

<http://TheASTE.org>

2020 Executive Committee

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June 4, 2020

ASTE joins many of our sister science and education associations in expressing solidarity with Black Americans, and all marginalized peoples, in their rightful demands for justice and equity. The events that have transpired in Minneapolis and across the country have generated uncertainty, frustration, outrage, and pain. On the day of George Floyd's memorial service, we mourn with the country.

While taking a stand is important, we want to ensure we are doing more than standing by; we recognize there is significant and ongoing work needed to disrupt systemic racism and promote social justice. To that end, ASTE is committed to increasing our focus on equity.

- As mentioned by Gil in our recent newsletter, the Equity Committee has been working on a professional code of conduct that helps clarify ASTE's mission, values and principles, linking them with standards of professional conduct. The code articulates the values the organization wishes to foster in leaders and members.
- In September, the Membership Committee will conduct our Grand Member Survey. Your responses will allow us to gather voices of our membership to assess the climate of our organization and the effectiveness of our current efforts to carry out our mission.
- The Board is currently engaged in setting strategic priorities for ASTE, among those a focus on broadening the diversity of our membership and its leadership, which we recognize does not reflect the broader diversity of the population.

We also recognize the need for individuals to educate themselves in order to be effective allies and antiracist educators. The expertise of our members is a valuable resource for building our collective expertise as an organization.

- We encourage members to submit workshop and session proposals for our 2021 conference that could enhance our collective learning about how to address systemic/institutional racism in science teacher education, how to integrate social justice into the curriculum of our teacher preparation courses, and more.
- Many of you have created and/or used resources and tools that have been valuable in your efforts to address historical and social inequities both personally and in your work as science teacher educators. In line with our current website redesign, we are exploring avenues for enabling the sharing of resources among our membership. In the meantime, we encourage you to use existing venues like our member listserv and Facebook page to share resources with colleagues.

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- Our PD committee is also exploring ways ASTE can offer professional learning opportunities for our members outside of our annual meeting. Watch for a forthcoming call for webinars. We especially welcome proposals focused on issues of inequity in science teacher education and how to address those in ways that attend to the complexity and nuance of this type of work.

These are difficult times in which we find ourselves. Yet that should not discourage us from engaging in dialogue, maintaining hope, or taking action. We recognize that despite our different personal and professional pathways, perspectives, and identities, we all share a common humanity and are united as well in our efforts to promote excellence and innovation in science teacher education. We invite our members to join us in actions we have shared, and to contribute to the ongoing dialogue about the role our organization, as a collective, can play in addressing issues of equity and social justice.

With continued wishes for your health, safety, and well-being,

ASTE Presidential Team
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Debi Hanuscin, President-Elect
Valarie Akerson, Past-President