



News Release

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## New Partner joining EXCEL Academy

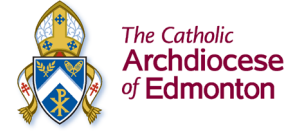
STAR Catholic School Division, Evergreen Catholic School Division and Newman Theological College are pleased to announce that Elk Island Catholic School Division is joining EXCEL Academy for fall 2013. EXCEL Academy provides faith-based leadership development for teachers who are interested in becoming leaders, enabling them to explore their faith and develop their leadership gifts and talents.

"Beginning as a partnership between STAR Catholic School Division, Evergreen Catholic School Division and Newman Theological College in January 2011, EXCEL Academy has come a long way," says Assistant Superintendent Troy Davies with STAR Catholic Schools. "We're excited with the success of the program so far and look forward to the continued growth and development of the program in the future. In the end, the students of our jurisdictions benefit most from this program – with well-trained leaders, everyone wins!"

"EXCEL Academy and its partners are committed to building strong leaders for the future and we will continue to develop our curriculum to ensure it meets the needs of both current and future participants," says Deputy Superintendent Mike Paonessa with Evergreen School Division. "Expanding our partnership will help expand our resources to meet the increasing demands as more Catholic educational leaders look to deepen their faith and expand their leadership skills."

"As a post-secondary institution, we were happy to have been able to provide the academic foundation to make the EXCEL Academy project a reality," says Newman Theological College President Dr. Jason West. "It's a blessing to see this program continue to grow and witness the impact it is having on the lives of participants who experience the EXCEL curriculum firsthand."

"We're pleased to have the opportunity to join such an amazing initiative," says Deputy Superintendent Shawn Haggarty with Elk Island Catholic School Division. "Our participation in EXCEL Academy will help further our mission of developing educational opportunities in the context of Catholic values."



The EXCEL curriculum is geared towards teachers who have a service orientation and wish to assume leadership roles in their school or division. Approximately 24 participants are chosen from across the partner divisions to participate in sessions held at their division offices and Newman Theological College.