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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Amy Hendrickson, NCME President, December 4, 2025

Dear NCME Colleagues,

As we approach the close of 2025 (someone please explain how that happened so quickly), I am pleased to provide several important updates on organizational developments, leadership transitions, and new opportunities for member engagement.

This has been a year of meaningful progress for NCME, and I remain deeply appreciative of the dedication and expertise our members bring to the work of advancing educational measurement. The items below represent both ongoing initiatives and new efforts that will position NCME for a strong year ahead. Before turning to the specific announcements, I want to express my gratitude for your continued participation in NCME's programs, committees, and professional communities. Your involvement strengthens our collective impact and ensures that NCME remains a trusted leader in the field.

NCME Welcomes Dr. Susan Lyons as Executive Director: Effective January 1, 2026

The NCME Board is thrilled to [announce Dr. Susan Lyons as our next Executive Director](#), beginning January 1, 2026. Dr. Lyons leads Lyons Assessment Consulting and co-founded Women in Measurement, bringing a track record of assessment innovation, accountability design, and equity-centered leadership. She has partnered with states, districts, nonprofits, and testing organizations; taught graduate statistics and classroom assessment at Boston College; and is a frequent author and

presenter across NCME, AERA, and CCSSO.

Over the coming months, Dr. Lyons will collaborate with outgoing Executive Director Rich Patz, Atria, and NCME leadership to ensure a seamless transition. Please join us in welcoming Dr. Lyons. Thank you to the other members of the search committee, Andrew Ho, Kadriye Ercikan, and Sue Lottridge as well as to the other candidates. We had a very strong applicant pool which we take as a positive reflection of the strength of our organization and membership.

Read the full press release here.

Calling All Leaders of Content and Assessment Specialists: Last Call to Participate in a Focus Group

NCME is hosting two focus groups in December with leaders of content and assessment development specialists to explore how we can better serve, support, and engage these vital contributors to the measurement pipeline. Please email ncme@ncme.org if you have suggested participants for this focus group.

New Website Launched: How to Access Your Account

The new NCME website was launched on November 18. You will need to reset your password to access your NCME account following the launch of the new online experience. Your username will remain the same; go here to set up a new password for the NCME website to access your membership information.

Membership Renewal for 2026 is Now Available!

Renewing ensures uninterrupted access to member benefits, including journal subscriptions and discounted registration for the Annual Meeting. Your engagement strengthens our community and helps further NCME's mission to advance theory and applications of educational measurement to benefit society. To renew your membership, simply log in to your NCME account and use the Pay Now button on the Membership Renewal section of your dashboard. Make sure you have followed the steps above to reset your password if needed. If you have any questions regarding access, payment, or your NCME membership, please contact NCME at ncme@ncme.org.

New NCME Opportunities: Join the New SIGIMIE

The NCME Board has approved the Inclusive Measurement for Historically Marginalized Groups (IMHM) SIGIMIE, focused on advancing research and practices that support historically marginalized learner populations. See below for more information from the co-chair of the SIGIMIE, Yi-Chen Wu, about the planned focus and role of the group. To join IMHM or any other SIGIMIE, please go to the Communities Portal and, when logged in, select Join Community on the desired groups.

Donate to the NCME Endowment: The Fund for Measurement Excellence and Integrity

Thanks to the leadership and generosity of Immediate Past President Andrew Ho, the NCME Board established a permanent endowment to ensure the long-term financial stability of the organization. The initial goal

is to raise $100,000 by the end of this year, and every dollar that you give by December 31, will be matched, up to $40,000, thanks to a pledge by anonymous Past Presidents. Your gift will be doubled and help secure NCME's future! Thanks to the generosity of Past Presidents and community members earlier this year, we have already raised $25,000 toward this goal. Learn more about the NCME Endowment and donate today.

As we close out the year, I want to thank you for your continued support of NCME and to celebrate what this community has accomplished—new initiatives, bold steps, engaging conversations, and a shared commitment to advancing high-quality measurement practices. Thank you for showing up, leaning in, and pushing our field forward. I look forward to the work we will undertake together in 2026 and the continued strengthening of our professional community.

