



UNIVERSITY  
OF MANITOBA

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### **Excellence in Inclusive Education ...** **Nominate a School**

#### **Context**

Manitoba is hosting the 2018 Social Role Valorization<sup>1</sup> (SRV) Conference (June 4-8). Please see the link <http://www.socialrolevalorization.com/en/> for further description

SRV theory and practice closely resembles inclusive education. In fact, SRV and its earlier iteration as the “principle of normalization” significantly influenced education’s journey toward inclusion. SRV helps people to have more of the good things in life through getting and keeping valued social roles, primarily through enhancing image and competence for persons at risk of being marginalized. Schools are inherently systems aimed at increasing competence. Since many Manitoba schools and school divisions are exemplary practitioners of inclusive education, we propose to display that excellence as a pre-conference learning experience for a world-wide audience.

We define inclusive education according to Manitoba Education’s principle:

Inclusion is a way of thinking and acting that allows every individual to feel accepted, valued, and safe. An inclusive community consciously evolves to meet the changing needs of its members. Through recognition and support, an inclusive community provides meaningful involvement and equal access to the benefits of citizenship.

In schools this means that all students, including those with learning and social challenges, are welcomed and accommodated, and experience social and intellectual growth. It also means that the school intentionally seeks to improve its practice.

#### **The Opportunity**

The SRV Conference attracts participants from all over the English-speaking world and we expect a few presentations in French. The pre-conference will allow up to 50 of them, educators and other human services workers, to consider how schools contribute to enhanced image and competence. Through presentation, discussion and observation, participants will construct models of what works well in Manitoba schools and what can be applied in their own work.

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<sup>1</sup> “The application of empirical knowledge to the shaping of the current or potential social roles of a party (i.e., person, group, or class) -- primarily by means of enhancement of the party’s competencies & image - - so that these are, as much as possible, positively valued in the eyes of the perceivers” (Wolfensberger & Thomas, 2005)

Participating schools will have the opportunity to examine their practice in relation to SRV. They will receive formal and informal support in understanding SRV and conduct appreciative inquiry to identify those practices they could continue to emphasize and enhance. Come the conference, they will demonstrate and discuss those practices with conference participants who know and practice SRV in their own work.

### **Proposed Process**

May to September, 2017

- School divisions, through their superintendents' offices in consultation with the schools, will nominate schools that successfully practice inclusive education. All nominees must be willing to demonstrate their inclusive practices to conference attendees.
  - Nominated schools from within Winnipeg must be willing to host tours by attendees during the June 4-5, 2018 pre-conference
  - Nominated schools from outside Winnipeg must be willing to develop a video presentation that can be used for attendees' learning
- A selection committee, made up of student services administrators and post-secondary educators, will select the best examples of inclusive schools.

October 2017 to June 2018

- Selected schools will prepare to participate in the pre-conference by:
  - Having representatives participate in a workshop on SRV principles and practice and its connection to inclusive education
  - Participate in appreciative inquiry to identify effective inclusive practices
  - Work with conference organizers to prepare for their tour or develop their video. This will include identifying staff who are willing to discuss the connection between SRV and inclusive education.

June 4-5, 2018

- Videos will prepare attendees to appreciate school's role in enhancing image and competence, especially for students at risk of marginalization
- Attendees will tour one of four schools each day. They will observe effective inclusive practice and participate in guided discussions with school staff
- Attendees will reconvene to analyze their experience and identify the take-away learning that can positively influence their own work.

## **Next Steps**

If your school division is interested in this opportunity, please contact John VanWallegem (Education Solutions Manitoba) at [johnvan@mymts.net](mailto:johnvan@mymts.net) or Zana Lutfiyya (University of Manitoba) at [Zana.Lutfiyya@umanitoba.ca](mailto:Zana.Lutfiyya@umanitoba.ca) for more information. Any school division or school is welcome to explore the possibilities. Provide contact information, including a name and phone number, and we will get back to you.