



August 2017

Dear Principal:

The North Carolina Science Teachers Association (NCSTA) will be hosting our 47<sup>th</sup> Professional Development Institute (PDI) October 19-20 at the Koury Convention Center in Greensboro. We are also continuing our Friday workshops with two 'Focused Science Workshops' specifically designed for Grades K-8 teachers. NCSTA was formed in 1969 with the mission of promoting excellence in science teaching and learning in North Carolina. The organization continues to thrive with approximately 1,000 members across the state.

As the need for students to become stronger in science and STEM grows, so does the need for well-qualified science teachers and administrators who know how to develop relevant and high-quality science and STEM programs. Our PDI strives to help with this development.

The theme of this year's PDI is 'Modeling STEM: Ingenuity at Work!' and features the following strands:

**Strand 1:** "Mastering science material through technology and innovation" will consist of promoting the best science classroom practices through technology.

**Strand 2:** "Science review & test-taking strategies: break through to excellence" will focus on improving learning content material.

**Strand 3:** "The science of design: Modeling past, present and future" will provide teachers with ways to incorporate different representations of science through hands-on learning.

Our two Friday workshops are:

**For grades K-4,** 'Science Literacy: It All Matters' will concentrate on student success in the K-4 grades.

**For grades 5-8,** 'Understanding across the Science Curriculum' will concentrate on methods of assessing student understanding of science.

The PDI offers multiple concurrent sessions led by state, regional and nationally-known science specialists and educators. These sessions offer a variety of science and STEM concepts from instructional strategies to informational sessions hosted by DPI. This highly-specialized professional learning event will enable educators to help students stay globally competitive in terms of innovations and invention.

We are confident the programming and events associated with the NCSTA 47<sup>th</sup> Professional Development Institute will help to ensure successful implementation of science education into our schools and communities. For more information, please visit the NCSTA website [www.ncsta.org](http://www.ncsta.org) and follow the PDI links.

We hope you and your colleagues will take advantage of this exceptional opportunity.

Sincerely,

Angela Adams, NCSTA President