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From the Editors

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From the Editors...

by Patricia A. Edwards and Tanya S. Wright

Dear *MRJ* Readers,

Thank you for believing in us. Thank you for all of the wonderful comments we received about our inaugural issue of the *Michigan Reading Journal*. The privilege of editing *MRJ*, a journal rich with history and mission, is an honor that we treasure.

Winter is upon us, and we hope to find you sitting beside a fire, wrapped in a cozy blanket, enjoying our second issue of *MRJ*. As you are reading and enjoying this issue, we want you to thank our new layout and design person—Susan Harring—for creating a new and up-to-date look for *MRJ*.

In this issue, we have included two research-to-practice articles on writing instruction and classroom-based assessment. For the popular *Critical Issues* section, we provide a discussion of the new M-STEP Assessment, with information from the Michigan Department of Education, a history of Testing policies, and an opinion from the Michigan Association of Secondary School Principals on the new assessments. One MSU Educational Policy doctoral student and one Curriculum, Instruction, and Teacher Education doctoral student—Stefanie Marshall and Cassie J. Brownell—collaborated to discuss the evolution of ESEA and the M-STEP. *Voices from Around the State* was well-received by our readers in the inaugural issue, and in this issue we have teacher tips from Sarah Carter and Julie Hirschert, at Romulus Community Schools, and from Katie Davis and Krista Hunsanger, at Grand Ledge Public Schools. Writing from an *Intermediate School District's* perspective, Melissa Brooks-Yip from the Washtenaw Intermediate School District describes teacher networks for professional development. Brandy Archer from the Michigan Department of Education provides a closer look at intentional early literacy and early mathematics practices that are recommended by the state. We provide reviews of professional texts for teachers in a column titled *Must Read Texts*, which is edited by Dr. Kathy Highfield and Dr. Laura Pardo. We also include a column edited by Dr. Laura Apol entitled, *For the Love of Literature: Awards*.

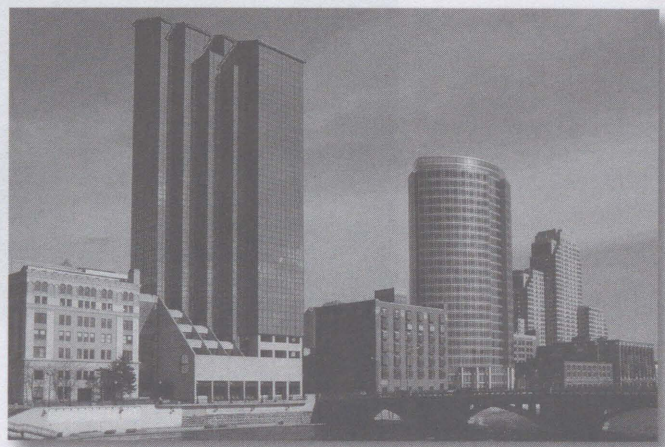
We encourage our readers to read updates and information about the journal by visiting the Michigan Reading Association page on Facebook, following @michiganreading on Twitter, and searching and following Michigan Reading Association on Pinterest. Also, we hope you have received and responded to our *MRJ Survey: What's Hot and What's Not* in literacy in Michigan, which was sent via email by the Michigan Reading Association. At the Michigan Reading Association Conference in Grand Rapids, we plan to share the results of the survey in two different featured



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sessions on Sunday, March 29th. You will learn more about what our readers want to see included in the journal and what is important to you, our readers, as well as ways you can get involved and contribute to the journal. We hope to see you at the 59th Annual Meeting of the Michigan Reading Conference in Grand Rapids, March 27-30, 2015.

Our journal email address is mrj@msu.edu. We invite you to join the conversation by contributing to *MRJ*. Please email article submissions that are appropriate for any of the sections in our journal to our new email address. We look forward to hearing from you.

We would like to again thank our fantastic editorial team of Laura Hopkins and Kristen White. These wonderful MSU doctoral students have been indispensable in supporting our work on this journal. We would also like to thank Laura Guzman, Jessie Hughey, Michigan Reading Association President, Dee Halstead, as well as the MRA Board for supporting our efforts.

We hope that you enjoy our second issue of *MRJ* and that you will continue to tell your friends and colleagues about us. Happy reading!

Warmest Regards,

Patricia A. Edwards and Tanya S. Wright

Co-Editors, *Michigan Reading Journal*

