



From the Director of the International School of Prague, Dr. Arnie Bieber

Dear CEESA Friends and Colleagues,

On behalf of the [International School of Prague](#) community, it is a pleasure to invite you to the 2013 CEESA Conference at the [Prague Diplomat Hotel](#). Described in ancient texts as “The City of 100 spires” and “The Golden City”, Prague is a true jewel in the heart of Europe. Here, in this wondrous city, you can walk through 1000 years of architecture in an afternoon. Overlooked by the magnificent Prague Castle complex, an ancient and colorful network of streets and alleyways crisscross downtown Prague. Bisected by the Vltava river, but linked by many bridges, the ‘Old’ and ‘New’ Towns, two distinct yet vibrant areas, are home to many restaurants and bars, galleries, museums and boutiques.

While the city itself will be beckoning, we hope that you will find this year’s timely and innovative conference and this intriguing city to be an unbeatable combination. The theme of this year’s conference, [Reinventing Schools](#), should prove to be both thought provoking and a hands-on opportunity for all participants.

Our two main keynoters, known for their innovative and provocative ideas, will focus on one of the major challenges facing educators today, the future of twenty first century learning:

Keynoter [Alan November](#) will engage with conference participants on the theme, *Transforming Education to Improve Teaching and Learning*. Alan, whose latest book is, *Who Owns the Learning*, is an internationally acclaimed leader in education technology, as well as a highly sought-after presenter and author.

Keynoter [Chris Lehmann](#) will speak on the theme, *Creating School 2.0: Building the Schools We Need*. Chris is the founding principal of the [Science Leadership Academy](#), a progressive, inquiry-driven, science and technology high school in Philadelphia, PA, “considered to be one of the pioneers of the School 2.0.”

While the CEESA 2013 Conference will be a superb professional development and networking opportunity, a number of creative changes to the format have also been woven into this year’s conference. The new format will include many opportunities

for participants to share and collaborate with colleagues, keynoters and workshop presenters in a lively conference environment.

#### Mission-Driven Learning Preconference at ISP

The day before the conference, a number of practical pre-conference opportunities are also on offer, including a full day workshop on site at the International School of Prague. With the theme of Mission-Driven Learning, participants will explore the potential of realizing the school mission in the day-to-day life of our schools, and then in the afternoon, participate in a chosen strand:

- Technology Integration - *Leveraging technology in support of learning*
- Project Based Learning – *Engaging with ISP's Student Curator Project*
- Standards-based Reporting – *Implementing a standards-based reporting system*
- Creating a Culture of Thinking - *Exploring Visible Thinking and Inquiry*

As the preconference will take place while ISP is in session, participants will have an opportunity to interact and observe teachers and students in action.

#### CEESA Ball at the Lobkowitz Palace

After participating in two or three days of practical, thought provoking, future-focused professional development, the conference will turn back the clock a few centuries on Saturday evening for the CEESA Ball, which will be held in the world renowned [Lobkowitz Palace](#) in Prague Castle! This is a unique opportunity to enjoy the company of colleagues in the former city Palace of one of Central Europe's oldest aristocratic families, undoubtedly one of the greatest treasures in Prague. Many of the rooms in which we will be entertained, dine and dance in, have recently been masterfully restored and now form part of the family's remarkable private museum. Not only will portraits of kings and queens, dukes and duchesses watch over us as we enjoy the evening, we in turn will enjoy the most spectacular views of Prague from the many large windows and one magical balcony overlooking the city.

We look forward to seeing many of you at the 2013 CEESA Conference, where we will have the opportunity to participate in an engaging and future focused conference, as well as enjoy a unique cultural experience with colleagues from throughout the CEESA region and beyond!

See you in Prague at CEESA Conference 2013!



Dr. Arnie Bieber, Director

