

## A4LE Saskatchewan Chapter

## Member Update – Spring 2024

### From the Chapter President

Hello all, happy Spring! It's hard to believe May has arrived but I for one welcome the warmth and the green views coming our way! With a new year well underway, we are overdue for an update to keep our community of school facility dreamers and schemers connected. This being my first note serving as Chapter President, as much as I like the design aspect of schools and communities, it's the people, networking and sharing of ideas and perspectives that first drew me into A4LE involvement (as well as some conference travelling too ;-). I hope to rekindle some of that perspective in my brief term in this role for 2024 in hopes to broaden the local membership representation and connect A4LE to others not familiar with this shared pursuit of bettering school environments.

We have a few new faces this year on the SK Chapter executive board, along with many familiar and dedicated seasoned representatives continuing to serve. Our first meeting earlier this year emphasized the need to ensure we have variety and breadth of perspectives, both at the board level but more importantly within the wider A4LE local membership. We welcome any input and involvement, and for spreading the word about the important work we're committed to: To foster open and inclusive dialogue and shared knowledge, for continually aiming to improve and adapt the educational environments for today's students and beyond. Please reach out if you would like to get more involved or know someone who may appreciate getting connected.

We are planning a few local events, some in person and some virtual learning opportunities. Further info on these events are noted later in this letter and via email blasts. Watch your inboxes or the website for updates.

I have big shoes to fill this year, Heather Morgan has us set on a great trajectory as past President while continuing to serve as our Canadian Representative on Global Board, for all her guidance and wisdom past on during the early days. Join me in thanking Heather, we're grateful you are still around to continue sharing your passion for A4LE.

Best Regards,

Leif Friggstad, President, Saskatchewan Chapter

### Sask Chapter Conference 2024 – January 24 April 9-12<sup>th</sup>

Earlier this year in late January we had great turnout in Weyburn, SK for the annual A4LE Sask Chapter conference. Thanks to all who made it out for great tours, speakers and networking opportunities. A big thanks to all who were on the planning committee and speakers. We also really appreciate the feedback from attendants for some themes and speaking topic ideas for consideration at next year's 2025 conference.

We also want to take another opportunity to thank our vendors who continue to be integral partners with A4LE and especially our local chapter.

Extron Electronics
Caster Town
Cypress Sales

Johnson Controls (1st Booth)
RMIS Engineering
Buckwold Western
Titan Sports Equipment Formations
Centaur Products
HBI
Caliber Sports Systems
Allmar
Velux
Taiga & Uzin
1 Stop Playground
Interface
Full Throttle
HVAC Sales & Air Filter Sales
Clear Secure - RockGlass

**PNW Regional Conference 2024 – April 9-12<sup>th</sup>**

The West Coast Regional Conference, held in Honolulu, Hawaii, was a great success. Attendees had the chance to participate in facility tours and connect with fellow educators from across the USA and Canada. Among the standout sessions was one exploring the rich history and culture of the Manoa Valley, titled "Space and Place: a continuum of history and culture through its people and educational communities." This session explained the profound impact of physical space on individuals, both consciously and subconsciously.

These conferences provide valuable opportunities to exchange ideas and strategies with peers facing similar challenges, specifically within the learning environments. Consider joining us at the 2024 LearningScapes conference in Portland, Oregon.

**Network with your peers in Portland!  
A4LE LearningScapes 2024  
October 12-15th, 2023**



**October 16-19, 2024**

**Oregon Convention Center**

Come join us in Portland for LearningScapes 2024. Portland has played host to many A4LE local and Regional events over the years and never disappoints, especially when there is some extra time for exploring around town.

**Early bird registration ends June 30, 2024.**

The theme of the 2024 LearningScapes is "One Association for the Success of Education" which celebrates the unity and collaboration of these diverse stakeholders. It underscores the belief that when we come together as one collective, with a shared vision and purpose, we can truly transform the educational landscape. This conference seeks to bridge gaps, foster dialogue, and catalyze innovations that place students at the center of every endeavor. Join us as we explore the synergies between design, construction, and education, and chart a future where every decision amplifies the potential of our students.

