

March 2023

Dear Principal/Administrator:

The North Carolina Science Teachers Association (NCSTA) will be hosting our annual Professional Development Institute (PDI) November 2-3, 2023. NCSTA was formed in 1969 with the mission of promoting excellence in science teaching and learning in North Carolina.

As the need for students to become stronger in science increases, 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 **Putting It All Together and Moving Beyond – New Standards, New Ideas, New Directions** and features the following strands:

1. Tools and Ideas for Embracing, Navigating and Implementing the New Standards

Breaking down and analyzing the standards. What do they mean for science teachers? Planning how to implement the standards. Examining the standards at various grade levels/spans.

2. Creative and Innovative Strategies for Elevating Teaching, Learning, Engagement and Relevance through Inquiry-Based Approaches

Empowering the learner and teacher to analyze data, communicate effectively, and determine supportable conclusions. Enhancing STEM lessons by fostering critical thinking skills through inquiry, case studies, and authentic data.

3. STEM Lessons and Ideas to Address Contemporary Current Events and Emerging Science Topics

Teachers are charged with preparing students for the future with the skills they need to apply and analyze hot button topics in the news: climate change, alternate energy sources, infectious disease, flooding, food sources, land usage, etc. They must also address emerging science such as coding, robotics, gaming, AI, and chaos theory.

Our sessions offer a variety of science and STEM concepts centered around our strands. 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 sessions at the 2023 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