



LCEEQ Annual Conference Feb. 8 & 9, 2016

Report

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SECTION I: EVENT INFORMATION

Event Name: LCEEQ 2016 Annual Conference

Theme: Embracing Diversity - Supporting Equity

The 7th annual LCEEQ conference was organized to explore the topic of diversity and equity as broad categories through various sub-themes:

- Learning Differences
- Social-emotional Challenges
- Familial and Cultural Diversity
- Socio-economic Diversity
- Sexual Diversity

Event Location:

SHERATON LAVAL HOTEL
2440 Autoroute des Laurentides, Laval, QC H7T 1X5

Event Start Date: February 8, 2016

Event End Date: February 9, 2016

Conference Website: <http://conference.lceeq.ca>

Organizing sub-committee members:

Aynsley Devine, Petros Kolyvas, Marta Mohr, John Ryan, Anthony Singelis, Jim Sullivan, Mario Tirelli.

Original Target Attendance: 700 delegates

Actual Attendance: 713 delegates

SECTION II: Publicity

Mailings:

The conference information packages were e-mailed to all LCEEQ members and/or a person designated by a member. Registrants received several reminders and an information package prior to the conference.

Printing:

Lanyards, delegates' folders, program booklets and direction signs were printed in color and contained LCEEQ Logo and/or the Conference Logo.

Website:

All information pertaining to the conference was placed on <http://conference.lceeq.ca> website.

Display Monitors:

Monitors were installed on every level to display announcements and tweets during the conference.

SECTION III: Speakers

There were two keynote presenters and five featured speakers.

- Feb. 8, 2016 Dr. Russell J. Quaglia (keynote)
Dr. Lisa Lande (large group sessions)
Ainsley B. Rose (large group sessions)
Dr. J. Douglas Willms (large group session)
Dr. Thomas Armstrong (large group session)
Dr. Russell J. Quaglia (closing plenary)
- Feb. 9, 2016 Richard Lavoie (M.A., M.ED.) (keynote)
Richard Lavoie (M.A., M.ED.) (large group session)
Dr. J. Douglas Willms (large group session)
Dr. Thomas Armstrong (large group session)
Chris Koch (closing plenary)

There were 19 other presenters. A letter and a gift card from Chapters were included in other presenters' packages.

SECTION IV: Registration

Registration process:

The LCEEQ Conference 2016 registration was completed through the conference website.

Boards/Associations were allocated spaces based on their previous year participation.

Each Board/Association had a designated coordinator who received and distributed information related to the Conference. The registration instructions for delegates, together with other pertinent information, were posted on the conference website. Conference participants from the previous year received an e-mail informing them of the new Conference.

The registration started on October 13, 2015. By the December 11th deadline, the registration numbers had not reached the target and the unutilized places were offered to Boards/Associations on first come first served basis. At the close of registration (January. 8, 2016) the conference had 772 authorizations of which 719 individuals registrations.

Registration fee:

There was no registration fee for the Conference However, “no-shows” who did not cancelled as per established procedure were billed at a rate of \$42.00/day to cover the cost of materials and food functions. There were 19 registrants who did not attend as per their original registrations and who had not cancelled ninety-six hours before the event.

SECTION V: Attendance

Appendix 1 – 2016 Conference Attendance per Board/Association

Profiles of the Conference attendees:

Attendees: 713

Teachers	Administrators	Consultants	Professionals	Student/ Pre-service	Presenters	Others
294	196	85	50	18	26	44
41 %	27 %	12 %	7 %	3 %	4 %	6 %

SECTION VI: Evaluation Compilation

Appendix 2

The evaluations report was compiled electronically. The delegates received an e-mail message with a link to the evaluation form. The link to the evaluation form was also printed in the conference booklet as well announced, displayed and tweeted during the conference. The electronic format was available during the conference and participants were encouraged to evaluate sessions as they completed them. The delegates had the possibility to save the form and complete it later within the allotted period following the conference. Reminder messages were sent to delegates after the conference.

Evaluation Comments:

- Three hundred ninety one (391) of the seven hundred nineteen (719) attendees submitted evaluations (54%).
- The vast majority of presentations were well received and obtained high scores.
- The vast majority of attendees praised the organization of the conference as well as the conference theme, the quality of the sessions offered and the venue.
- Individual workshop evaluations were forwarded to all presenters.
- The detailed comments can be found in the appendices that follow.

Appendix 1 – 2016 Conference Attendance per Board/Association

School Board/ Association	Allocations 2016	No. of Registered Delegates	No Shows	Final Attendance 2016
AAESQ	2	1	0	1
AJDS	12	12	1	11
Bishop's University	10	11	0	11
Centennial College	2	0	0	0
Central Québec SB	30	30	0	30
Champlain College	10	13	0	13
Concordia University	3	1	0	1
Cree SB	3	2	0	2
Dawson College	10	8	0	8
Eastern Shores SB	20	26	0	26
Eastern Townships SB	30	42	0	42
English Montreal SB	90	95	3	92
FNEC	20	15	1	14
Heritage College	4	5	0	5
John Abbott College	6	9	0	9
Kahnawake Ed. Centre	8	12	0	12
Lester B. Pearson SB	125	147	2	145

Littoral SB	3	1	0	1
Marianopolis College	3	2	0	2
McGill University	8	13	1	12
MEESR	35	34	0	34
New Frontiers SB	45	40	2	38
QAIS	35	31	0	31
QPAT	3	1	1	1
Riverside SB	15	13	0	13
Sir Wilfrid Laurier SB	75	55	0	55
Vanier College	10	18	1	17
Western Québec SB	60	57	0	57
Others*	23	30	0	30
TOTALS:	700	725	12	713

*LEARN, Support Staff, Keynotes and Featured Presenters, Guests.

APPENDIX 2 – Evaluation Report

Total number of responses: 391

Scale: 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree)

Total Registrants VS Evaluations Received	Average Keynote Speaker Score	Average Workshops Score
719/391 (54%)	4.6	4.1

Custom Questions	Average Score
The conference met my expectations	4.4 / 5
The Conference will be of value to me in the future	4.4 / 5
The Conference had enough variety to maintain my interest	4.3 / 5
The Conference facilities were satisfactory	4.6 / 5

Keynote Speakers	Average score
Feb. 8 - Russell J. Quaglia - Student Voice and Aspirations...	4.7
Feb. 8 - Russell J. Quaglia - Closing Plenary- Lessons Learned from a Student Voice Advocate	4.6
Feb. 9 - Richard Lavoie - These Kids Are With Me	4.7
Feb. 9 - Chris Koch - Closing Plenary	4.5

Workshops

Workshop Name	Presenter(s)	Average Workshop Score	Total # of Responses
10:45 - 12:15 — Workshop Block A			
A1 - Student Voice: Amplifying Our Greatest Resource - All levels	Lisa Lande	3.9	91
A2 - Creating Equity in Classroom Assessment for Diverse Learners - All levels	Ainsley Rose	4.0	108
A3 - Circling Up: Building Community in the Diverse Classroom - All levels	Trista Hollweck	4.3	53
A4 - Equality, Equity, and Educational Prosperity - All levels	Douglas Willms	2.9	25
A5 - Economic Disadvantage, Chronic Stress and its Implications for Learning and Teaching - Elementary	Shaun Sullivan	3.6	67
A6 - Queer and Trans* Pedagogies: A Critical, Anti-oppressive Teaching Framework to Unlearn Heteronormativity ... - All levels	Jason Earl	4.2	28
13:15 - 14:45 — Workshop Block B			
B1 - Teacher Voice: Are You Ready to Listen? - All levels	Lisa Lande	3.9	81
B2 - Multiple Intelligences in the Classroom: Responding to Student Diversity with Practical Instructional ... - All levels	Thomas Armstrong	4.3	121
B3 - Using the Power of Video to Coach Teachers in Dealing with the Diverse Classroom - All levels	Ainsley Rose	4.0	55
B4 - Combatting Homophobia in Elementary Schools - Elementary	Steve Narine, Kelly Crowdis, Darlene Miller	3.9	21
B5 - The Power of Success: The Formula for Meeting the Diverse Needs of Adult Education Students - Adult	Andrew Retchless	3.5	22
B6 - Thriving in School: Diverse Activities for Diverse Learners - Elementary-Secondary	Maureen Hunt, Daye Hardinge, Joanne Graham, Deborah King, Alison Provost, Zuzana Sevcikova	4.0	64

