

# Welcome from

## Michigan Assessment Consortium

AN ELEGANT IDEA<sup>1</sup>: *an idea that presents itself at just the right moment, addressing a problem with a seemingly small, simple response—a response that lay dormant until lifted and applied in a way that hadn't been thought of before.*

Jim Popham has proposed an elegant idea that could increase assessment literacy among people responsible for educating students (which includes all of us).

Popham's elegant idea—

- Enlist the folks who are knowledgeable about assessment, who write and teach about assessment, and who fundamentally believe that understanding and using assessment well is necessary to creating capable learners out of every school-age child in the U.S.
- Enlist publishers that will make this content available at no financial benefit to themselves to a larger audience of distributors.
- Enlist distributors—people and entities who are similarly motivated and guided by the same fundamental beliefs—to elevate the message so that when decisions are made about resource allocation, the scales tip to successfully support the necessary investment in assessment literacy among educators.

An invitation—The MAC and the Assessment Learning Network (ALN) can provide an example; each of us and the organizations we represent can be distributors.

To start us off, ASCD has made available for republication four short essays, styled as OP-ED pieces and authored by W. James Popham. These pieces are downloadable and linkable at [www.ascd.org/assessment-literacy](http://www.ascd.org/assessment-literacy).

I invite ALN members to get this movement started, to act on the elegant idea:

- Describe an “ah-ha” moment from today
- couple that “ah-ha” message with a Popham essay from the link above OR
- share an ALN Learning Point applicable to your audience
- Spread the word by sharing via whatever means are available to you

*Vive L'Assessment Literacy!*

*Kathy*

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<sup>1</sup>Dewsbury-White, Kathryn (2018) Dictionary of Dews Vol.1 Section “E” p.5