



## Welcome to ASI 2010

### A Message from Janet Murphy, ABEL Program Director



Welcome to the ninth annual ABEL Summer Institute (ASI). This year's theme, ***Creating the Future Now***, asks delegates to explore how the effective use of technology for teaching, learning, training, and building community, can prepare students for the world they live in now and in the future.

Information and communication technologies have revolutionized how we teach, learn, communicate, and collaborate. It is crucial for today's educators to understand how these changes affect our students, inside and outside of the classroom. It is equally important to understand how educators, administrators and leaders can themselves harness the power of these new technologies to innovate and transform practice.

Featuring guest speakers, presentations, group discussions and hands-on workshops, this year's Summer Institute is both a guided and self-directed exploration of twenty-first century educational tools and knowledge-building approaches. We are very pleased to offer you the opportunity to participate discussions and presentations, to share your expertise and knowledge, learn from fellow educators and administrators, and plan your classroom for the future

The ABEL Program values innovation, collaboration, and transformation, striving to improve results through our virtual community and our Professional Learning Program, of which the ABEL Summer Institute is a key part. ASI has a history of providing professional training and development to those passionate about continuous improvement. In addition to promoting a greater appreciation of the significance of job-embedded learning and collaborative communities for institutions and businesses, ASI heightens awareness of how technological tools and resources can enrich learning and increase overall engagement.

On behalf of the ABEL Program Office and the Summer Institute Planning Committee, I wish you good luck as you seek out new opportunities for social innovation. We look forward to working and learning with you into the 2010-2011 academic year.

*Janet Murphy*

Janet Murphy  
Program Director  
Advanced Broadband Enabled Learning





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### A Message from Stan Shapson, Vice-President Research & Innovation



York University welcomes teachers, students, administrators, sponsors and guests to the ninth annual ABEL Summer Institute for a stimulating forum on how technology is transforming the way our students learn now and into the future.

ABEL's innovative approach to teaching and learning provides unparalleled opportunities to advance research networks and collaboration for education. As program participants, you are designing teaching and learning strategies that will prepare our students to succeed in their increasingly connected world.

York University is proud of the research and innovation that continues to inform ABEL's programming. Together with researchers at York's Institute for Research on Learning Technologies (IRLT), ABEL applies the latest research to inform new policies, curriculum and teaching strategies that will give students the skills and knowledge they need to succeed.

York's commitment to knowledge mobilization emphasizes the value of knowledge created through community-based relationships and partnerships. ABEL develops meaningful collaboration between K-12 educators and York's faculty, ensuring effective outreach programs that foster two-way knowledge creation. Our private sector partnerships and support also contribute resources and expertise to support our educational efforts. York's interdisciplinary research strengths and ABEL's broadband technology create unique opportunities to reach into classrooms, support teachers and improve student achievement.

At this year's institute, you will receive excellent training and access networking opportunities to allow you to exchange ideas with researchers and your peers. It's essential that we collaborate to provide you and your students with innovative and creative tools at the earliest stage of their learning. Your participation in ABEL and the Summer Institute ensures your students will be exposed to leading-edge instructional strategies and develop a life-long attitude for innovation and creativity.

Welcome to York and the ABEL Summer Institute and my very best wishes for a successful school year.

Stan Shapson  
Vice-President Research & Innovation  
York University





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### A Message from Deb Kitchener, Program Manager, Learning Connections



Greetings ASI delegates!

I would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of you on behalf of Learning Connections (LC), a program made possible by a grant from the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat, Ministry of Education.

The format of this year's ASI has been guided by the feedback provided to the ABEL and LC delegates who attended ASI 2009. 100% of our delegates indicated that the combination of keynotes, informational sessions and hands-on sessions provided the best combination of professional learning for them.

**Creating the Future Now** is our theme and a call to action. When selecting the hands-on sessions think about how you will be enabling yourself and your students to do just that! When you join a **Birds of a Feather** discussion, consider how you can help yourself, your students and your colleagues to engage in this learning journey.

Finally, consider how you can share your learning and collaborate with other educators you will meet in the next three days. By participating both online and in real time, **you** are creating your future now!

I look forward to learning with you during the next three days and throughout the school year!

Deb Kitchener, Program Manager, Learning Connections  
[www.learningconnections.on.ca](http://www.learningconnections.on.ca)

