Dear colleagues,

The members who make up the National Network of State Teachers of the Year speak with a single, unified voice when we say we are outraged and deeply saddened by the killing of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and too many others who do not enjoy equal freedoms in this nation and have had to pay that price with their lives. We condemn these acts of inhumanity and remain steadfast in our commitment to educating students and their teachers on anti-racist practices as well as any others that seek to exclude students based on race, class, gender, sexual orientation or perceived ability. We commit to transforming teaching and learning so that all students are welcomed, valued, respected, and safe while being provided a nurturing and high-quality education that leads to success in school and in their lives and careers after graduation.

As an organization made up of exemplary educators, NNSTOY influences thousands of teachers and tens of thousands of students. Our greatest strength is the power of our network to collaborate with one another and hold each other accountable to our mission. NNSTOY has formed an Equity Committee to continue our longstanding commitment to equity that is evidenced in our Social Justice Book List, our Outstanding Black Male Educators Fellowship, and our annual National Teacher Leadership Conference.

The Equity Committee is focused on learning and action. The first portion of the learning will be based on the first two episodes of the *America To Me* documentary series. We invite you to join these discussions at 5:45 pm ET June 18’th on this [Zoom Link](https://zoom.us). We also encourage you to join us for the free National Education Summit on July 7’th and the National Teacher Leadership Conference this July 8, 9, and 10 where our focus will be “Creating a 2020 Vision: Revolutionizing Education.” You can find out more on the [conference webpage](https://nnstoy.org).

Sincerely,

Maddie Fennell  
NNSTOY Board Chair

Bob Williams  
NNSTOY Acting CEO