

The CASS ASBOA Summer Learning Conference provided an opportunity to strengthen leadership growth based on the [LQS and SLQS](#) Professional Practice Standards and the [ASBOA Areas of Practice](#). The partnership, representing senior system leadership in the K-12 Education system, focused on our collective efforts to support professional practice resulting in optimum learning for all students in Alberta. 225 CASS and ASBOA members, representing 43 school authorities in the province, attended the conference.



CASS President Andrea Holowka, Chief Superintendent for Christ the Redeemer School Authority and ASBOA Vice President Allan Kallal, Secretary Treasurer for Fort McMurray Public Schools, opened the conference with welcome messages and the intended outcome of partnering together. The value of both networking and collaboration were shared, and how our work together, as system leaders, supports staff and student growth and learning. The also shared:

The opportunity we have to “work together, and learn together, with a common purpose” is an important reason to host this conference in partnership with one another. Despite operating with distinct standards and areas of practice, roles and responsibilities, our networking and collaborative efforts produce visible outcomes that optimize learning for all students in the Alberta. Our professional relationships allow us to work together on the conditions required to support optimum learning for ALL students. This conference is intended to highlight these opportunities to learn alongside our district colleagues as well as connect with others in similar roles across the province.

The CASS/ASBOA Summer Learning Conference provided the opportunity to attend learning facilitated by system education leaders based on themes members identified in survey feedback. Past conference survey input also provided direction for the learning themes for this conference, which were Supporting Effective Governance, Leading Learning, Change Leadership, Continuum of supports and services, Visionary Leadership and the Teaching Profession Act and application of the act. Professional thanks to the facilitators who donated time and expertise in developing sessions. Learning supported growth based on SLQS and LQS professional practice standards and/or the ASBOA areas of practice. Resources from the sessions, including contact information for the facilitators, are posted under the events tab and conference program archives [here](https://cass.ab.ca/conference-program-archive/)



Dr. Santiago Rincón-Gallardo offered our keynote on *Leading Together – Supporting the conditions for optimum learning for all*. Santiago also provided learning opportunities on the pedagogical core and education change. He is an education consultant and Chief Research Officer with Michael

Fullan’s team. He helps education system leaders reignite their power to learn and develop their capacity to help adults and young people in their schools do the same. Santiago’s teachings over the two days inspired our collective efficacy as system leaders tasked with supporting educational change. He framed our societal context as being on the verge of collapse and that our students’ flame was faint and weakening. To fan these flames, we need to take up the call to action to be warriors of the human spirit and islands of hope. He sees the conditions in Alberta through our standards, and collective focus on student learning, as possible, achievable, and indeed, occurring. Through a focus on the pedagogical core (intersection of the teacher, content and student), we are able to use our head to learn, our heart to create common purpose, and our hands to build capacity in those supporting optimal learning with students. Santiago’s session materials are posted as identified in the link above.

43% of delegates that attended the conference responded to the survey. Selected survey responses:

1. This professional learning opportunity contributed to my understanding of the professional practice standard. And I plan to apply my learning in my school authority.
2. An aspect of this learning opportunity that made it meaningful is:
 - a. *Connecting with other colleagues to build capacity for my new role.*
 - b. *Opportunities to collaborate with others in similar roles. Networking and collaboration cannot be understated.*
 - c. *Dr. Rincon-Gallardo's presentations were insightful, informative and provided excellent opportunities for engagement with the theories.*
3. An aspect of this learning opportunity that might be improved is:
 - a. *Connectivity at the venue*
 - b. *Time built in to meet with school authority teams during the day.*
 - c. *Continued focus on the newest research in education.*
4. One thing I require to further support my professional learning:
 - a. *A deeper understanding of what other divisions is doing with new curriculum implementation, mental health supports or other common/emergent topics.*
 - b. *It would be great to have more resources and sessions related to developing the pedagogical core, including strategies on creating and fostering deep learning experiences.*
 - c. *Further sessions on employment law, etc. Legal ramifications and pitfalls of our work.*
5. As a result of your learning at the CASS/ASBOA Summer Learning Conference, what have you committed to take action on?
 - a. *Continued work with understanding governance, my role as superintendent and the importance of supporting the Board when making difficult decisions.*
 - b. *We are looking at how Santiago's work on change theory is integrating with our leadership practice. We are working at better articulating our vision for improvement.*
 - c. *Continue my learning journey and ensure alignment between instruction and business areas.*
 - d. *We have a new leadership team so it is an opportunity for professional conversations around the LQS and SLQS so we can ensure we are all pointed in a similar direction.*

