

Prof. Stephen Sireci, President of ITC

I was working for the GED Testing Service in 1993 when my boss asked me if the English and Spanish versions of the GED exam could be used to issue the same diploma. My reply was the issues in cross-lingual assessment were very complex, and I requested funds to put together a psychometric panel of three outside experts to help advise us on this issue. My superiors agreed and allocated the funds. The first person I called was a mentor and an idol who many of you will know—Ron Hambleton. The conversation went something like this:

Me: *“Hi Ron. I know you don’t know much about testing people across different languages, but I am putting together a panel of advisors on the topic of the equivalency of the English and Spanish GED and I would love it if you could be on it.”*

Ron: [slight chuckle] *“Well you know Steve, I’m currently chairing the ITC’s committee for developing guidelines on test translation and so I am somewhat familiar with the issues.”*

Me: *“Really? What’s the ITC?”*

So went my introduction to the International Test Commission, and soon after I read with interest every ITC guideline and newsletter, attended every conference I could, and became a huge fan of the organization. I was honored to co-edit ITC’s flagship journal, the *International Journal of Testing* from 2008-2013 (with Rob Meijer and April Zenisky), honored to serve on the ITC Council from 2014 to 2020, and now I am truly humbled to serve as President. I owe so much to the ITC—such as acquiring friends and colleagues throughout the world. Now, it is time to give back. What I hope I can give is a continuation of the strong leadership that has kept the ITC blossoming through good times and bad, and engage the membership in helping us improve the science and practice of educational and psychological testing worldwide.

Speaking of engaging the membership, I hope you can become more involved in our organization. Of course we want to see you at our 2024 Conference in Granada, but we also need your help serving on ITC Committees and spreading the word about ITC publications, conferences, and products. In particular, note that all of the ITC Guidelines are freely available on our website (many of which are available in several languages), the ITC Learning Center (which contains numerous instructional modules on basic and complex issues in assessment) is also available for free to members of the ITC, and our journal and newsletter contain some of the most important developments in testing. Spread the word and share your talents with us! If you are not a current member of the ITC join now (click here: <https://www.intestcom.org/page/8>)!

As President of the ITC, I have a few strategic objectives. The first is to solidify our mission statement, and develop some goals that will help us achieve our

mission. Although we do not have a formal mission statement, the "About the ITC" page on our website describes us as an "Association of national psychological associations, test commissions, publishers and other organizations committed to promoting effective testing and assessment policies and to the proper development, evaluation and uses of educational and psychological instruments." I believe that is a good start on a mission statement, but needs further development. For example, we need to acknowledge we have individual members, and I believe we should include an altruistic charge in that we believe promoting valid, fair, and effective testing practices will benefit society. Stay tuned for more updates on this initiative. We will survey the membership soon to get your input.

A second strategic initiative is to improve the management of the ITC. We have historically been run by a small number of superstars who have been exceedingly generous in devoting time and service to the ITC. Many people, such as David Bartram and Dragos Iliescu come immediately to mind, but there are many others (e.g., Past-President Aletta Odendaal, newsletter and journal editors, Council members, committee members, etc.). I am thankful for these leaders, and I realize with our current Council members and the Executive Committee—Kadryie Ercikan (President-Elect), Anita Hubley (Treasurer), and April Zenisky (Secretary-General)—we are well positioned for success. However, we need more non-volunteer support. For too long our Office Manager, Ananda van Tonder, has carried our organization on her back. I hope to find additional support, hopefully from a management association, to help Ananda manage and grow our organization. We plan to issue a Request for Information for such help in early 2023.

My third and fourth initiatives are related—grow our membership and promote our publications and products. By making others aware of the benefits of ITC membership such as our publications and products, we should entice more organizations and people to join. We have just completed a new publication developed jointly with the Association of Test Publishers—*Guidelines for Technology-Based Assessments*. This document is approximately 150 pages, involving contributions from 40 authors around the world, and the involvement of dozens of other colleagues in its design and development. Please spread the word about this document, and the other ITC Guidelines, which can be found here: <https://www.intestcom.org/page/28>. It was a pleasure to work with ATP on these guidelines, as we have common interests and overlapping memberships. Thus, I anticipate additional collaborations in the future. But we need to do more to partner with others and grow our membership. In particular, we need to reach out to colleagues around the globe who operate in countries without strong research organizations related to testing. We have two committees to help engage and grow our membership—the Membership Involvement and Marketing Committee, chaired by Peter MacQueen, and the Outreach and Capacity Building Committee., chaired by Felipe Valentini. Perhaps most exciting in this area is the formation of a new Digital Communications Committee, led by Sabrena Arosh, Justin August, and Pia Zeinoun. This new Committee should light up Twitter, LinkedIn and other social media with ITC news and activities.

Speaking of ITC activities, I am looking forward to welcome you all to Granada in July 2024 for the ITC Conference. It has been too long since we have engaged in person, and we have one of the most talented team of accomplished researchers in international testing hosting us—Isabel Benitez Baena, Luis Manuel Lozano, and Jose-Luis Padilla from the University of Granada. Gracias Isabel, Luisa, y Jose-Luis! Esperemos verte in Granada! Stay tuned for the call for proposals and other conference details as they unfold.

Before closing, I would like to reiterate what I stated at the beginning of this message—I am a big fan of the ITC. I realize the importance of this organization for providing a professional home for those working in assessment across the globe, and to make educational and psychological testing fair, valid, and effective tools that can help inform and empower people, wherever they may live, whatever their socioeconomic status, and whatever their cultural heritage. These are exciting times for educational and psychological assessment, and I am honored and excited to help ITC continue its leadership role in promoting the best research and practices in testing worldwide.