10:30 - 12:00 — Workshop Block C			
C1 - Fairness: The Key to Effective Inclusion - All levels	Richard Lavoie	4.6	126
C2 - Neurodiversity in the Classroom: Strength-Based Strategies to Help Students with Special Needs Achieve ... - All levels	Thomas Armstrong	4.4	95
C3 - Aligning Data for Student Success in Canadian Schools - All levels	Douglas Willms	3.4	44
C4 - Queering the Curriculum: Discussing Sexual Diversity with Young Adults - Secondary-Adult/Voc.	Jacky Vallée	4.5	20
C5 - Creating and Delivering a Culturally Relevant Curriculum - All levels	Ruth Ahern, Ann Addleman, Brant Davy, Drew Wapachee	4.4	39
C6 - Addressing Student Diversity Through Accessible Educational Materials - All levels	Andrea Prupas	4.1	44

Comment List (Random Order)

Russell J. Quaglia

Student Voice and Aspirations: The Key to Unlocking School's Potential.

Wow!, Fabulous, Awesome, Excellent, Very engaging, Inspiring, I loved it, Interesting, Dynamic, Very funny, Amazing, Great, Knowledgeable, Wonderful, Inspiring, Brilliant, Enlightening, Entertaining, Learned so much, Interesting, Educational, Reflective, Inspirational, Thoroughly appreciated, Useful, Bravo, Animated, Charismatic, Empowering, Very helpful, Lively, Good sense of humor, Outstanding, With an important message, Great insights, Relatable, Down to earth, Good food for thoughts ... (64 delegates)

Very inspirational speaker, you can tell he speaks from his heart.

Great tips for teachers and administrators.

I am so inspired to be a better teacher. I loved being able to connect what was discussed to events happening in my classroom and my school. I could visualize individual students fitting into various parts of the diagram and visualizing what I could do to move them in different directions. I have work to do!

Dr. Quaglia was engaging and his message was very relevant. I appreciated seeing the data that quantified and described the impact for many of the values, ideas and practices many educators, such as myself, already apply. I would have liked the opportunity to hear more about how best practices in schools are creating a space for student /teacher voice and how this research is influencing policy makers and or teacher education programs.

M Quaglia was an excellent speaker and engaged the audience. He supported his anecdotal style with data that made sense. Sometimes I wish he'd say where the data was from (which states) and how old it was.

Very engaging speaker. Loved his philosophy and approach.

Very motivational and adaptable to teaching and administering.

His message should be heard by all first year teachers

It would be great if we could have more sessions with him.

Very strong opening speaker

Loved that he was honest and straight forward!

A dynamic speaker who clearly demonstrates his passion for the subject.

His address was a little much American geared but informative none the less.

It is easy to teach something that I have experience before, this is the case of the word ASPIRATIONS. I was in my 40's when I decided to return to school. Now, I am in my 50's and I am so glad to tell you that I got my Bachelor in Education, Mayor in Kindergarten and Elementary from McGill University. I had the ability to dream and set goals for my future; and now, I am so happy to have achieved my goals!

There was a lot of information that I look forward to taking back to my staff at school.

Many take-always. Very engaging speaker.

Un point de vue plus qu'inspirant dont je garderai les points pour une intégration dans ma pratique.

Interesting, lively, and knowledgeable. Could do without the ablest comments and jokes.

I found Dr. Quaglia engaging, but a bit too polished, like he had given the same talk many, many times.

Makes this topic real to a room and brings the important aspects of the job we do to the frontline.

Russell J. Quaglia

Student Voice and Aspirations: The Key to Unlocking School's Potential.

Russell was an excellent key note speaker. The session flew by as he was engaging and motivating. I walked away with multiple take away messages that I am happy to bring back to my colleagues at work / professional development meetings

Would have enjoyed a more motivational and inspirational opening speaker.

An important message delivered with a degree of levity.

While many in the audience commented that the speech was both predictable and sequential, my sense is that everyone placed value in the notion of emphasizing student voice as being integral to educating students of any age. As a speaker, he was engaging and entertaining.

Great speaker who kept my interest. Loved his boldness. His message of ensuring students always have a voice and that we need to learn from our students is so important. Great presentation! Great information about student voice. Speaker was very interesting and kept my attention. Loved his boldness!

Absolutely wonderful insight regarding student voice- relevant with regards to the students in our schools

The message was a little too simplistic and I would have wanted to hear more about the "how to" than the "what"

Russell Quaglia helps put into perspective the importance of what we do with respect to individual student needs. Helpful to be reminded.

Interesting perspective on students voice.

His keynote was a little too general, I got the impression that he had a lot more he could share. The format may be the issue. Dr. Quaglia's work is very interesting and germane to us however his context is different from ours and he could have adjusted his presentation to reflect our educational system more.

A nice mixture of content and humour. Kept me engaged the whole time.

Loved Russell's presentation. He was very engaging and had great presenter skills - definitely the best presenter I saw!

Great speaker- nice to have someone very honest. Great anecdotes.

Very good speaker, nice animation & good humor. Relevant examples and nice delivery.

Very pleasant, some examples did not really apply for my school

I found Dr. Quaglia's presentation very engaging. His ease in front of an audience was clear. There was one moment that I was a bit uncomfortable. He mentioned that when going to see a doctor he would want to check to make sure that the doctor's degree was from Columbia University not Colombia. Having worked with a research team dealing with the barriers to licensure in Canada faced by doctors trained in other countries, I found his comment insensitive. In addition, if there were participants from Colombia, this could have **been** difficult for them.

Engaging.....interesting....the topic was timely and informative

I would invite him back any time. He was worth the money and he gets real life !

It was great to have someone remind us what it was to be a kid..

He was definitely engaging, and some points were new to me. Most of it was common sense, though.

This was my first conference and I was very impressed. I feel it was worthwhile. It also inspired me to continue what I am doing. It was a good time of year to have such motivational speakers. I feel February is a time when many teachers are at an all-time low and this conference helped to motivate them.....

Good use of humour. Potty mouth? - it's what we all think :) Pumped us up for the conference.

Russell J. Quaglia

Student Voice and Aspirations: The Key to Unlocking School's Potential.

Enjoyed his analysis and his use of humor made his presentation enjoyable.

Amazing!! Favourite part of the conference.

Delivered message but in a way that was engaging to participants.

Great entertainer!!! I enjoyed his message and method of delivery.

Amazing speaker. So inspirational! One curiosity: I was wondering about the 18x, etc. , how the numbers on likelihood of success in the classroom have been derived. What else? Motivating lecture. This was a very interesting lecture, and peppering with humour helps.

Inspiring & informative perspective on student aspirations and how educators must fit in to this delicate, simple equation.

Did not speak explicitly about CRITICAL equity.

Very insightful and entertaining! I loved hearing his wise words. Really motivated me!

The keynote speakers were excellent, as were all the conference presenters. It really dealt with issues that can help me in the classroom.

We arrived late, so I only got snippets of this from the hallway. Loved the audience reactions'

This was a great way to begin the conference. Russell Quaglia was both informative as well as entertaining.

Very good presentation; informative, easily to follow and great speaker!

An inspiring talk on Student Voice. Enjoyed his down-to-earth style.

He had many small statements that held enormous meaning to me. Recognizing the student as potential and not the problem is something worth repeating to others as much as I can.

I enjoyed Russell's presentation this morning. He used humor as well as personal stories to get his message across. His slides were informative and easy to read.

Thoroughly enjoyed his straight forward approach and his witty delivery.

I would have liked to hear more about strategies surrounding student voice in schools. Less theoretical and more practical.

Super engaging, but didn't have much to back data. Would have liked more in depth. Didn't explain his terms used. Got the impression we had to buy the book or have background knowledge about him and his approach.

Excellent-well spoken, great content!

Dr. Quaglia is very easy to listen to. His blend of humor and tell it like it is approach made the time fly.

He did not feel genuine.

He was refreshingly honest and optimistic. He was not simply about encouragement which ignored hard realities; his humor made us laugh at ourselves and take stock of the REAL reasons why we are teachers.

Although there was a "show man" aspect to the presentation he was able to get his message across in a serious manner,

Love the fact that he was so down to earth and honest. Could have listened to him all day.

I love Russ' quote, "I matter, we matter, you matter. It is important to let students know they matter to us.- Russ presented good information while being very entertaining.

Russell J. Quaglia

Student Voice and Aspirations: The Key to Unlocking School's Potential.

Strong message. The thread was followed through in Ainsley Rose's workshop on video and learning. Having a message that is echoed in other sessions deepened the learning.

Both the opening talk and his afternoon session were helpful and inspirational. I was surprised that he was one of several internationally renowned speakers on the roster! I hope we are lucky enough to have him return.

Very entertaining speaker with a strong message about student voice - not much presence of student voice during the session however.

Russell Quaglia was highly engaging and a great speaker, but I did not get as much out of this presentation as I had expected. Content and usefulness seemed thin.

Loved the freedom of each speakers. No guru attitude . Great conference

Too superficial, not rigorous in terms of connecting the content to student results

He was a fantastic speaker. I am so glad that I got to attend. I will definitely be looking into getting his books.

I wanted more research based strategies for establishing student voice, not just anecdotes.

Completely agree with Mr. Quaglia's direction. Students ARE our future & can deliver incredible results at every level and age when given an opportunity to do so. Their creativity shines & their sense of belonging soars!

He was entertaining, but I would like to have seen more of his research. Good points, but too anecdotal, needed more of the facts.

I didn't find this presentation to have enough substance to keep me engaged, unfortunately.

Important to pay attention to vocabulary and avoid what could be perceived as gender bias.

Very funny presentation of eye-opening research. The information about aspirations was so fascinating to me that I went and purchased the book.

This speaker was absolutely AMAZING and INSPIRING!!! I wish our Board would invite him for all our teachers could hear his message. BRAVO!

Entertaining, if a little light on pedagogy. I recognize the need for balance, but remember the room is full of educators, not a "general" audience.

I am eager to read Dr. Quaglia's book to learn more about this topic.

He presented a difficult and important topic with humour and dignity. His message came through very clearly. I heard many positive comments about his keynote address.

Dr. Quaglia was certainly engaging, however I felt that his presentation could have used more depth.

Many quotable moments, and he did what a keynote speaker should, which is inspire the audience.

Has a very human approach that caught my attention. Great story teller as well!

I could relate some of his findings with my own experience with the kids. Mr Quaglia was delightful and entertaining as well as insightful.

Loved his presentation. Found him to be entertaining and personable, with a really interesting topic. Appreciated his perspective.

The data he provided was startling, but it has opened my perspective of the importance of student voice and using that to help achieve students' aspirations.

Quaglia was funny and respectful, but more substance would have been helpful.

Amazing! I could have listened to him all day long!

Aspiration quadrant - interesting model - would have loved to learn more about how to assist students in transitioning from one phase to another.

Russell J. Quaglia

Student Voice and Aspirations: The Key to Unlocking School's Potential.

Interesting and engaging. Put us in the context of the student voice and how we can make changes that will increase all students motivation to learn and therefore succeed.

Although entertaining, I did not find the information great.

Perhaps more about diversity? Very charismatic, interesting data and links between concepts. It might be appropriate to discuss students in terms that do not polarize students with learning disabilities from gifted students, fat students from athletic ones... This is the feedback from parents of, as an example, autistic children who were attending: I myself was not struck by the sensitive nature of presenting children in this way until colleagues pointed it out to me.

WOW!! What an inspirational speaker!! I cried so many times during the talk, both of laughter and of being so touched by what he said...Thank you for choosing Dr.Quaglia!

His message made sense. It was simple, clear and to the point with lots of humor. Excellent presentation.

His presentation style set a very positive tone for the conference.

He made some great points and suggestions. I thoroughly enjoyed listening to him speak and share.

Russell J. Quaglia

Lessons Learned from a Student Voice Advocate

Informative, Masterful, Wow, Amazing, Bravo, Well said, Great, Excellent, Useful information, Food for thought, Wonderful, Great insight, Good, Inspiring, Motivational, Funny, Engaging, Well done, Informative, Dynamic, Powerful message... (27)

Good advice for seeking solutions and making change.

I loved the 10 points to remember! I like his approach to education. It's all about data but meaningful data.

Important to pay attention to vocabulary and avoid what could be perceived as gender bias

I appreciate the candid, eye-opening, yet sobering reminder that we (all educators alike) hold the key to sparking intellectual curiosity and that the student voice, although not always absolute, offers invaluable collaboratively DEEP learning potential. Subtle message noted today.. speak less.. listen closely to your student voice.

Again, my favourite presenter.

It was good for educators to hear about their role and how it influences student voice.

I appreciate the thought that frustration is the outcome of passion that is not expressed as wanted. This makes me think of the topics that I feel frustrate me. Unfulfilled passion.

Good communicator and kids perspective is essential. Voice too often forgotten.

Great wrap up

Russell J. Quaglia
Lessons Learned from a Student Voice Advocate

Excellent -was a great way to start and end the day!

Enjoyed the wrap-up at the end of the day. He was funny and engaging!

Great information in very simple terms!

A very pleasant way to finish our day.

Really good videos!

Light way to end day 1!

I love the pragmatic approach.

Awesome way to end the day!

I thought this session lacked a little creativity. He simply glossed over 10 considerations re: student voice advocacy.

Too much entertainment less so student voice focused - appreciated the humor greatly - yet was also looking for ways of enhancing student voice.

I found this presentation redundant, for an engagement expert I found it difficult to stay engaged.

Very interesting. Especially the 10 student Voice lessons.

This was presented by Lisa Lande

I just found the presentation too slick and I grew increasingly irritated. I just found him trying too hard to be funny.

Not as good as the morning session. Maybe just one session per day per speaker is enough.

This presentation was VERY entertaining, if not very informative. However, it was just what I needed after a day of information overload. It did me a world of good to laugh with my colleagues. A great way to end the day.

Remember to allow students leadership roles and to remind students they are more than just academics.

Can't wait to share with my staff!

Russell's closing session was just as informative and inspiring as his key note session. He was engaging and motivating. I am glad I had the opportunity to start day one off on a strong note, and end it the same way!

