Welcome to this International Conference on Assessment for Learner Responsibility

My name is David Nicol and I am the Director of the Re-Engineering Assessment Practices project (REAP for short) led by the University of Strathclyde in Scotland. Over the last two years, the REAP project has had a major impact on assessment practices and educational strategy within three Scottish Higher Education institutions. We have redesigned assessments supported by technology in 22 modules involving over 6000 students and have examined the institutional implications of these changes.

This Online Conference is an opportunity to hear about REAP and about similar initiatives from across the world and to share and develop our understanding of assessment theory and practice. Over 650 delegates in 44 different countries are joining us online to examine and discuss the role that assessment plays in developing responsible and autonomous learners.

During the next three days there will be opportunities to chat online with **international** experts in the field of assessment. We have:

Trudy Banta, Professor of Higher Education and Vice Chancellor of Planning and Institutional Improvement at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis, **USA**. She and her colleagues will be discussing the use of electronic portfolios to assess learning.

David Boud, Professor of Adult Education and Dean of the University Graduate School at the University of Technology Sydney, **Australia.** He will be asking what should be the purpose of assessment and he will be leading discussions on the nature of great assessment designs.

Mantz Yorke (from the UK), Visiting Professor in the Department of Educational Research, Lancaster University, **UK** talking about Assessment and the first Year Experience

The Conference case study library offers over 60 examples of innovative assessment approaches from different disciplines, contexts and countries. The authors of 16 of these case studies will be available during the conference to discuss their contributions and to answer questions from participants. There will also be panel sessions on assessment principles and a session on student participation in assessment design with students from both the US and the UK participating in the discussion. Experts from across the world will provide commentary on these sessions and will contribute to the discussions. For example, Derek Rowntree (UK), Steve Ehrmann (US), Terry Mayes (UK), Peter Kandlbinder (AUS) and Lewis Elton (UK).

For each session (keynotes, case studies and panel sessions) there will be a programmed hour of synchronous chat followed by discussion forums that will be open throughout the conference. This will provide you with opportunities for leisurely and thoughtful debate. All of the conference discussions and chat sessions will be captured and archived, creating a unique snapshot of current thinking on assessment and a valuable resource for future researchers.

This Online Conference offers a unique stage where leading edge experts, practitioners and enthusiasts from across the world can share their knowledge and practices. We are confident that this event will help reaffirm the pivotal role of assessment in our educational practices.

Finally, I would like take this opportunity to offer a heartfelt thanks to the REAP team, Catherine Owen, Martin Hawksey and Jenny Booth for making this conference possible, to Rachel Harris and Alison Muirhead from Inspire Research for helping organise this event, to Jim Everett for constructing the online environment and to Linda Creanor, Gillian Roberts

and Steve Draper, our partners in the REAP project at Glasgow Caledonian and Glasgow Universities.

That's all from me. I really hope you enjoy this conference –now it's over to you.

We hope that you enjoy this experience.

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