



## LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE UPDATE

We at ECIS have been adhering to our risk protocol for conferences, watching closely the developments related to Covid-19 and the associated health security measures being exercised at individual schools, as well as in the transportation and public health sectors.

Taking our lead from global health security experts, we would like to share that the ECIS Annual Leadership Conference will move to a virtual conference format, following the same dates and timetables (pre-conferences on 22-23 April and main conference on 24-25 April).

A number of ECIS member schools have already moved to online teaching and learning (following their Academic Continuity plans); please [click here](#) if you'd like to join a technology resource community, to learn more. Following the lead of our member schools, we believe that a virtual conference represents an occasion for us all to learn about the benefits and possibilities with hosting a conference in a virtual space, with lessons for teaching and learning in the event of school closure. In other words, our usual annual professional learning opportunity takes on a new way of learning this year.

We are proud to partner with iVent, specialists in the design, management, and delivery of virtual events. We chose iVent due not only to their strong track record of professional delivery, they maintain a staff of technologists, plus seasoned event professionals with deep experience in face-to-face events, allowing them to exercise live event management principles in a virtual environment. We want to provide the best possible experience for our delegates, and iVent's expertise is paramount. And yes, they're GDPR compliant!

You will be aware that, as an organisation, ECIS has moved into the digital delivery space for courses in child protection, governance, introduction to international mindedness, and our International Teacher Certificate (a PD qualification). To offer our leadership conference as a virtual event is consistent with an organisational move towards blended and digital learning practices. Furthermore, this is a wonderfully environmentally-friendly opportunity, reducing (practically eliminating) our carbon footprint for the conference, and that is no small thing during this era of necessary, heightened climate attention.

So, our professional learning will continue this spring, and we are excited to discover what we all will learn from this virtual conference. We also believe in the power of generosity at this time. At no extra cost to your school, we invite you, as a registered conference delegate, to extend a leadership conference invitation to additional leadership team colleagues at your own school. This extra-ordinary learning opportunity stands to benefit a wider pool of colleagues, with immediate impact on teaching and learning in the digital age.

As a small charity and membership association that in no small measure relies on conferences to advance international education as well as to support our annual budget, we hope that you are as excited as we are about 'going virtual.' On behalf of the board and the entire ECIS team, I look forward to welcoming you to our new conference location, Cyberspace. Please look out for updates and links on our leadership conference [page](#).

With gratitude,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kevin J Ruth".

Kevin J Ruth, PhD  
Executive Director