



National Earth Science Teachers Association

One Earth. Our Future.

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NESTA Statement on Social Justice and Equity in Geoscience Education and Research

The deaths of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and George Floyd, and the many other lives that have been unjustly lost, highlight the deadly impact of systematic discrimination. We recognize that racism can be found in our communities, school classrooms, as well as professional society events and publications.

As a professional organization dedicated to K-12 geoscience education, the events have made us to stop and reflect on the challenges that Black and Brown members of our community and their students continue to face as they navigate injustice and systemic racism. These are challenges we must overcome for the sake of all our members of color. We look to do more. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., "If you can't fly, then run. If you can't run, then walk. If you can't walk, then crawl, but whatever you do, you have to keep moving forward."

We need to start somewhere and keep moving.

NESTA Board of Directors will start by:

- Actively solicit geoscience researchers from all ethnic backgrounds and educators to participate in periodic media events in order to amplify their contributions to geoscience research, education and research (e.g. research spotlights in *The Earth Scientist*, *e-News*, and social media events).
- In the course of selecting NESTA-sponsored programming, prioritize proposals that are dedicated to reducing the impact of bias & racism in geoscience education and research to increase geoscience teachers' access to this information.
- Advocate and contribute towards the design of publicly available NGSS geoscience activities that better evoke the knowledge, interests, and concerns of our underrepresented students and communities.

We implore NESTA members to join us by:

- Increasing your awareness of racism in geosciences. Suggested starting points include: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41561-019-0519-z>; https://serc.carleton.edu/advancegeo/resources/what_diversity.html
- Explore and integrate instructional strategies that orient towards recognizing and leveraging students' identities and interests: <http://stemteachingtools.org/brief/31>
- Learn about the benefits of cultural diversity in the sciences, as well as how scientific enterprise is not without bias: <http://stemteachingtools.org/brief/55>

As the NESTA Board takes these initial steps, we welcome learning how to accelerate the pace of change. Please contact Enrique Reyes, NESTA's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Coordinator, to provide feedback and suggest future steps: rique.reyes@gmail.com.

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