



CAGT Statement on Systemic Racism

Like many, CAGT entered 2020 with great optimism and hope in our plans for the new year. However, we quickly learned that 2020 had a plan of its own. March changed our way of life due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and greatly changed our way of teaching. Even though we came together with the COVID-19 acclamation of, "We are in this together," this pandemic actually shined a bright light on the existing inequities caused by the systemic racism in our nation. With our country, we at CAGT, are mourning the senseless deaths of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, and the many others who lost their lives at the hands of police and vigilante actions. Racism in our country needs to stop, and CAGT is committed to being a part of the solution.

CAGT is committed to ensuring equitable access in identification and programming for our underrepresented populations and Black children. Not only must we meet the academic needs of these students, but also support their social and emotional well-being that has been impacted by the trauma of systemic racism. As reflective educators, we need to free our pedagogies of any cultural biases that may exist. To make meaningful progress towards these goals, CAGT is committed to providing extensive cultural competency and implicit bias training to eliminate racial bias from teaching practices through our professional learning opportunities. CAGT will partner with the State and our institutions of higher education to examine our practices of inclusivity, especially those of our own organization.

While our hearts break for the tragedies the Black community has endured for so long, we are optimistic that we can break the cycle of injustice and create a world where hope is something we all share. We will admit to what we do not understand, listen to others' experiences, and learn from those who can offer a different perspective from our own. We will continue to have difficult conversations when the protests have gone quiet to ensure that change actually happens. As Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter."