MEMORANDUM TO: Student Success Leaders

FROM: Kirsten Parker,
Director, Student Success Learning to 18 Implementation,
Training and Evaluation Branch

DATE: September 4, 2007

SUBJECT: Provincial Symposium for Student Success Leaders
September 19-21, 2007

We are pleased to invite you and a colleague who works closely with you on the Student Success Initiative to attend our September Student Success Leaders Symposium. The Symposium, which is part of the Ministry’s continuing support for the Student Success Initiative, will be held from September 19 until September 21 at the Eaton Centre Marriott at 525 Bay St. A separate memo has been sent to Directors of Education and Secretaries of School Authorities about this Provincial Symposium.

The Symposium begins at 5:30 pm on September 19th with dinner and a presentation by Max Valiquette, a youth culture expert and founding president of Youthography, Canada’s leading youth marketing consultancy. The Symposium ends at 3:45 on Friday September 21st. A block of rooms has been reserved until August 30; as it is a full program, we encourage all participants to stay in the hotel and make travel arrangements with the start and end times in mind.

The Symposium has been planned around two key themes of Student Success. They are student engagement and tracking, assessment and evaluation for school improvement planning. Barry O’Connor, Senior Advisor to the Minister on Student Success will lead a presentation with students on student engagement. As well, you will receive key ministry updates and be provided with many opportunities to network and problem solve with other leaders.
We are very pleased that once again leaders have volunteered to share their “promising practices” and so we ask that you and your colleague register and choose your workshops online at www.directors.ontario.ca. Please forward this information to him/her.

On Thursday evening, September 20, we are joining the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat at their Symposium at the Sheraton Hotel to host a dinner and presentation by Dr. Douglas Reeves on school improvement planning. Please see attached invitation from Avis Glaze, George Zegarac and Dominic Giroux. This is a great opportunity for us to learn and share with our colleagues on a topic that encompasses grades K-12. Please provide information on the online register regarding any food allergies, to enable us to plan for this event.

The 2007-08 school year, again promises to be an exciting time for Student Success. Under the direction of Student Success Leaders, board and school student success teams of educators and support staff, and with partnerships beyond the school, Student Success has provided new programs and multiple opportunities for so many students. I thank you for your efforts, your leadership and your high expectations and direction for the success of our students. You have made a difference. I look forward to our continued work together.

Yours truly,

Kirsten Parker

Attachment