

Media Advisory

Assessment Summit welcomes foremost authorities on classroom assessment

Close to 600 educators from Nova Scotia and beyond will learn more about how to improve student learning at the 2009 Assessment Summit today and tomorrow. That's when Nova Scotia welcomes five of today's foremost authorities on classroom assessment to the World Trade and Convention Centre in Halifax. This unique learning experience has been organized by the Nova Scotia Educational Leadership Consortium (NSELC), in partnership with Solution Tree Education Canada Inc.

The five keynote speakers and assessment leaders are Damian Cooper, Anne Davies, Cassandra Erkens, Ken O'Connor and Rick Stiggins. The five well-known distinguished presenters are sought after worldwide for their message to educators. "It is a rare opportunity for them to be together in one place in our own province," says Sue Taylor-Foley, co-chair of the NSELC Assessment Sub-Committee.

"These most distinguished assessment experts will illustrate why the fundamental purpose of assessment is not to rate, rank, and sort students, but rather to provide meaningful feedback that leads to improved student learning," continues Taylor-Foley, who is the South Shore Regional School Board's Coordinator of Assessment Technology. "Powerful student learning and increased achievement take place as a result of effective, student-centred assessment practices and this Summit will provide the opportunity to strengthen educators' knowledge and expertise on this important aspect of classroom work."

Damian Cooper, an independent education consultant recognized nationally and internationally, specializes in helping schools and school districts improve their instructional and assessment skills. Well-known as a Canadian leader in the field of classroom assessment, Anne Davies has worked with educators at every level and parents. Cassandra Erkens, an independent consultant provides dynamic presentations that address hot-button topics, including how to create meaningful, quality assessment and lay the foundation for high-functioning teacher teams. Assessment, grading, and reporting consultant Ken O'Connor has been a staff-development presenter and facilitator throughout the United States, Canada, and around the world. Rick Stiggins, founder and executive director of the ETS Assessment Training Institute in Portland, Oregon is considered to be a true international leader in assessment and focuses on the big picture.

"Educators will learn why effective assessment is for learning rather than for measurement alone and experience powerful keynotes fueled by the core theme of "Common Assessment," continues Taylor-Foley.

Assessment Summit organizers are pleased to welcome educators from around the Atlantic provinces, Ontario, Manitoba, Alberta, the United States and even New Zealand.

The goal of the NSELC is to provide educators with the skills development they need to ensure they become more effective educational leaders. NSELC's partners include all school boards in province, universities that offer education programs, the Nova Scotia Department of Education, the Nova Scotia School Boards Association, the Nova Scotia Teachers Union and the Association of Nova Scotia Educational Administrators.

For more information about the conference visit www.nselc.ednet.ns.ca <<http://www.nselc.ednet.ns.ca>> or call 902-422-3270.

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