

FROM THE EDITOR

A Cause for Celebration and a Call to Action

R*esearch & Practice in Assessment* has cause for celebration - the journal commemorated its tenth anniversary! The board of the Virginia Assessment Group, under the leadership of RPA's founding editor, identified the need for a journal dedicated to publishing the work of assessment scholars and practitioners, and in Fall 2006 the inaugural issue of RPA was published online. The journal grew from a newsletter of the Virginia Assessment Group to an online journal appealing to an international audience and the scholarship featured in RPA evolved as did higher education assessment.

Milestone occasions such as this provide an opportunity to reflect on the contributions made by RPA authors. I encourage you to take this opportunity to reacquaint yourself with the articles that have been published and consider what they mean to your work.

To commemorate the tenth year of RPA, I am proud to introduce this special anniversary issue of *Research & Practice in Assessment*. I invited the three former editors of RPA to submit articles, contributing their thoughts and observations on the scholarship and practice of assessment with as few restrictions as possible. As one of these authors stated, I gave an inch and they took a mile! These special contributors have been active assessment researchers, scholars, and practitioners for over a decade and each left an indelible mark on RPA through their leadership and the contributions featured in this volume.

In this special anniversary issue, Anderson and Curtis provide a retrospective of the assessment literature from early psychometric studies to the more recent focus on improving student learning. The authors also include a call to involve students in student learning assessment practices. Fulcher, Smith, Sanchez, Ames, and Meixner advance the process of improving student learning through the “weigh pig, feed pig, weigh pig” model. To demonstrate this work they provide a practical example for improving student learning. Brown examines assessment and its relationship to seven accountability fields through his conceptual model. He challenges readers to close the gaps between the silos through innovative practice and research.

Not only does the tenth anniversary of RPA give us a chance to celebrate and reflect, it also serves as a reminder that our work continues. I hope RPA has informed your assessment efforts, challenged your perspectives, and inspired you as an assessment professional over the years. *Research & Practice in Assessment* will continue to encourage and publish the scholarship of assessment professionals in the decade ahead and I encourage you to imagine and shape what the assessment scholarship and practice will be.

Regards,



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