Wow, I really need to start listening to my students voice.

His 10 lessons learned were thought provoking.

Super engaging, but didn't have much to back data. Would have liked more in depth. More of same.

It was a great day. From the beginning to the end of the first day of conferences we, the educators, have enriched our knowledge in an energetic and fun way. This is a good example to follow with our students in our schools, they will be willing to learn and teach us in a truly learning community.

His words are powerful and important for all to hear.

I was so happy to have a second chance to hear him.

Russell J. Quaglia
Lessons Learned from a Student Voice Advocate

A great complement to last year's John Hattie.

Just confirm I am on the right track

Insightful wrap up.

I felt I was being fed a line...

Russell is an excellent speaker. Interesting and is able to deliver the content well.

The lessons did not connect to the topic - many were not relevant to the idea of student voice. presenter made fun of diverse populations (are we not here to work in the opposite direction?) in the name of fun.

A bit fast but again thoroughly appreciated

Very funny and engaging enough to keep our interest at the end of a long day of sitting and listening. While I appreciated the research, I still feel that our schools are not prepared or willing enough to welcome student voice. I would have preferred more strategies for administrators to use in order to allow more student voice in our schools.

Excellent, as his other discussion. Material from his own experience supported his ideas and concretized his theories.

Even at the end of the day, he is able to hold the audience with charisma and relevant talking points.

The 10 points presented hit the nail right on the head

Did not speak explicitly about CRITICAL equity.

Nothing new was learned, but good reminders.

Again, very engaging, bordering on stand-up routine, but all of his points were common sense.

A nice wrap up to this topic.

I enjoyed the 10 lessons but it went on too long for a closing presentation. Perhaps if he distilled them down to 5, it would be more memorable and have more impact. Not sure why we heard from him twice in one day; I would have preferred to hear someone different, such as a Transitioning person, native person, etc. or perhaps one of the courageous team from Sir Wilfred Laurier who developed an anti-homophobia program for elementary schools.

Again, a great speaker, but I felt this was winging it.

Good points, backed up with anecdotal evidence.

This was a co-presentation. The co-presenter was not as strong and some elements I think were lost.

The "if only" mentality is truly an issue that we have to keep in mind to avoid stagnating.

Succinct and to the point. Yet still very entertaining

Great ideas to be brought back to my school to encourage all students to be seen and heard.

Very interesting and genuine renditions of realizations and reflections I think we all have had but perhaps felt unsure of stating aloud. Very validating.

Very entertaining and engaging but not much practical was said within the presentation.

Russell J. Quaglia
Lessons Learned from a Student Voice Advocate

Great presentation once again! He is very passionate about caring about students. Great delivery. Kept my attention the entire time!

I was sad that I hadn't been bold enough to click "I will not be attending the afternoon session." However, at the end of the day, Dr. Quaglia made it worth it to stick around.

His presentation was well organized but seemed to lack some substance

What a breath of fresh air! All educators should hear his message.

Richard Lavoie
These Kids Are With Me

Amazing, Very engaging, Great speaker, Great sense of humor, Excellent, Interesting, Passionate, Empowering, Outstanding, Great stories, Fantastic, Entertaining, Master storyteller, Enjoyable, Inspiring, What a BOOST! So animated, Very moving and inspirational, Amazing Heart! Great anecdotes, Powerful speaker, Dedicated, Wonderful, Pertinent, Human, WOW, Connected well with the audience, Refreshing... (41 delegates)

Again, one of several internationally renowned experts. Inspirational and helpful.

Too short on pedagogical specifics even if his anecdotes were warm and charming.

Very interesting. I agree with how students and parents in crisis should be treated differently and a team as a whole should work to help a child rather than only focusing on their individual specialty. The paradigm shift was also of interest to me, it is very true how we look at students and parents differently based on their personal situations.

One of the BEST speakers I have ever heard. Made me feel so many emotions. I cried many, many times...thinking about students in my class.

I learned so much from Mr. Lavoie! I have already implemented some changes in my classroom based on what he talked about - and I plan on buying a few of his books! So glad that I went to his session!

Richard Lavoie was simply outstanding. Again, he was engaging and 'kept it real.'

Fantastic presenter; real life examples and a true advocate for special needs education. Would have loved to hear more!

He took too long to get into it. The first 20 minutes was just too talky.

Good message not so engaging. Needs to refresh his presentation.

A very interesting speaker! Knows how to engage an audience and to touch their emotions. His humour is quite effective as it helps to prepare us for the full impact of his serious message about fairness and equity. A spell binding presentation!

An important reminder of what our focus should be.

Entertaining for sure, but it didn't offer much in the way of constructive advice or solutions.

Richard Lavoie
These Kids Are With Me

Some very valid points were made. Loved the "s/he has a problem & is not a problem" theory.

Can't wait to read his books!

Great anecdotes, but I feel that there was not enough practical advice for teachers to use in the classroom. The research was informative, but I did not come out feeling any more prepared to help students with special needs than when I went in.

I loved his message, and have used it several times in the past few days! So empowering!

I wish I had known that his talk for parents on the Monday night would be broadcast to the Eastern Townships School Board. So many of my students' parents would benefit from hearing him...WOW!!!

Was very moving. I look forward to attending other sessions with him. Absolutely excellent!!

Rick passed on good messages about inclusion. I liked the way he put everything into perspective.

Really enjoyed this conference. Made a lot of sense!

The best part of the 2 days, by a long shot. This presentation was fantastic, in content, usefulness, engagement and emotional wallop. I teared up at the end, and was gratified to see the woman behind me was crying too - not just me! This presentation will stay with me for a long time, and I will pass on all the brilliant insights regarding special needs that were provided- shovel off the ramp!!! Also the paradigm shift. Please have Richard Lavoie back again whenever possible.

Rick Lavoie is genuine - a true inspiration.

Good communicator and personal stories were very moving. Would be beneficial to have him talk to all teachers at the start of the school year. Left the conference energized!

Interesting insight into special needs students. Humor also used effectively.

Good points (loved the three axioms!)

Very moving, gave the details missing from Quaglia. A little old-fashioned and normative for a conference on diversity. Still empowering and engaging.

Loved his philosophy and approach.

Wonderful! Really made us see the other side of the special needs child and the family circle. Really appreciated his honesty and expertise.

Definitely an empathetic guy. Not sure how easily people in general will buy into the paradigm shift, making it challenging to make real changes in special education.

Principals, teachers, administration staff, resource staff, and librarians form a big team to work together in favour of each young person who attends schools. Thank you Dr. Lavoie for your Great contribution to this conferences because I have learned so much from your wisdom.

Profoundly touching and down to earth.

Richard's passion and presentation was powerful and quite moving.

This was excellent, it supports the culture we are trying to put in. Since we are back, we put different quotes from him in the staffroom.

Fantastic presentation. His stories were very effective at getting his points across.

Very inspirational! You can truly tell he speaks from the heart. True advocate for special needs students.

This is my second time hearing Rick Lavoie. His religious bent aside, he was very motivational and engaging. I can't say that I walked away from his presentation feeling as if I learned anything new. I did, however, walk away feeling more empowered.

Richard Lavoie
These Kids Are With Me

I do not know if it was intentional but I felt that M. Lavoie really complimented Dr. Quaglias presentation.

Richard was an inspiring keynote speaker. I enjoyed how he used real life examples and stories of impact.

Brought a tears to my eyes on several occasions!

Richard Lavoie is a natural public speaker. The way he tells stories is so captivating and so inspirational that I left the conference thinking about his stories. I shared many of these stories with my colleagues as well.

