Welcome from
Michigan Assessment Consortium

I'm pleased to welcome you to the second season of the Assessment Learning Network. We have made an excellent beginning in developing shared understanding around high quality assessment practice and systems. We hope you value the learning and networking so far, and that you've found an opportunity to explore and share the vast library of resources we've collected at the ALN website.

As we launch a new year, we invite you to aspire with us to become a community of practice. Etienne and Beverly Wenger-Trayner describe it as a group of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly. They point out that three characteristics are crucial to forming a community of practice:

1. **Commitment to a shared domain of interest.** In our case, we are deeply interested in developing assessment literacy among Michigan students, educators, policy-makers and other education stakeholders.

2. **Community member engagement.** The ALN offers joint learning activities, dialogue, and networking for mutual help and shared information, and relationships that enable members (and guests) to learn from each other.

3. **Shared practice around a repertoire of resources.** Together, we share experiences, stories, tools, and ways of addressing the opportunities and challenges inherent in nurturing high quality assessment practices.

Please join us over the next few months as we combine these three elements to cultivate a community of practice intent on making Michigan a state of assessment literacy, where quality assessment practices and comprehensive, balanced assessment systems improve learning and achievement for all students.

Kathy

Kathryn Dewsbury-White, Ph.D.
President & CEO, Michigan Assessment Consortium

[1]*Introduction to communities of practice:* A brief overview of the concept and its uses. Etienne and Beverly Wenger-Trayner, 2015. Retrieved 9.27.17 from wenger-trayner.com/introduction-to-communities-of-practice