April 28, 2014

Greetings to all MI/AIR Members!

Your steering committee has been hard at work developing the Annual Conference to be held November 5-7, 2014 at the DoubleTree hotel in scenic Port Huron. Please plan to join us!

The theme of this year's Conference is "*Bridging the Gap: From Data to Decision-Making*." The central role data play in institutional and organizational decision-making is undeniable. As our profession is transformed by new tools and approaches, the need to translate analytical insights into actionable policy becomes crucial, and more difficult. This raises important questions and we hope many of you will share you insights to begin answering them.

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What immediate and long-term impacts are data having on your institution?
What strategies and processes are you following to engage senior leadership and key stakeholders?
In what ways is your work changing to provide better linkage between data and decision-making?
Which tools and approaches are you using to facilitate communication and dissemination of data?
What challenges are you facing in making data more actionable?
How are you evaluating the impact of data-driven practices within your institution?

Our Conference will begin Wednesday afternoon, November 5th, with multiple pre-conference workshops for our membership. Please stay tuned for complete details. Thursday will be a full day of stimulating breakout. We will continue Friday morning with additional breakout sessions before ending at noon. More specifics will be forthcoming but we guarantee a great event.

Mark your calendar for this event, and consider what you can share with the rest of us. We had a great response last year, resulting in a variety of engaging presentations and discussions. _We welcome submissions on all topics_, including but not limited to topics related to this year's theme, broadly construed. *See the Call for Papers/Presentation Form attached. This year's proposal submission deadline is midnight Friday, June 27th*. Everyone who submits a proposal will hear from the committee by the end of July.

Keep in mind that this is a great opportunity for students. Please share this letter and the Call for Papers/Presentation; a student grant application is included. If you have questions, do not hesitate to contact any member of the Steering Committee.

Sincerely,

The MI/AIR Steering Committee