

NNSTOY

TEACHERS LEADING

Dear colleagues,

We are here to promote policy, practice and advocacy for all teachers so that students from all backgrounds can receive a high quality education. In that sense, we believe that a high quality education includes direct teaching on racism and bias and what we have and can do to address/eliminate both. Further, we stand on the shoulders of educators past and present who implement a culturally responsive pedagogy not just as an idea or a practice, but as a mission. To that effect, we hereby affirm our commitment to educating students and their teachers on anti-racist practices as well as any other forms that would exclude students based on race, class, gender, sexual orientation or perceived ability. When we commit to transforming teaching and learning so that everyone knows of their potential role to perpetuate oppression or harm on another, we do our very best to prevent more tragedies such as the one that happened to Ahmaud Arbery from ever happening again.

2012 Maryland Teacher of the Year and NNSTOY Board Member Josh Parker wrote, "What does it mean to black men when a black man is killed? A lot. It reminds us of how our mortality is nearer to us than anyone else. That our light can be darkened for almost any reason and at any time precisely because of the skin we wear."

Our call to action is to begin a tradition of NNSTOY members using their voice to call out these horrendous acts of violence and injustice. Through blogging, through speaking, through the lessons we teach to students, and by being committed to anti-racism, we all speak, but most importantly, we act.

2014 Georgia State Teacher of the Year and NNSTOY Board Member Jemelleh Coes calls out our need to act, "Social justice and equity are not a destination. It is a lifelong journey. None of us gets to stop working toward the goal of justice. None of us. You get tired? Rest. Then get back at it. Period."

Sincerely,



Maddie Fennell
NNSTOY Board Chair



Bob Williams
NNSTOY Management Consultant