**Keynote Speaker – Trevor Muir**

Trevor is a teacher, author, creator, and founder of Epic PBL. His books The Epic Classroom, The Collaborative Classroom, and New Teacher Mindset have helped teachers worldwide to create purposeful and dynamic learning experiences. His work has been featured in the Huffington Post, Edutopia, EdWeek, and We Are Teachers. Trevor's inspiring and informative videos have been viewed over 35 million times. At the heart of Trevor's work is the conviction that every student has the potential for greatness, and that every teacher can be equipped to unlock that potential.

**Visiting Portland**

Portland is known for the vibrancy and uniqueness of its many neighborhoods, each with a distinct sense of place, and — in quirky Portland fashion — spread across six so-called "quadrants." Locals will tell you that you haven't truly been to Portland until you've connected with our diverse communities. For more information visit [www.travelportland.com](http://www.travelportland.com).

**Sign up for the SchoolsNEXT Competition**

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 SchoolsNEXT Design competition invites participation from middle and high school teams, with no entry fee required. You have the option to register either individually, as a group, your class or your entire school for the competition. The students will present their project to a jury for review.

## Membership

Thank you to all who continue to support students through membership in A4LE. A reminder that our school division members have unlimited membership! See attached PDF for more information or scan the QR code below.



## Your 2024 Board Members!

**President:** Leif Friggstad

**Secretary:** Kirstin Mahan Thompson

**Treasurer:** Kelly Nadler

**Director/President Elect:** TBD

**Director:** Derek Kindrachuk

**Ad Hoc Director:** Tyler Ottenbreit

**Ad Hoc Director:** Landon Lucyk (Newsletter Chair)

**Ad Hoc Director:** Amber Moar

**Ad Hoc Director:** Ritesh Mistry

**Ad Hoc Director:** Paul Blaser (DEI Chair)

**Past President:** Heather Morgan

**Governor:** Daniel Reeves

**Manitoba Rep:** Greg Hasiuk

**A4LE PNW Regional Director:** Rain Maldonado

## 20 Under 40

The A4LE 2024 20 Under 40 event is scheduled for July 2024 in beautiful Tacoma, Washington. The planning committee is excited that this year the event will kickoff with a social reception to help everyone to get to know each other. The events are still in the planning stages so look for more details to come forward very soon!

## 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 for \$2,000. Thank you to all who support A4LE throughout the year so we can continue to make this scholarship happen. This year's application will be distributed in the first week of May, with submissions due **June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024**. More details will be distributed via email, watch for this soon!

REMEMBER: Your School Division membership allows for **UNLIMITED** members to join under your name – encourage others to enroll as it helps us gain additional funds from A4LE and they get access to the live and virtual programming offered throughout the year.

## Upcoming Events

### Saskatchewan Chapter Events

**June 6<sup>th</sup> – Spring Film Reel** returns, so save the date until further info is sent!. This event last year received a lot of positive feedback from our sharing of current capital school projects. Perspectives on the process and outcomes, from both the School Division's and consultant's experience. We are hoping with our refreshed relationship with the Ministry of SaskBuilds and Procurement that we may be able to have them join given they are a major stakeholder and contributor in the process.

**Fall '24 – Webinar Series** The board is working on a 3-part virtual seminar series with Nick Salmon, founder of the Collaborative Learning Network and trusted presenter at many A4LE events over the years: [www.collaborativelearningnetwork.com](http://www.collaborativelearningnetwork.com). More details on topics and dates to be released soon, so you can join us after the summer!

### **Saskatchewan Chapter Conference 2025**

The annual Saskatchewan Chapter Conference is in the early planning stages and we hope to send a save the date (and location!) sometime late spring/early summer to allow plenty of time for you to rearrange the rest of your life to join us next year! Typically, the conference is planned for end of January, because who doesn't like a wintery drive through the prairies for two days of school tours and great presentations?!? Stay tuned...