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June 18, 2015

Arkansas State Board of Education
Four Capitol Mall
Little Rock, AR 72201

Dear Members of the Board,

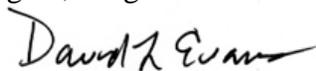
On behalf of the Board, Council and staff of the 55,000-member National Science Teachers Association (NSTA), I want to congratulate you and your colleagues for adopting science standards based on the *Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS)*. Arkansas' support for these high-quality standards sends a strong message to its residents—and to the entire nation—about the critical importance of education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) and the promise of the standards to increase student success.

I also want to recognize Michele Snyder, Science Curriculum and Instruction Advisor for the Arkansas Department of Education. Her outstanding work and leadership have helped pave the way for the successful development of the *NGSS*, as well as for their adoption in Arkansas.

As a partner in the development of the *NGSS*, NSTA fully supports the standards, as well as the *Framework for K–12 Science Education* on which they are based. Together, these two bodies of work have the power to transform science education and give all students the skills and knowledge they need to be informed citizens, college ready, and prepared for STEM careers.

We welcome the opportunity to meet and explore ways NSTA can support you and the science teachers of Arkansas in implementing the standards. We offer a range of resources and expertise to adopting states and districts, and can serve as a partner, expert advisor, convener, or provider of quality resources and professional development programs.

Again, congratulations!



David L. Evans, Ph.D.
Executive Director

cc: Johnny Key, Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education
Michele Snyder, Science Curriculum and Instruction Advisor, Arkansas
Department of Education