Very engaging speaker. Excellent anecdotes that really brought home his ideas.

Richard Lavoie is very experienced when it comes to dealing with kids with special needs. He gave practical pointers how to understand behavioral problems and apply effective punishment. I think his methods would work with any kid. It is a skill to apply the right punishment and at the right time - nevertheless his session was very useful. Thank you for inviting him.

EXCELLENT! Very inspiring, interesting and vital info was shared! Bravo

Probably more relevant to administrators than teachers.

Concretely touched upon paradigm shifts that need to happen.

While Lavoie was entertaining, his talk lacked real ideas for how to engage in disability-positive learning and teaching.

Important to pay attention to vocabulary and avoid what could be perceived as gender bias and reference to God could have been omitted

Did not speak explicitly about CRITICAL equity.

Be Positive

Best presentation I attended to in a while

Good keynote with a good message that continues to resonate.

Excellent, pertinent, connected to the values expected of this conference.

My take home is that teachers need more courses for dealing with people in crisis. Again, glad administrators were present to hear the impact they have too.

Good keynote but often I felt he was speaking to the converted... More teachers needed to hear his message and have practical ways to apply his research.

I want to make a change as soon as I get into my classroom. I want to remind each of my students how much their well-being means to me.

Extremely knowledgeable and relevant to our special needs students!!

Wow! Such accurate information. We think we have come so far with Special Education but we have a long way to go! "We keep doing g the same things" is such a powerful message. We need to change the way we think and the way we do things!

This was a motivating speaker with some innovative ideas.

No one left behind

Spent too much time on preliminaries. A few good points, but could have shared more research. What he said was valuable, but more time could have been spent on his research findings.

Richard Lavoie
These Kids Are With Me

Really enjoyed R. Lavoie! He said things that confirm my philosophy of Education and really opened me up toward how parents of children with disabilities (special needs) are the ones who also need special consideration.

Very good orator. Great way to start the day. When one is faced with an inclusive classroom make up, then one is reminded of how important all kids are. It also goes to show psychology is so important and needs more of an emphasis in teacher training and up-grade options.

An excellent speaker. The right amount of humour and information.

I have heard Dr. Lavoie many times and he never fails to motivate me and reinforce my feelings towards all students.

Meaningful and engaging - loved the props!

Really liked his workshop very interesting and educational

A long patronizing intro. Series of one liners Then we get to some touching, evocative stories to which we can grab onto.

Very inspiring and made personal connections with everything he talked about...reminded me why I do what I do.

Energetic, good examples, very interesting, helps me to see my students differently

Dr. Lavoie made me think and rethink strategies that work and those that don't work. When he read his letter to Palin I was close to tears. Not only am I an educator but I have a Down Syndrome sister.

I loved the presentation. I found it to be funny, engaging and inspiring.

I appreciated the experiences he shared with regards to the need to be collaborative, intentional and to adopt a "paradim shift in dealing with special ed kids.

This is my first introduction to him, and I will be making a point of reading more of his work. Very helpful!

The content was good but his intro was too long. Seemed to want us to like him more than what he had to say,

Excellent ideas presented with passion.

I feel truly blessed and fortunate to work with kids with special needs! I so agree that we need to pay special attention the the fragile parents of these kids! Thank you Mr. Lavoie for sensitizing us to the parents' perspective.

Just incredible - his speech. I understand his use of "residential." However, here I was simply noticing that it has a different - or has come to have - a particular connotation. As well, can I just put it out there: why all the references to primate "studies"? This just breaks my heart, that compassion isn't taught, when it comes to other species. Jane Goodall has some ideas on this, as do others. However, I just wish we would look at ourselves a bit more closely when taking experiments on others as indication of this or that. Thank you.

Communication on all levels, so needed

Enjoyed his wit and humour.

Inspirational. It is a good reminder of why we do what we do. Strongly suggest him as a speaker for all members of a school board.

A seasoned presenter, his message was delivered with humour and humanity. While not new, I was reminded about a few things and other ideas were validated.

Enjoyed his presentation and delivery.

A wonderful story teller who drives home the notion that "we" need to understand one's paradigm if

Very passionate about his message.

Richard Lavoie
These Kids Are With Me

Love these ideas

My favourite speaker! Richard provided educators with a greater understanding of the importance of inclusion and being advocates for our students with disabilities by assisting their family as well.

It started off slow, somewhat not prepared. There were worksheets to follow however they could only be accessed through Dropbox. because of the delays, not all information was shared.

A good balance of theory, reality and ideas. Good job.

Another engaging speaker! My take away would be his take on shifting paradigms....get to know people's stories before passing judgement.

Very informative. Love his research and work so it was great to see and hear him live

Went to both his sessions, amazing to hear him speak live!

As always, very supportive of special needs children. Very empathetic for parents of special needs children. Important to hear the message.

Inspirational message - worth the price of admission!

Loved his insight and have learned so much!

I wish every student with challenges had this kind of champion

Fabulous speaker! So much insight and positivity! I never get tired of listening to this amazing speaker!

Lots and lots of great stories, that we in special education can relate too as we work every day with students who struggle

I admire this man's work in the field of special ed. - a true advocate! Great presenter!

Nice and warm message. Excellent story teller.

I learned so much from this man- regarding my students and my own children.

So powerful, so true! All educators should hear his message

Chris Koch - Closing Plenary

Very inspirational/motivational speaker, Wonderful, Interesting, Truly inspiring, WOW, What a voice! Touching, Powerful, Excellent message/speaker, Outstanding, Incredible, Amazing, Impressive, Moving, Inspiring young man, Amazing spirit! Great role model, Memorable, Very positive and caring individual, Simply awesome, Inspirational beyond belief! Wonderful life story, Amazing sense of humor...(56 delegates)

Great choice for closing plenary!! (9 delegates)

I felt like this was nice, but didn't need to go on as long as it did- he didn't really have a point besides to encourage students to learn ways to adapt for themselves and not rely on adults to change the environment always.

A very interesting speech. I'm sorry that I can't support his position as a farmer, despite a family history of farming. However, quite helpful - his energy and humour.

The plenary did not touch upon experience in school, which I think could have helped us as educators more. It was a bit repetitive as well. That said, he was very inspiring and loved having him present. But, content-Wise, there was about 20 minutes of material.

If I can... A no excuse guide to life!

How can you not be inspired by Chris! As he said himself, he wasn't telling us anything we haven't heard already, but hearing it from him and seeing all he has overcome is all the more rich and unforgettable. Great for helping us when we are feeling down, and helps us see students with difficulties in a new light.

Very inspirational guy, but confused about how his story will impact my teaching

Exemplification of perseverance.

Unbelievably inspiring! I loved this speaker!

He is very engaging but could have given his message in half the time and possibly had great impact.

Was inspiring but too long. He did not have enough material for the time allocated.

Chris did not seem prepared to me.

if I can...everyone can .Very motivational for anyone teaching special needs student. Every student is born with great potential

Interesting presentation, but not terribly inspiring.

While this was a nice story I feel that it only applies to people with physical disabilities. It's was a slap in the face to those that are suffering with mental illness. The idea of 'he has no arms and legs but is still doing cool things' is not one to be made an example. He said himself that he had a great life and upbringing. If our students are struggling with mental illness or lack of support at home this does not apply to them. I would even go as far to say that it would make them feel like there problem isn't as bad, or that they should not be struggling because they have a full working body. Chris is an awesome guy, but this type of motivation is not one that should be taught in the classroom.

Brilliant choice for the Closing Plenary. Chris is memorable, inspirational, engaging, and Canadian. While some felt he was "irrelevant", his message that 'If I Can', to live life to the fullest irrespective of perceived limitations changed the optic of many in the audience, including yours truly.

