



A Message from the NEERO Board

June 24, 2020

Dear Members of the NEERO Community:

As the Board of the New England Educational Research Organization (NEERO), we are compelled to speak out in response to the killings of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, Ahmaud Arbery, Rayshard Brooks and a long list of Black individuals and individuals of color whose lives have been cut short by senseless acts of brutality, violence, and racism. These most recent killings highlight a long history of racism and injustice in our society that, as we know, is not unique to law enforcement. Rather, we are confronted with how education continues to perpetuate systemic racism and White supremacy. We share our outrage, frustration, and an ongoing commitment to action. Black Lives Matter.

We are listening and standing in solidarity as educators and scholars. We must look inward in our personal lives, professional lives, and as an organization, and explore how we have perpetuated systemic racism in educational policy, practice, and research. As part of this work, we continue to ask questions that unearth injustices and move toward dismantling them, and interrupting the cycle. Through research and practice we ask and examine: What are the systems of oppression that exist in education? How do we make visible those systems and structures? How do we critically examine whose narratives are being told? How do we center those who have been marginalized and minoritized? How do we create a vision for educational research and practice? How do we commit to research and practice for creativity, equity, anti-racist, liberatory education? How do we create a movement as an organization that is reflected in both our words and actions?

To quote AERA president, Shaun Harper, in his statement on [Police Killings of Black People](#), "Saying 'Black Lives Matter' simply is not enough. As a community of researchers, we must unite to take bold, evidence-based action." As a call to action, and as a starting point, we hold ourselves to the following:

- Listening to the NEERO community to identify the ways in which the organization must change in order to hold true to our commitment to equity, diversity, and inclusivity;

- Raising up the voices of scholars of color, through participation and engagement at the NEERO conference and on the NEERO Board;
- Calling for continued, systematic, evidence-based research that exposes educational inequities and injustices, and that leads to policies and actions that address them;
- Sharing resources that put forward a vision of equity, anti-racist pedagogy, research, and practice.

Our words are not enough, but they are a beginning. We will continue to stay connected with our next steps throughout the year and beyond. Additionally, please reach out to the members of the NEERO Board to share your thoughts, concerns, and ideas as we work as an educational research community toward anti-racist and liberatory education through research and practice.

Sincerely,

NEERO Board