, such as a four storey elementary school in downtown Vancouver. This gave participants the opportunity to discuss various issues, such as

design, material selection, costing, and location constraints in school districts. Although the event is only 2 days, I was able to make a number of professional connections and am still in regular contact with these folks. I highly recommend attending this event. I would like to thank the A4LE PNW, Sarah Bjornson, and Annerieke van Hoek for organizing this event.



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