

Welcome from

## Michigan Assessment Consortium

***If you think good design is expensive, you should look at the cost of bad design.***

– Dr. Ralf Speth, CEO Jaguar

Purpose is a consistent theme and important consideration when we talk about assessments; assessment practices; and creating quality, comprehensive, balanced assessment systems.

Should we measure proficiency; should we measure growth; should we measure both? The higher the stakes associated with the use of information, the more thoughtful and exacting we want to be about decisions we make.

What if we started every policy discussion with a clear statement of intent? It would include:

- What we will measure
- Why we want to measure it
- Who the primary users of the information will be
- What decisions we would hope to make based on the information
- How we will report the information

Those in our industry with measurement expertise would focus their energy on answering *how* a measure should be built to meet the primary users' information needs and what the implications will be for production of accurate, dependable information.

Today's ALN session provides an overview of the methods currently available to measure growth. As discerning learners, you are invited to think about purpose and who the primary user of growth information will be in a variety of contexts. It's at this point we can begin to enter into serious social conversation about how we direct the use of our public resources and implications about which methods and means hold the most promise for providing a public education of very high quality.

*Kathy*

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