Warmly,
Amy Hendrickson
NCME President, 2025

Call for Proposals: NCME Mission Fund Grant Program 2025–2026

The NCME Mission Fund is now accepting proposals for the 2025–2026 cycle; proposals are due by January 31. Grants of up to **$20,000** are available for projects that advance NCME's mission and align with President Amy Hendrickson's theme of **service and collaboration**. We welcome proposals from researchers and practitioners working to improve educational assessment in large-scale or classroom settings.

Find out more about example topics, funding details, and proposal requirements online.

NCME Launches Endowment to Secure the Future of Measurement

The NCME Board of Directors has established a new endowment, The Fund for Measurement Excellence and Integrity (FMEI), to secure the future of educational measurement. This fund will support scholarship, practice, and talent development in perpetuity.

Our goal: **Raise $100,000 by December 31, 2025.**

To help reach this goal, **every donation will be matched up to $40,000**, thanks to a pledge from anonymous Past Presidents.

We've already raised $25,000 from early supporters. You can help us build momentum and strengthen NCME's future. Your gift of any size— $25, $100, $250 or more—will be doubled!

Renew Your NCME Membership for 2026

Your **2026 NCME membership renewal** is now available! Renew today to ensure uninterrupted access to member benefits, including:

- Subscriptions to NCME's journals
- Discounted registration for the **2026 Annual Meeting**
- Access to NCME resources and opportunities to engage with the community

Your continued participation helps advance NCME's mission to improve theory and practice in educational measurement for the benefit of society.

How to Renew:

1. [Log in to your NCME account](#)
2. Click the **Pay Now** button in the Membership Renewal section of your dashboard

☐ **Need to reset your password?** With NCME's new online experience, you'll need to set a new password (your username remains the same). [Go here to reset your password](#).

For questions about your membership, access, or payment, please contact us at ncme@ncme.org. Thank you for being an essential part of the NCME community!

NCME Budget & Finance Committee Update

The NCME Budget & Finance Committee members are Chair Sonya Powers (Edmentum), David Rutkowski (Indiana University), Nathan Wall (eMetric), Chunyan Liu (NBME), and Sarah Quesen (WestEd).

The committee plays the important role of monitoring all things financial for NCME, working closely with NCME's Executive Director (Rich Patz), NCME's Board of Directors (including President Amy Hendrickson), and NCME's management company, Atria, (especially David Teske, Head of Finance). With Atria taking over the management role, there have been a lot of changes behind the scenes in terms of financial accounts and budget templates.

Sonya Powers

This continues to be a work in progress. NCME also has a financial

advisor (Guarascio Consultants, LLC) review NCME's savings and investments twice a year, verify that we are in alignment with the investment policy, and provide recommendations for changes given current financial forecasts. The good news is that NCME is in great financial shape. We are expected to do better than break even in 2025, and are working on a break-even budget for 2026!

The committee will have one opening this spring, so if anyone is interested in joining us for a three-year commitment, feel free to reach out!

Call for Nominations: Editor of the NCME Book Series

NCME seeks nominees for the role of Editor, NCME Applications of Educational Measurement and Assessment Book Series, who will work with an Editorial Board, and will lead this initiative from April 2026 through April 2030 (4-year term).

Applications are **due by January 10, 2026**, and the new editor will be appointed by February 2026. The selected Editor will begin shadowing the current Editor through the remainder of her term. Please email nominations to Hong Jiao and Christopher Runyon, Co-Chairs, Publications Committee at ncmepubs@gmail.com.

Find out more.

Call for Nominations: 2026 NCME Annual Awards

The NCME Annual Awards and Recognition Program honors outstanding contributions to the field of educational measurement. **We invite you to nominate a colleague, mentor, student, or yourself, for one of NCME's six prestigious awards.**

The nomination deadline is January 9, 2026. Find full award details and submission information online.

