



August 2019

Dear Principal:

The North Carolina Science Teachers Association (NCSTA) will be hosting our Professional Development Institute (PDI) November 14-15 at the Benton Convention Center in Winston-Salem. NCSTA was formed in 1969 with the mission of promoting excellence in science teaching and learning in North Carolina. At the PDI we will be celebrating our 50th birthday.

As the need for students to become stronger in science, 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 '**50 Years of STEMing the Tide for Scientific Literacy**' and features the following strands:

Strand 1: Digital Literacy – Engage teachers in activities that will show them how to integrate digital teaching and learning strategies that ensure students' ethical, respectful, and safe use of digital tools and resources. Expand your knowledge of appropriate digital tools and resources for instruction, sharpen skills for developing summative and formative student assessments, and better meet the needs of diverse student populations.

Strand 2: Problem Based Learning (PBL) to Expand Scientific Literacy - Assist teachers in refining classroom strategies that place students in the active role of authentic, real-world problem-solver. Participants will examine PBL lessons that simultaneously expand the learner's science content knowledge, while building student problem-solving skills.

Strand 3: Climate Science Literacy - Climate Science Literacy is an understanding of our influence on climate and climate's influence on our society. Enhance your content background and learn about strategies to strengthen student's understanding of Earth's climate system. Teach them how to assess the credibility of scientific information and make informed and critical decisions as to how our actions affect climate.

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 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 and follow the PDI links.

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

Sincerely,

NCSTA Board of Directors