Good motivation speaker - very appropriate for the closing plenary. He put things in different perspective and inspired me a lot. I am sure he himself has his down moments but he mastered how to maintain the right attitude.

Very motivating. Used his advice and words with my students the day after

Very inspirational. Will definitely show his video to our students. Very positive and motivating message!

Chris Koch - Closing Plenary

Wow! Wow! Wow! He is an incredible human being and taught me more in 1 hour about perseverance and self-worth than I ever thought possible.

What an inspiration!!! Simple, and true.

Did not speak explicitly about CRITICAL equity.

Although Chris came across as a very down-to-earth guy, I found his presentation skills needed a little more work. His message was repeated too many times.

If I Can - gives us the "kick in the butt" we need!

Helps put all of life's challenges in perspective!!

Thank you for the links to connect with this speaker's online presence.

Wow! Chris is such an inspiration. I don't think there was a person in the room who was not inspired by him. It goes to show attitude is everything.

Completely inspiring. I will move forward trying to find something great in every day.

His message was simple and I wish he had gone deeper or wider. His presentation seemed to be lacking content and he lost momentum towards the end. I am not a bit fan of motivational speakers (nothing personal) however I wonder if he was the best choice.

Inspiring- we can all succeed if we believe we can

It would have been nice if he shared more of his experience when he had to adapt to the school system.

By this point, I was tired of participating in plenaries with white men in a conference dedicated to Diversity.

Although the speech was motivational and uplifting, there were no connections made to the previous sessions. I believe the closing required an additional speaker to briefly make those ties.

Inspiring. Always great to be around those who are positive.

What an inspirational speaker for all of us who on occasion think our life has bumps.

Excellent. Enjoyed the videos as well.

The last conference was the cherry on the top of the cake; Mr. Koch closed the plenary in a stimulant and positive way: If I can... Thank you very much Mr. Koch for sharing with us your great testimony, your humour, and your passion for life! I would love to share with my students this kind of joy for life.

I really enjoyed Chris Koch, but I am still reflecting on what his message means -- at a time when we are saying that we need to acknowledge and support diversity. His family instilled a firm belief in him that he has the capacity to achieve what he desires. His courage and persistence is so clear - but his message seems to be about the responsibility of the person to not be defined by what society might call a disability. I am struggling over his message of "if I can"...It wasn't really explored..but is it If "I" can - then you can..? Does this suggest that it is the responsibility of the individual to make his/her/their lives meaningful - or it is up to the individual to NOT set limits on themselves or accept the limits that society and schools might set. I feel really torn - because the message should have been - what are you (meaning we educators) doing to help everyone believe that they are capable and valued - and why is it that many of our students with differences (physical, intellectual, cultural-ethnic, gendered-sexual, etc.) don't feel like "they can" in our schools. His talk intersected really well with Richard Lavoie - these kids are with me - and with Quaglia's message about aspirations (versus achievement) - I wish that we had more time to collectively share with each other on why our schools are not the places that Quaglia and Lavoie show/tell us they should be. Yikes...this isn't meant to be a negative comment - more like a sign that the conference gave me much to think about Thanks.

Unusual presentation and a strong message to handicapped people - but I kept coming back to a carnival side show image. Not as inspirational as I was lead to believe.

This presentation was a little too long and lacked structure. It would have been fine for a high school student audience.

Chris Koch - Closing Plenary

It is admirable how confident and comfortable Chris is with himself, it was easy to laugh along at his jokes. His message was clear and I showed his video in my class the next day to show that we are all capable of working toward our dreams if we are motivated and persistent enough to do so.

Excellent and very timely with Perseverance Week just following the conference. Will use a few of his videos to our students during Perseverance Week activities at our school.

Good motivational story, but the message is delivered within the first 10-15 minutes of his presentation. The remainder of his talk was just a repetitive variation on the theme.

Genius to have the conference close with the inspiring and humbling presence of this amazing young man!

Loved Chris Koch and his simple, but not so simple message of just be happy. I live my life like this and just appreciate that he is a great role model of how to attain this!

This was a motivating speaker, but his content didn't really apply to the educational setting.

Amazing courage and determination. Have used some of his U-Tube videos with some students at my school already.

An inspiration. I am going to present some of his videos to my students

This was a great way to close the conference. He was a good speaker with a powerful message. I felt that he would also be a good candidate for the Leadership conferences.

I will show his videos in my workshops when I speak about focusing on students' strengths and talents and not their deficits.

He was engaging, though not 100% relevant in terms of pedagogy.

A really powerful man! Blew me away at what he is able to do (well) and especially in love with his sense of humour! I do feel his presentation lacked a little organization; many things he said was repeated. But, Chris Koch is very inspiring and a must for a convention of this nature.

Thoughtful, fun and fresh. He wasn't as polished as the other speakers, but he shone anyway. Thank you.

Could have been shorter - very inspiring but could have made more connections to teaching, students and education in general.

The highlight of the Conference! I was really looking forward to this closing plenary. The best ever!!!!

Life is good, dream your dreams and never say you cannot do anything, Live life to the fullest

He was great. A testament to self-reliance

What an awesome strength of character this man has!

The message being conveyed was shallower than I expected. So easily this could have been about a bigger picture of how to deal with students with disabilities, how to respect ourselves and our needs, how to move beyond. It was not about how. The message was that I am Chris Koch and I am creative, courageous. Why not you? You just have to want it. Well intentioned, but a little thin for an hour long speech. After 15 minutes we had covered the core message. The rest was repetition and filler.

Awesome presentation; humour, once again, a huge plus! Makes a great point about "seeing things through someone else's eyes." This was an excellent choice as a closure for this conference. Less valuable on theory but very rich in perspective and understanding of the experience of special needs. Chris used slogans effectively: "If I can ... anyone is capable of doing anything."

Inspirational; very positive message and an excellent model for ALL

Motivational and captivating. Truly put things into perspective and reminded us to always be optimistic and happy.

Mr. Koch's story is inspirational, but I felt that as a plenary for an educational conference the closing speech should have been pedagogical. I left feeling like the loose ends hadn't been tied together.

Chris Koch - Closing Plenary

Mr. Koch was personable and engaging, and his story is certainly inspirational. However, his presentation was somewhat repetitive and lacked any direct links to the needs of his audience; e.g. teaching strategies, how to deal with students with special needs, etc.

Chris was a good speaker. His sense of humour and love of life shone through. What he needed to do sometimes was connect the dots for us. He explained quite a bit about what he could do and what he was capable of, to make us understand that we don't need to put extra limitations on those around us with varied abilities (let them set their limits) and set strong expectations for success. I was happy Chris was there, but I wasn't blown away by his talk.

Very inspirational. Wish all our students with special needs and their teachers and parents could hear him.

Chris was very real and I was quite touched by his resilience and courage. Perhaps the closing plenary could have been shorter as the message was conveyed within the first 15 minutes.

I didn't see the relevance to teaching, but he was a good motivational speaker.

It was so inspiring to hear from such a courageous individual. I laughed and cried and thought about each of my students.

Mr. Koch was indeed inspiring; however it would have been more relevant had he adjusted his standard talk to take into account that his audience was interested in education. Perhaps some hints, or suggestions, for how we can assist our students with various needs to realize their full potential.

OMG! One of the most inspiring speakers and human beings ever! I too was left speechless. I loved him, and his greatness!

Wow, so inspiring! Amazing! Thanks for putting life in perspective, Chris, you are so brave.

Engaging, though often redundant with his points.

