

Dear Members of NYSATE and NYACTE,

As teacher educators and as members of the Executive Boards of NYSATE and NYACTE, we believe, unequivocally, that Black Lives Matter. We grieve alongside the family and friends of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, and countless others who have been murdered or faced brutality and trauma as a result of the systemic racism that continues to plague our nation. We also recognize the role that systemic racism, anti-Blackness, and white supremacy play in schools and schooling, from preschool through college classrooms. Our hearts are heavy, and we are outraged to see the loss of life and safety that BIPOC teachers, students, and families continue to experience.

In Fall 2019, we gathered for our annual conference, themed Coalitions of Care in Teacher Education, and in your presentations and our shared keynote events, we acknowledged the role that trauma continues to play in students' and teachers' lives. These coalitions of care must include responses to the devastating trauma of racism and racial violence if we truly hope to teach and support "whole" students and teachers. When we began planning for this coming fall, we selected a conference theme of Pedagogies of Change: (Re)Envisioning Purposeful Teacher Education, through which we had hoped to focus our collective energies on what we, as teacher educators, can do to respond to, revise, and dismantle educational systems and practices that perpetuate trauma and inequity, especially in these divisive times. Since issuing that call for proposals, the COVID-19 pandemic required us to cancel our in-person conference. The pandemic also further highlighted systemic inequities in our educational system, and we have seen communities of color bear higher infection rates, death tolls, and job loss. These realities make the questions we posed in our call for proposals all the more relevant: *What is our "why" as teacher educators? And how should we position ourselves and our work in these times of profound social discord and change?*

This is hard and necessary work. In the coming weeks and months, we will reach out with opportunities to gather, learn together, and share. Here is a beginning [list of resources](#) we have gathered, which we will be updating. We also invite you to connect with us; our contact information is listed below. Please send questions, resources, or ideas you would like us to share with our members.

In closing, we stand in solidarity with and support of all BIPOC teacher educators, scholars, teachers, students, and families. We also agree with [AACTE President Lynn M. Gangone's statement](#), "The responsibility to create change is on the shoulders of white allies. It has been on the backs of the Black community for far too long."

Christine Dawson, President-Elect of NYSATE  
[cdawson@siena.edu](mailto:cdawson@siena.edu)

Kim Wiczorek, President of NYSATE  
[kim.wiczorek@cortland.edu](mailto:kim.wiczorek@cortland.edu)

Andrea Lachance, President-Elect of NYACTE  
[andrea.lachance@cortland.edu](mailto:andrea.lachance@cortland.edu)

April Bedford, President of NYACTE  
[abedford@brooklyn.cuny.edu](mailto:abedford@brooklyn.cuny.edu)