



Welcome from Michigan Assessment Consortium

We seem to have agreement in the state across public, private and non-profit sectors that greater investment in our human capital is required to protect, preserve and improve the quality of life MI citizens have now and could have in the future. This means necessary investment and alterations to education. Another point of agreement seems to be acknowledgement that professional learning for educators is a vital investment in the system.

Teaching and learning is a complex process; we are coming to appreciate the significant and sustained investment we will need to make in ourselves to become truly skillful practitioners. We can be heartened by our increasing knowledge about the power of formative assessment practice to optimize learning for all students; at the same time we need to capitalize on what we know about professional learning research.

For example, evidence indicates that the integration of substantial new knowledge requires at least a year of focused collaborative effort to make a difference; two years is much better. After three years of intensive engaged effort, movement towards a transformed learning environment is usually well under way.

We have a wonderful opportunity to welcome Margaret Heritage to Michigan at this juncture in our history. She offers research-based, international perspective about the role of formative assessment to improve educational outcomes for all learners. She also brings insights from multiple states and countries about how educators can learn and grow their own professional competencies.

Kathy

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¹Marshall Plan for Talent Michigan.gov/marshallplan

²21st Century Education Commission: *"The Best Education System for Michigan's Success"*

³Centre for Strategic Education Seminar Series Paper No. 234, April 2014