

A4LE Saskatchewan Chapter

Member Update – Fall 2022

From the Chapter President

September is upon us, and the kids are back in school, the weather is changing, and we can enjoy the all too brief flourish of fall colours.

This time of change presents an opportune time to address the A4LE's role as an organization to serve those who design and operate learning environments. A4LE in Saskatchewan was founded upon friendly and casual interactions between our members - vendors, administrators, designers, facilities personnel, and planners. COVID was and continues to be a significant blow to our local chapter. We were unable to safely continue to offer the signature in-person events we were known for, and an increase of staff retirement and realignment of the workforces across all sectors reduced our membership. We seem to have lost many of the historical connections to organizations and schools that traditionally brought new folks to the organization at a time when these connections are needed more than ever. To that end, we are considering ways to reach out and reconnect with everyone and build capacity once more to make events lively and meaningful to the membership. We had hoped an in person fall event would be a wonderful place to start, but unfortunately had to cancel it due to limited response.

The Chapter is planning an in-person AGM and Conference for this year but will need to ensure we right-size it to offer programming that brings value to all who attend. To this end we will be sending out a save the date shortly with an RSVP function to gauge interest. This would be an ideal opportunity to bring new folks to the organization, so spread the word amongst your colleagues! Can I ask all members to respond to the RSVP for the AGM and consider whether anyone in your organization is a

champion for the planning, construction or operations of educational facilities who would benefit from involvement with this amazing Global organization, dedicated to improving learning environments for all.

Thanks everyone, see you all soon.

Daniel Reeves, President, Saskatchewan Chapter.

Governor's Report

At the time of this newsletter, the members of the James Smith Cree Nation and the Town of Weldon are coping with the horrific tragedy in their communities. Our thoughts and prayers are with them as they begin their healing journey and we offer our deepest condolences for their losses.

A4LE's mission, as a global organization, is to lead innovation at the intersection of learning and place. Membership offers the opportunity to connect and learn from others, especially during these times of great upheaval and a significant departure in how we plan, build and maintain our schools. We encourage you to stay involved and to participate in advancing learning environments within Saskatchewan.

With respect,

Heather Morgan, Governor, Saskatchewan Chapter

PS. As always – we would love to see what you are doing! remember to tag your photos with @a4le2 and @a4le_pnw or #a4le_pnw

LearningScapes is right around the corner – let us know if you are going, to make sure we all connect in San Antonio!

We hope to see you there – if not, look for highlights in future newsletters...

Network with your peers in San Antonio! A4LE LearningScapes 2022 October 5-9th, 2022

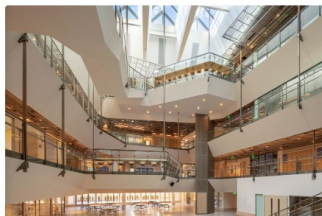


James D. MacConnell Award Finalists!



Capps Middle School

Putnam City Schools
Warr Acres, OK



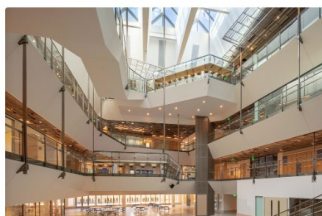
Dearborn STEM Academy

City of Boston Public Schools
Roxbury, MA



Capps Middle School

Putnam City Schools
Warr Acres, OK



Dearborn STEM Academy

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SchoolsNEXT Design Competition

Entries are now open for student teams to participate in the **SchoolsNEXT** competition. This competition is the heart of the organization, a living reminder of why we do the work we do – it's where we put students at the centre of the conversation, where we integrate them into the design process. We share our knowledge with them and learn just as much in the process. School's Next is a tremendous opportunity to let students create their utopian school, outside of real-world constraints, and open the door to truly innovative ideas.

What you may not know is that you are able to mentor a team remotely or access a mentor from the A4LE pool of volunteers. If you would like to learn more about getting a team together, contact Donna Robinson at donna@a4le.org.

