



*Welcome from*

## **Michigan Assessment Consortium**

We are a species and a profession that likes to name things. In the masses of stars that we see nightly, a handful of them have been grouped by a common name that helps us to conveniently identify them. We gather stars together in meaningful patterns, give them a name we agree to, and from there we can converse about the world.

As a group, educators and policy-makers use several conflicting terms to describe concepts and practices within our profession, and in assessment specifically. Most often we over-generalize and take one term and suggest it means many things. This hasn't helped our capacity to create systems that have all necessary elements represented in appropriate amounts to teach children.

The Assessment Learning Network represents a serious effort to provide a forum for the many important perspectives that contribute to education. Thank you for participating in this forum; together we can begin to develop a common language and a shared understanding about assessment practices and systems that will assure a quality education for every child in Michigan and support individual student achievement.

*Kathy*

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