Award recipients will be recognized at the 2026 NCME Annual Meeting, April 8–11 in Los Angeles.

Call for Proposals: Graduate Student Research Awards

Two graduate student awards, the Covington Award and the Validity and Fairness Research Award, are currently accepting proposals. These awards are sponsored by the National Conference of Bar Examiners (NCBEX). For questions, please contact Bob Schwartz at bschwartz@ncbex.org.

NCME SIGIMIE NEWS

AMSCL SIGIMIE Call for Members

NCME has approved a new SIGIMIE, Assessment and Measurement to Support Classroom Learning. The focus of the AMSCL SIGIMIE is on how classroom assessment and educational measurement interact to promote student learning. The purposes of the SIGIMIE include initiating, reviewing, and disseminating high-quality theory, research, and practice, and supporting early career scholars and graduate students. We ask all interested NCME members to consider joining, which you can do at communities.ncme.org.

New NCME SIGIMIE: Inclusive Measurement for Historically Marginalized Groups (IMHM)

We are excited to announce the launch of a new SIGIMIE—**Inclusive Measurement for Historically Marginalized Groups (IMHM)**— dedicated to supporting historically marginalized learner populations and examining the measurement practices that shape their educational experiences. This group centers the belief that meaningful progress in educational measurement requires close attention not only to **who** is being assessed, but also to **how** assessments are designed, validated, and interpreted. Because students' overlapping identities shape their diverse experiences with testing, our work focuses on research, collaboration, and dialogue to develop assessment practices that serve all learners fairly.

Dr. Yi-Chen Wu

To join IMHM, you can select Join Community in the Communities Portal. Please join us for our kickoff event on **Friday, January 9, 2026, at 1 p.m. Easern**, where we will introduce SIGIMIE's goals, invite member input, and begin building a community committed to equity-driven measurement.

UPCOMING EVENTS

AIME SIGIMIE Speaker Series: Predicting Item Difficulty for Pretest Items in Large-Scale Assessments

 December 10, 4–5 p.m. Eastern
 Virtual
➡ **RSVP**
ⓘ **Read more online**

Pretesting items in large-scale assessments requires substantial time, resources, and financial investment. Accurately predicting item difficulty before any administration can streamline pretesting, reduce costs, and provide earlier feedback to item writers, supporting targeted revisions that better align with intended difficulty. Effective difficulty prediction methods, therefore, have the potential to improve both efficiency and quality in item development and pool management.

Educators of Measurement SIGIMIE: Cafe AI: An Educators of Measurement SIGIMIE Coffee Hour

 January 14, 3–4 p.m. Eastern
 Virtual
➡ **RSVP**
ⓘ **Read more online**

Committee on Informing Assessment Policy: Future of K12 Webinar

 January 29, Noon–1:30 p.m. Eastern
 Virtual
➡ **RSVP**
ⓘ **Read more online**

This panel webinar brings together assessment experts and state leaders to discuss the future of K12 state summative assessments.

Latest from the Nation's Report Card: Tools, Tips, and Tricks

 February 18, 4–5 p.m. Eastern
 Virtual
➡ **Join**
ⓘ **Read more online**

Join the LSA SIGIMIE on February 18 for the "Latest from the Nation's Report Card: Tools, Tips, and Tricks," presented by Dr. Enis Dogan.

NCME JOURNAL ARTICLE HIGHLIGHTS

Reimagining Universal Design Across the Assessment Lifecycle

By Cara Cahalan Laitusis, Meagan Karvonen

As conversations around fairness in assessment evolve, this article proposes a new framework: **Universal Design of Assessment Systems**. Expanding on the original principles of universal design, the authors argue for a system-wide approach that spans the entire assessment lifecycle—from construct definition to score interpretation and use.

Grounded in psychological theory and informed by current understandings of neurodiversity, multilingualism, and culture, the framework emphasizes autonomy, competence, and relatedness. It also incorporates *tolerance for error*, encouraging designs that anticipate unintended actions and reduce potential harm.

