

Jan 21, 2025

***Commitment Statement in support of
The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine
Collaborative on Advancing Science Teaching and Learning in K-12 (CASTL-K12)***

Our rapidly evolving world needs people who are working to steer and shape change in positive and productive ways. Northwestern University School of Education and Social Policy (SESP) brings together a wide range of disciplines – psychology, economics, computer science, the law, and more – along with many modes of inquiry, to study everything from tiny infants to massive organizations. SESP faculty help guide the next generation of leaders, and, together with students, staff, and alumni, shape the practice and the implementation of innovation across the nation and the world. Through research, SESP is committed to improving lives and transforming society.

Within SESP, Northwestern University's Learning Sciences program was the first of its kind in the nation. The program was developed with the argument that design, cognition and sociocultural contexts are key areas to be brought together in investigations and design work to improve systems of learning and teaching. Research in the Learning Sciences program investigates the design and support of instructional, technological, and social policy innovations. Learning Sciences research advances theories of teaching and learning in the context of developing and investigating innovations that aim to reimagine learning in ways that can be more meaningful, effective, connected to the lives of children, families, and communities, and help us move toward a more just world.

In particular, research programs in SESP Learning Sciences have been important elements of the research and have participated in multiple NASEM reports recommending reforms in science education, including *The Framework for K-12 Science Education* that led to the *Next Generation Science Standards* and to other *Framework*-based science standards adopted by 49 states and the District of Columbia. We are drawn to the work of the newly formed CASTL-K12 as an exciting next step in this program of work.

CASTL-K12 will pursue four primary goals:

1. develop a coherent strategy for supporting implementation of science standards across states and districts,
2. launch and coordinate a networked community of practice for stakeholders at all levels and across sectors,
3. build on and share existing evidence-based policies, tools, and examples, and
4. develop a coherent communication and engagement strategy for advancing K-12 science and engineering education broadly.

As a collaborative, multidisciplinary organization committed to bringing together research, design, practice, and policy to improve teaching and learning, Northwestern University SESP hereby commits to supporting the goals of the *National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine's Action Collaborative on Advancing Science Teaching and Learning in K-12*.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bryan Brayboy", is written on a light-colored rectangular background.

Bryan McKinley Jones Brayboy (Lumbee), Ph.D.
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