The SchoolsNEXT Design competition offers an opportunity to illustrate the kind of creativity that students bring to the planning and design process. The competition highlights the importance of well-planned, healthy, safe sustainable and resilient schools that foster student and teacher achievement and enhance community vitality. The international annual competition, open to middle school and high school students, challenges student teams to design their learning environments to enhance learning, conserve resources, be environmentally responsive and engage the surrounding community. The multi-disciplinary solution requires students to follow a planning process from the concept phase to completion of the project, with thorough documentation. The students present their project to a jury for review at the Regional and National levels.

Congratulations to the 2022 winners Anchorage STrEaM Academy who will be presenting their concept in San Antonio this October!

[Have a great project? Enter for 2023!](#)

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Anchorage STReaM Academy
Anchorage, AK

Narrative | Student Progress | Video



Eligible Projects: Built preK-12 learning environment projects which were completed in the last 4 years in Alaska, Alberta, British Columbia, Hawaii, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Saskatchewan and Washington are eligible. These include learning environments designed for early childhood learning, elementary, middle/junior high and high schools, alternative schools (e.g. charter schools, magnet schools), and other innovative learning environments (e.g. museums, outdoor education facilities).

A4LE International

We would like to congratulate our own **Ryan Bultena**, from the Alberta Chapter, as he was voted in as Chair Elect for the A4LE International Executive Committee, leading next to Vice-Chair and then, finally, President! So exciting to have a Canadian voice at the helm.

Look for an announcement coming soon regarding the Canadian representative position on the International Board.

A reminder to members that the A4LE Member's Forum is a great way to stay on top of the latest news: [Members Forum Web Link](#)

20 Under 40

Look for the 20 Under 40 Event to resume in July 2023 in Calgary!

If you are 40 (ish) or under and are interested in learning more about this terrific professional development and networking event, please contact your A4LE Chapter Executive for details.

Have a project you are really proud of? Submit an entry to the A4LE Pinnacle Awards

The [Pinnacle Award](#) Program recognizes outstanding educational facilities in the Pacific Northwest Region. The program follows criteria from the Association's LEsolutions Planning & Design Awards Program, to encourage regional projects to also compete at the international level. Submissions are now being accepted.

This program recognizes learning projects which positively impact teaching and learning and result from a sound planning process reflecting the needs and expectations of the community.

Gerry McCudden Scholarship

The [Gerry McCudden Scholarship](#) is a competitive, merit-based scholarship program designed for graduating grade twelve students who desire financial support for their pursuit of post-secondary educational opportunities.

This year the A4LE Chapter membership is pleased to award the scholarship for **\$2000** to Jayme Myszczyzyn! We would like to thank all the students who entered, it was a difficult decision with many outstanding submissions.

An excerpt from Jayme's essay highlights the current changes to a library design that better supports technology and today's way of learning:

McLurg is set up as a single story, rectangular school with an open concept and both classrooms on the inner and outside of the structure. This design and open nature encourages communication between students as well as with teachers. It creates a sense of belonging and acceptance, and it creates an interactive environment between all grades. The inclusion of an open area promotes collaboration, discussion, and group work within class time. McLurg has also recently implemented a "cybrary" which is a cyber – library. This new addition allows students to access novels and other writings as well as digital copies and technologies at the same time. The cybrary also provides students with seating to discuss and elaborate with other students. Many of the classrooms are set up differently as each student learns differently. Classrooms have desks, tables (individual and group), stools, chairs, and rollable seats. This provides children with the ability to choose what suits their learning environment best.

Congratulations to Jayme and thank you to our membership and vendors who help to support future learning for students.

PNR Regional Conference 2023 SAVE THE DATE!

The next Regional Conference "Imagine the Possibilities" is a joint effort from the Alaska and British Columbia Chapters, being held in Vancouver at the Hyatt Regency, on April 19-23rd, 2023. It's great to have it back in Canada, so hopefully more can manage the trip.

[Watch for more information soon](#)

SK Chapter IN PERSON Conference/AGM MORE TO COME

Your Chapter Executive is working hard to bring back the in person experience we all know and love! Look for more information to come for the Chapter Conference/AGM in January 2023!

A notice will come out for presentations, but, in the meantime, we would love to hear from you if you have suggestions. We want to make sure the content is valuable to the membership. We also welcome those that wish to be part of the planning committee. Reach out to Dan Reeves at Group 2 if you are interested – dan.reeves@group2.ca