The article outlines practical applications across classroom, state, and professional testing contexts, and offers recommendations for future versions of the *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing*.

☐ *[Learn more about this article and EM: IP.](#)*

Aligning Competency-Based Education with Skills for the Future

By Teresa M. Ober, Lei Liu, David Nitkin, and Ou Lydia Liu

As demand grows for skills like collaboration and critical thinking, this article explores how **competency-based education (CBE)** can align with future-facing learning models. The authors highlight *Skills for the Future*, a joint initiative by ETS and the Carnegie Foundation, which aims to transform how essential skills are identified, demonstrated, and recognized.

The paper introduces a proposed **skills ecosystem**—a comprehensive framework that includes skill-based assessment, credentialing, data systems, and professional learning communities. Through five school and program case studies, the authors show how components of this ecosystem can support students and educators while strengthening community engagement.

This work offers practical insights for reimagining CBE models that prepare learners for long-term success across life domains.

☐ *Learn more about this article and CEJEME.*

Using GPT-4 to Improve Automatic Scoring with Imbalanced Data

By Luyang Fang, Gyeonggeon Lee, and Xiaoming Zhai
Automatic scoring systems often struggle with **imbalanced response data**, particularly when few examples exist in certain scoring categories. This article presents a novel approach that uses **GPT-4** to generate synthetic student responses for underrepresented categories, improving scoring model performance.

Using responses to four science items, the authors fine-tuned DistilBERT models on both original and GPT-4–augmented datasets. Results showed that adding 20–40% synthetic data led to **notable improvements in precision and F1 scores**, suggesting that large language models like GPT-4 can serve as effective tools for data augmentation in educational assessment.

The study offers promising evidence for the use of generative AI in enhancing fairness and accuracy in automated scoring.

☐ *Learn more about this article and JEM.*

NCME Career Center

Now Hiring: Research Scientist (Open Rank) at ETS

ETS is hiring a Research Scientist (Open Rank) to join the Large-Scale Assessment (LSA) Foundational Research program within the ETS Research Institute. This full-time, exempt position offers the opportunity to conduct and publish research on survey sampling, missing data, and latent variable models in large-scale assessment contexts.

The successful candidate will collaborate on operational projects, mentor junior staff, and contribute to methodological innovation across

assessment programs. Applicants must hold a Ph.D. in statistics, psychometrics, or a related field, have 3+ years of relevant experience, and demonstrate expertise in at least one core area. Proficiency in R, Python, or SAS is preferred.

Find out more and apply online.

Now Hiring: Senior Research Scientist at College Board

The College Board is hiring a **Senior Research Scientist** to lead foundational research on **college and career readiness**, including the core **validity studies for the digital SAT**. This full-time, exempt role is a unique opportunity to shape how educational assessments are validated and used in K–12 and higher education contexts.

The ideal candidate will bring deep expertise in **educational measurement**, **validity research**, and **statistical methodology**, with strong hands-on experience in Python, R, or SAS. A track record of independent research, publication, and mentorship is essential.

Find out more and apply online.

Now Hiring: Assistant/Associate Professor & Assessment Specialist at JMU

James Madison University's **Center for Assessment and Research Studies (CARS)** and **Department of Graduate Psychology** invite applications for a **12-month, tenure-track** position at the **Assistant or Associate Professor** level, with a joint role as **Assessment Specialist**.

The successful candidate will contribute to JMU's nationally recognized assessment initiatives and the Ph.D. program in Assessment & Measurement. Responsibilities include teaching two courses per year, advising graduate students, conducting research, and supporting campus outcomes assessment.

Find out more and apply online.

The NCME board is temporarily waiving fees for posting jobs at our NCME Career Center for all newly advertised positions. We hope any members who may have lost their positions can harness the NCME network, as well as the opportunity to meet in person at our annual meeting, to find new opportunities. To post a Job, check here.

To post your hiring information in the News@NCME Newsletter, please email News@NCME.org for details.