



Dear CEL Members:

The Conference on English Leadership is saddened and horrified by the racial violence that plagues our country. We stand with NCTE in [this statement](#) against racism and are committed to actively pursuing equity and justice in our schools.

While we want to reach out to all of our CEL members at this challenging time, we specifically say to our CEL colleagues of color: We understand that what happened to George Floyd is not a unique occurrence and that many Black lives have been unjustly taken. We see the pain that hatred causes. We see the devastation that systemic racism allows. We see the anger that violence brings. But seeing is not enough.

Over the last several years CEL has offered opportunities for members to explore social justice, promoted cultural diversity, and advocated for equitable schools. However, we have not done enough. We must actively identify and dismantle racism in our own organization, and we must empower CEL members to do the same in their organizations. We are committed to doing both.

Our schools need antiracist leaders who challenge institutional racism. CEL is committed to preparing and supporting leaders as we strive to create safe and inclusive learning communities for students and staff. There is much work to be done.

As an organization, CEL is learning from the excellent work done by NCTE members, such as:

- [*NCTE Statement on Anti-Racism to Promote Teaching and Learning*](#)
- [*Resources from the Committee against Racism and Bias in the Teaching of English*](#)
- [*Being an Antiracist Educator is a Verb*](#)

We will continue to educate ourselves, and we plan to share additional anti-racism resources and professional development opportunities soon.

In the meantime, we urge you to support one another and take care of yourself.

Janice Schwarze
CEL Chair

Heather Rocco
Past Chair

Chris Bronke
Associate Chair