

## NCSTA Social Justice and Anti-Racism Support Statement

“Prejudice is a burden that confuses the past, threatens the future, and renders the present inaccessible... We may encounter many defeats, but we must not be defeated.” Maya Angelou

The NC Science Teachers Association (NCSTA) was formed in 1969 with the mission of promoting excellence in science teaching and learning in North Carolina. The purpose of NCSTA shall be the advancement, stimulation, extension, improvement, and coordination of science teaching in all fields of science at all educational levels. Considering our mission and purpose and the fact that our organization was formed within the same decade as the Civil Rights Act we cannot be silent when members of our organization, students that we teach, the scientific community we support, and society as a whole are hurting.

During these traumatic times, we stand in solidarity with the African American/Black and Brown communities. As science educators and leaders, we have a responsibility to the teachers and students we serve, and it is our responsibility to confront the inequities in our nation. These inequities have a direct impact on our students and science education. As science educators and leaders, it is our responsibility to not only model anti-racist practices, but to actively address institutional inequities in the educational setting and promote lasting changes so that all science education provides effective science instruction for all students.

As Dr. Don C. Sawyer III stated, “I see you, I hear you, You matter.” Our members matter and the populations they serve matter. The National Science Teaching Association (NSTA) also has a powerful [Statement on Social Justice and Science](#) that we hope you will read.