Member Spotlight: Erika Landl

Affiliation: National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment (a.k.a. The Center for Assessment)

Position: Senior Associate

What do you currently do? Are you working on anything in particular you’d like to briefly share with the NCME community?

I help state and district customers design and implement assessment and accountability systems that reflect their policy goals and priorities. Recently I have been working with states to identify information that could be collected from schools to contextualize the interpretation of post-COVID assessment results and incentivize practices that will promote student learning (e.g., measures reflecting students' access to technology and engagement, schools' plans for monitoring students' emotional well-being).

What sparked your initial interest in educational measurement?

While working on my Master’s Degree in Educational Psychology at University of Iowa I took an Experimental Design course taught by Dr. Tim Ansley who was the Director of the Iowa Testing Programs. I enjoyed it so much I began taking additional graduate courses in the Ed Measurement program and obtained a master’s in that program as well. Working for Dr. Jon Twing as a Research Associate at Pearson solidified my love for measurement, so I went back to Iowa to finish my PhD.

What does NCME mean to you?

NCME’s publications allow me to keep track of the important work being done by colleagues in the field. The annual conference provides an opportunity for me to connect with old friends, meet new ones, and share my ideas with others working to address similar problems of practice.

If you could be any fruit, which would it be?

An avocado, because it is unique and can be made into a fabulous snack (guacamole)! that makes people smile and is often accompanied by a beer.