Very inspiring and uplifting, Chris Koch is an excellent role-model for all of us that lack confidence in our abilities and/or our appearance. I love that he does not find life hard, and that he wasn't bullied, that he has an awesome girlfriend, that he is super-athletic, and that he doesn't wallow in self-pity. Also that he is Canadian; we can only take so much of these American speakers talking about their state districts and common core standards.

VERY INSPIRING! I would love for Chris Koch to be able to speak to my students for them to hear from someone else that FAIR DOES NOT MEAN EQUAL..... Definitely multiple take away messages to bring back to my students!

Did not really see what the point of it was-rambling.....a bit of a let down after so much high-power stuff

Inspiring at times - a bit long

Emanated strength and positivity!

WOW. Not sure where you found him, but what a great speaker. Not a dry eye in the house!

Wow! Enjoyable and humbling. He made me laugh and he made me cry.

Very good presentation...with some repetition. Very good message.

I went tubing down a mountain for the first time ever at our winter carnival...I'm a 52 year old teacher.inspiring.

This seemed better suited to a high school audience. Although Chris is obviously a super inspirational man, for me, this presentation lacked depth.

Chris Koch is a good speaker. However, I was waiting for him to connect his own experiences to education and students with special needs. However, the message was clear, even if it was not so explicit.

Unfortunately there was no meat to the presentation at all. This could have been given in five minutes. There were no connections made to students, to education, to teachers, or to other people. It was about the individual, and even he didn't have much to say. He himself could have been better with coaching.

Chris Koch - Closing Plenary

Incredible individual and really brought the idea of abilities vs disabilities home.

Other Comments

Thank you! Very positive experience, Best one yet! Great/successful conference, I learned a lot, Excellent organization, Well done! Looking forward to next year, Thank you for your hard work, Very uplifting conference, Well worth attending, Great job! Congratulations! Kudos to the organizers, I had a great time, An amazing two days, Positive and inspiring atmosphere, Bravo! Excellent PD opportunity, A lot to think about, One of the best LCEEQ Conferences ever... (63 delegates)

The emphasis on the importance of connection with our children was well stated and I think a really important message to all adults in the school community. I liked that it was pointed out that punishment as a solution does not work. It is my feeling and belief that this message needs to be discussed often and regularly

Something warm at lunch as we are in the middle of winter. Coffee included with/after lunch. This was the best LCEEQ conference I have attended so far - many great speakers, inspiring topics, well organized! Thank you!

Love the box lunch and format of the two days!

All in all a very successful conference. One great speaker makes it! Russell did it for me.

Je préfère des ateliers avec moins de participants afin d'avoir la chance d'échanger sur le sujet présenté.

Other Comments

I PROPOSE AN HOUR OF WORKSHOPS instead of one and a half Thank you very much for the nice annual conference.

I am very disappointed that American speakers have to include politics in their presentations. Year after year, it's always the same thing. Regardless if it's election year or not. Some presenters go on and on... Apologizing for Americans??? That's way too much.

LCEEQ is an important conference, bringing people in the English sector together for some important networking. I think that the format needs to be rethought, so that we are "putting our money where our mouth is" with regard to involvement in the sessions. Edcamp model could definitely be a part of a session. It would strengthen the networking that occurs spontaneously and allow people to discuss issues in detail.

This was one of the best LCEEQ conferences that I attended. The organizers did a great job with the organization of the conference over the two days and especially with the selection of the key note speakers!!

Given the wide audience that is attracted to LCEEQ, I believe there needs to be a greater variety with respect to the workshops that are given. A teacher, a principal, a consultant, and an administrator sitting in the same workshop can be extremely challenging for the presenter. The keynote speakers can give their thoughts on an overlying theme but when it comes to the workshops, I truly believe in differentiation of the audience. There are different needs in these workshops and it is necessary to attend to these different needs if these workshops are to be useful to the participants.

Keep it up; this is the most informative conference in Quebec. On a lighter note can we have it in Florida!

For a conference on Diversity and equity, the keynotes were remarkably male, white and straight. In addition, most of the other "main" speakers were also male and white. Chris Koch was not able bodied, but that was the only exception. Seeing more cultural diversity would be hugely appreciated. I felt like there was a disconnect between the intention of the conference and many of the speakers.

Congrats to the planning committee. A pleasure to attend Kudos to organizing committee. A pleasure to both attend and participate in - congrats!!

Lunch moved along smoothly without long waiting- thank you!

Thank you. I think this was one of the most well-rounded conferences from LCEEQ to date. I always appreciate the local voices - but the opportunity to hear people from outside of Quebec is important to me.

Great conference as usual. Would like to see how to carry this thread back to a greater no of teachers.

I would have liked to have seen a more diverse selection of speakers. It seemed like for a conference with the title "embracing diversity and supporting equity" all the main speakers were white men - most of whom were American. It would have been nice to showcase some of our own local talent.

Food was great

A great deal of time and energy is put into the organization of a conference of this size. You worked so hard, that you made it look easy, from my perspective it was flawless!! Thank you very much.

I look forward to the LCEEQ Conference every year and can't wait for next year!

Very well organized conference! The video with speakers you placed on the lceeg.ca site are well done.

Enjoy the use of twitter to learn more and connect with other educators.

I thoroughly enjoyed all the presenters. It was real hands on stuff that we deal with every day in the classroom.

The organizers were all available and answered any inquiry with ease.

This was my first time attending the LCEEQ conference. What struck me is the practical information that was provided. I left on Tuesday with new ideas and concrete activities to use in my lectures. THANK YOU!!!

Other Comments

An informative, well organised event with excellent - engaging - keynote speakers.

The keynotes made the conference for me. I had chosen the data topics because they were aligned with my present position. I heard the other topics were amazing!

I truly loved the conference. The only thing I would change if possible, at least on the first day, is the boxed lunches to a buffet style luncheon.

Thank you for opening it up to McGill students! I loved the experience.

My colleagues and I liked the workshops' relevance to what we face daily in our classes.

Thank you for yet another wonderfully enriching day. So nice to be around such invigorating people!

Thank you to all members of the committee for your hard work and dedication in supporting the English community.

The conference was extremely well-organized and the facility was great. Good content in a great atmosphere. Thanks!

The conference was inspiring and I left with a renewed drive to change things in the classroom. I would like to see more individual workshops that focus on the practical application. During the conference the keynotes were energizing and inspiring, but then as a teacher more practical workshops would help to support the ideas and theories presented.

Congratulations for putting such a fabulous conference together. Very interesting speakers with important messages. During workshops, difficult to hear audience questions or comments. Microphones should be passed around so all can hear. Presenters do not repeat questions or comments.

I was a bit frustrated by some of the scheduling. For example, Richard Lavoie, Thomas Armstrong, and Doug Willms were all scheduled in block C.

As a vegetarian, I appreciate that the veg options aren't just pasta; also, the box lunch was more convenient than the self-serve of years past. It was easier to network and catch up on work back at the office.

Wasn't sure what to expect when I went but came away enthused.

I still like paper handouts!!

Really impressed with the breadth of topics this year - made choosing workshops incredibly hard. Bravo also for addressing tough issues. The sexuality workshops were a great and timely choice, and certainly didn't shy away from addressing concepts that are hard to teach. I feel that the quality of LCEEQ conferences has been steadily increasing - really top notch speakers, and workshops that appeal and complement. I have been able to wholeheartedly recommend and encourage individuals to register and attend knowing that they will be at a well-run and high quality PD opportunity, along with great networking opportunities. Congrats to all involved.

