



TO: NSTA Chapter, Affiliate, and Associated Group Presidents

FROM: Ken Rosenbaum, Chapter Relations Consultant

DATE: August 4, 2008

RE: **2008 Report to NSTA Chapters and Associated Groups**

### **Resolutions and Position Statements**

The National Congress on Science Education (NCSE) is financially supported by the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) and the NSTA State Chapters and Associated Groups. The Congress is an independent body that focuses on science education from local perspectives. To date, the NCSE has had nine annual summer meetings. Congress delegates bring resolutions that reflect issues in science education to the Congress. NCSE resolutions may arise from the actions of the governing bodies of the State/Provincial Chapters or the issue forums (focus groups) at the Congress meetings. There are three types of Congress resolutions: those that are addressed to the attention of the Chapters and Associated Groups for their consideration, those that are addressed to the attention of the NSTA for consideration, and those which are statements of the position of the Congress on various issues.

Each year in my role as the NSTA Chapter Relations Consultant, I send a letter to all NSTA Chapters and Associated Groups listing the resolutions that are addressed to the attention of the NSTA State/Provincial Chapters and Associated Groups and those that are statements of the position of the Congress on various issues. No action by NSTA is necessary on these resolutions. NCSE resolutions addressed to both the NSTA and the Chapter and Associated groups are advisory in nature, therefore, there is no procedure or requirement that the Chapters take action or report back to NSTA. Some Congress Delegates to the NCSE choose to provide formal NCSE reports to the governing bodies of their local Chapters and Associated Groups, while others include these items as informational messages from the congress in their newsletters. Chapters and Associated Groups may consider these issues at their own Board meetings, use them when developing strategic plans, and also refer to them as they work with other education and government agencies at the state and local level.

If your Chapter or Associated Group has taken any specific action as a response to these congress resolutions, please let us know by emailing me at: [krosenbaum@nsta.org](mailto:krosenbaum@nsta.org).

The resolutions adopted by National Congress on Science Education for the 2008 are included on the following pages.

## NCSE Resolutions 2008

*Addressed to the attention of the Chapters, Affiliates, and Associated Groups for their consideration*

- 7/08CNG1** Be it resolved that the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) work with Chapters, Affiliates, and Associated Groups to identify strategies for accessing the talents and expertise of retired science teachers in order to support and enhance science education, and that these strategies be shared with the attendees of the 2009 National Congress on Science Education
- 7/08CNG3** Be it resolved that the National Congress on Science Education encourages the Chapters, Associated and Affiliated Groups to disseminate the NSTA position statement on Elementary School Science to state education agencies, colleges and universities that accredit administrators and pre-service teacher educators, and to all elementary administrators.
- 7/08CNG4** Be it resolved that the National Congress on Science Education encourages Chapters, Associated and Affiliated Groups to identify high quality community resources (e.g. informal science institutions, science speakers) and share these collections with teachers in order to support relevant effective science instruction.
- 7/08CNG7** Be it resolved that the National Congress on Science Education 2008 encourages the Chapter, Associated Groups and the Alliance of Affiliates to include conference strands that blend inquiry and experiential learning into STEM and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills for Pre-Kindergarten-16 curricula.
- 7/08CNG8** Be it resolved that the National Congress on Science Education encourages Chapters, Associated Groups and the Alliance of Affiliates to support both formal and informal educators of science by publicly advocating strategies to assist in the identification of valid science in popular media/materials to cultivate scientifically literate citizens.
- 7/08CNG10** Be it resolved that the Chapters, Associated Groups and the Alliance of Affiliates are encouraged to utilize interactive, collaborative technologies to promote current and highly effective resources for their members.
- 7/08CNG14** Be it resolved that the 2008 National Congress on Science Education encourages Chapters, Affiliates, and Associated Groups, to promote high quality professional learning opportunities that are focused on teaching science to students of poverty.
- 7/08CNG16** Be it resolved that the National Congress on Science Education encourages the Chapters, Affiliates and Associated Groups to actively promote Science Professional Learning Communities that are characterized by a shared vision, engaged collaboration, and collective responsibility.
- 7/08CNG24** Be it resolved that the 2008 National Congress on Science Education recommends that Chapters, Associated Groups and Affiliates actively seek participation in the development of local and state STEM literacy initiatives.



**NCSE Resolutions 2008**  
*2008 Position Statements*

- 7/08CNG9**      Be it resolved that the National Congress on Science Education advocate the selection of non print-based science curriculum materials that are current, global, and technologically accessible.
- 7/08CNG15**      Be it resolved that the National Congress on Science Education promotes Professional Learning Communities (PLC) as a model of high quality professional development to improve student achievement and support highly effective teaching practices in science.

**NCSE Resolutions 2008**  
*Addressed to the attention of the NSTA*

- 7/08CNG1** Be it resolved that the National Science Teachers Association (NSTA) work with Chapters, Affiliates, and Associated Groups to identify strategies for accessing the talents and expertise of retired science teachers in order to support and enhance science education, and that these strategies be shared with the attendees of the 2009 National Congress on Science Education. (*referred to NSTA Retired Teacher Advisory Board*)
- 7/08CNG11** Be it resolved that the 2008 National Congress on Science Education recommends that NSTA develop a position statement addressing effective science teaching of students of poverty.
- 7/08CNG13** Be it resolved that NSTA promote high quality professional learning opportunities that are focused on researched based best practice for teaching science to students of poverty, for example:
- Regional and national conference strands
  - Publications
  - Webinars
  - Online courses
  - Elements of the Learning Center
- 7/08CNG25** Be it resolved that the 2008 National Congress on Science Education requests that the National Science Teachers Association investigate the feasibility of an online STEM specific certification program for teachers interested in further training.
- This motion was substituted at the NSTA Board: “NSTA will determine if STEM literacy means something different from Science Literacy and NSTA will develop a definition of STEM literacy for NSTA Board consideration.”
- 7/08CNG30** Be it resolved that the National Congress on Science Education request that NSTA provides updates on the current status of the following prior resolutions
- 8/05CNG24 (8/05CCL22 and 8/05BOD18) Be it resolved that to improve student learning NSTA will develop a plan to initiate and promote stronger collaboration among educational research affiliates to inform educational practitioners. Status reported as: “RAISE Grant.”
  - 7/07CNBG09 (7/07CCL5 and 7/07BOD5) Be it resolved that the Congress on Science Education recommends that NSTA consider directing the Committee on Research to compile a series of talking points based on research data on the retention of teachers of science. Status reported as: “President to task research committee.”
- The Board and Council encourages future Congress planning committees to restructure the Congress to provide all Congress attendees with an update of ongoing NSTA initiatives that relate to the focus groups of that Congress, thus Congress Delegates will be informed of ongoing NSTA initiatives that are related to the current focus groups and the Congress deliberations.
- Also, NSTA will inform the Chapters and Associated Groups of actions taken as a result of past Congress resolutions through a new and more detailed electronic communication method.



## **National Congress Resolutions 2008**

*Addressed to the attention of the 2009 Congress Planning Committee*

**7/08CNG5**

Be it resolved that the National Congress on Science Education designate a focus group at the 2009 National Congress on Science Education to receive, compile, and develop resources into a dynamic toolkit for educators to become more effective advocates for science as a core subject at all elementary grade levels.

**7/08CNG6**

Be it resolved that the National Congress on Science Education 2009 include a focus group that blends inquiry and experiential learning into STEM and 21<sup>st</sup> Century Skills for Pre-Kindergarten -16 curricula.