The organization of the event was excellent like usual. Registration was well organized and we zipped through, the information desk was always manned and the technical team was most helpful and efficient.

This year the gluten-free meal option was MUCH better than last year! Thank you!

I really enjoyed this conference, and hope to get back again in the future Thank you.

A big thank you to the organizing committee. Always enjoy attending and always leave satisfied in having networked with people.

Would like to have had more strategies and discussions geared towards secondary students and teachers.

Thank you for all your hard work; it is always worth leaving the school to learn and re-ignite!

I loved the boxed lunch idea - time efficient.

I really enjoyed the food this year. The boxed lunches were a GREAT idea!

The keynotes speakers were indeed very well written and researched academics. HOWEVER, they clearly lacked a connection to the theme of diversity and equity. Quaglia, for

Other Comments

example, spoke about student voice and aspirations which takes a liberal approach to distributing resources (i.e., believes everyone is equal and thus deserves an equal voice and equal support), opposed to a critical equity approach (which recognizes that individuals are members of social groups who are valued unequally in society throughout history, and thus need unequal opportunities for support and voice prioritizing students who have the most need). There are limited resources, limited time, limited energy.... we need to prioritize who will get more opportunity, more resources in an effort to bring about equality.

It is a really great conference overall. I just didn't choose my workshops well. Most people I talked to LOVED their workshops and found them very helpful. The keynote speakers were excellent!!

Originally was disappointed with the workshops selected but once at the conference I got a lot out of it. Well-chosen topics overall.

I benefited most in workshops where interaction was featured: focused, well designed questions to nourish reflection guided small group discussions materials were available and mentioned during the workshop so that I could refer to them, move freely back to them if I missed a point.

The food quality needs improvement.

The best presenters are the ones who just speak about their experiences. They are animated and they want to share and have us learn from their experience. I was wondering if the US presenters would be relatable, and they exceeded my expectations. Makes me want to go south for my next conference.

Food was great.

Lunch options were sparse.

The team that attended the conference shared all info with our staff. Hopefully more members of our staff can attend future conferences. Thank you - inspiring!

I'm not entirely certain of the titles of the sessions that I attended. Would it be possible to make the registration choice the default? I hope I'm reporting on the correct session.

This was an amazing conference. Absolutely amazing. I wish all teachers, at least throughout Canada, could have been here. Wow! I would ask that there be some sort of way for teachers to go to this conference, to make it more publicly available, accessible, even if the schools don't have the money to send everyone. I understand the costs of bringing in speakers; yet it's just a concern. Thank you for everything

In general, my general disappointment (I think) is rooted in an overall feeling that the keynotes/instructors were largely "preaching to the converted", in that much of the messaging revolved around the need to accept/accommodate/include/be empathetic/etc. A valuable message, and perhaps still a necessary one, but I was hoping for lessons on "how" to be/do this. I'm already a convert; help me to implement the beliefs.

Quite easy to get to the hotel. Good venue.

This was one of the best conferences. As a consultant, I constantly hear teachers talk about their special needs students. I am happy they heard from experts what they can do to help and how their attitude towards these students can make the world of difference in their students' learning. Thank you to the organizers. Well done!

The lunch should be better (more diverse, more choices)

This was my first conference ever as a teacher. Every aspect of the conference (guest speakers, hotel, food) exceeded my expectations. I will be wanting to return back for sure next year. Thank you so much for all the hard work involved in planning this conference.

Location excellent

Prefer buffet style lunch

Wonderful conference filled with great ideas and inspirational speakers. As always, well organized and top notch. Thank you!

Great food

Thank you for putting together another wonderful and rich conference. One little thing, if the conference is about equity and diversity, why were all the keynote speakers all the same

Other Comments

(caucasian males). More diversity would be welcome.

Smaller group sessions and break out groups would be beneficial. Tangible lessons, products, ideas... hands-on work!

Sitting in rows all day is very tiring. If we want to move our classrooms away from this model we need to do the same for our PD!

Having asked for gluten-free meal, I was surprised to have a barley salad in my lunch. Hopefully, no one mistakenly ate the salad not realizing that barley contains gluten.

This is the first time I have attended an LCEEQ conference. It was fantastic and so professional. I enjoyed all of the workshops and speakers. It has inspired me and my colleagues to press on and up with each other and our students. Thank you!

Too many carbs in the boxed lunch esp day 2!!! would prefer more veg/salad & fruit

The conference was supposed to be green, so none of the handouts were printed (fine), but then the lunch containers were all plastic and very wasteful.

My thanks to the team who organized the conference. You thought of everything! Oh - how about a book table?

Very thankful to Lorraine and Marta for their help with making sure I at least received a decent meal on day 2.

Should have had more diverse speakers!

In 90 min workshops there is little time for activities. Thus, I would have preferred the time be used for further explanation and actual strategies given.

I really enjoyed this conference! It was great to gather everyone and have such great insightful discussions. Thank you for organizing such wonderful 2 days!

I love these conferences, but this one seemed off to me. I didn't understand the theme, I felt like there wasn't enough representation of DIVERSITY as I understand it. The model of conference that left me the most excited and refreshed was when we had small workshops with teachers who presented what they did in classrooms across the province (IDC). I always look forward to these two days and hope that you don't take my negative comments as HATE, I really just noticed that this conference really fell below my expectations. Sorry.

For a conference with the theme of Embracing Diversity, I felt that this conference was profoundly and offensively un-diverse. There was not one non-white speaker among the keynotes, and while there were some nods to disabled people with Chris Koch, LGBTQ people with a few workshops, First Nations people with one workshop, learning-variant people with a few others, not ONE workshop other than the First Nations workshop dealt with racial, ethnic, or religious diversity. As a gay man of colour, I was insulted that the organizers did not make the effort to bring in even ONE keynote from a racially minoritized background. To title this event "Embracing Diversity" is completely fraudulent; I did not feel embraced at all. You seriously need to consider what it means to have an almost entirely all-white conference that is focused on diversity and make some significant changes to that end less you risk being seen as a useless joke of a conference, which I and a number of colleagues certainly thought.

I just read the "report card" on the Provinces' responses to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's call for curriculum changes to support Nation-wide, K-12 understanding of Residential Schools and their ongoing impacts on the students - and all Canadians perceptions of Indigenous people. Quebec "needs significant improvement" in public commitment and implementation, using 3 criteria. That's quite sad and I wish that our own minority Educational community would begin to take action, even if the larger Quebec Educational community is not moving forward. Thanks - lovely event.

Overall nice warm atmosphere, conducive to networking and learning!

Always interesting to be with colleagues and share different points of view

Diversity was a great topic; however, it would have been interesting if there were more workshops or key note speeches available that addressed issues related to cultural and/or ethnic diversity.

The presenters were all knowledgeable, accessible and generous. I would like to thank the LCEEQ team for organizing this conference.

Really enjoyed the theme this year and the keynote speakers. Chris Koch was perfect for closing the conference. Thank you for organizing such a great conference.

I really enjoyed the speakers. My two sessions were disappointing. Thank you for organizing the conference.

Other Comments

John and Marta deserve awards!

This was a great conference. Left energized and ready to share with others. Thank you to LCEEQ for facilitating and coordinating this very informative and energizing conference.

Please provide paper to take notes.

Love the ending keynote - Chris Koch.

Not sure the box lunch was successful

This year's conference was absolutely energizing! Thank you.

Something must be done to address the level of stress experienced by our children and teens in attempting to work on math tasks. Our teens drop out because they are insecure about math.

I would love to be able to bring my entire teaching staff to the LCEEQ Conference. I would gladly organize our calendar year to have 2 PD days so that all could attend.