



UPDATE ON NSELA LEADERSHIP SUMMIT

On behalf of the board of the National Science Education Leadership Association, I am writing to inform our membership that we have elected to cancel our annual Leadership Summit and associated activities in Boston, MA, on April 1, 2020, in an effort to mitigate the spread of Coronavirus (COVID-19). The NSELA board met earlier this evening and agreed that canceling the Leadership Summit is the best decision to protect our attendees and also prevent the possibility of attendees exposing their loved ones and colleagues once home. We have elected to waive all fees associated with registration costs and have provided two options for paid attendees below.

NSELA will **not** host a virtual conference in place of the Leadership Summit. We feel many of you will be scrambling to make adjustments in your home or work obligations and we do not believe the coming weeks provide an opportune time to meet. Please refer to our website and the e-Navigator newsletter for upcoming NSELA webinars hosted by some of our featured speakers at the NSELA Leadership Summit.

As you are aware, a great amount of effort has already gone into the event. We thank our featured presenters and the NSELA Professional Development Committee deserves great praise for their amazing work in planning the 2020 Leadership Summit. The PD Committee includes Lizette Burks, Trisha Herminghaus, Amy Himes, Kenneth Huff, Shelly LeDoux, Elizabeth Mulkerrin (PD Committee Chair), Michelle Paulsen, Chris Schaben, Kori Sulewski (Civica Staff), Deborah Tucker, and Andrew Weatherhead.

The PD Committee will continue plan and provide highly-informative and engaging professional learning experiences for our membership. We hope that all of you will consider joining us in Austin, TX, from July 9-11, 2020, for the NSELA Summer Leadership Institute. The Institute will feature over two and one-half days of high-quality professional development, collegial networking, and access to the latest research and resources from researchers, practitioners and policy makers at the state and national levels.

Leadership Summit Reimbursement Options for Paid Attendees

1. Attendees may opt for a full refund, less membership fees, to be reimbursed to the organization or party who submitted payment. Reimbursements will occur within 30 days of the canceled event at the request of the attendee.
2. Attendees may opt to attend the 2020 NSELA Summer Leadership Institute (SLI) in Austin, TX, from July 9-11, 2020, with funds from the 2020 Leadership Summit, plus \$100 credit applied to the registration costs of the SLI. Additional registration costs, if any, will be the responsibility of the attendee.

An email will follow from NSELA for paid attendees to select one of the two options above.

Airline and Hotel Cancellation Suggestions

(Please note that NSTA plans to release additional information regarding the cancellation of their annual conference in the coming days. This information may impact hotel reservations made through Orchid Events.)

Statement from Orchid Events:

As you may already be aware, the National Science Teaching Association has cancelled their 2020 National Conference on Science Education in Boston, MA, April 2-5, 2020 due to the COVID-19 outbreak. You may view their statement [here](#) for more information.

If you made your hotel reservation with Orchid Events, your reservation will be cancelled automatically within the next 24 hours and you will receive notification of the cancellation. No fees will be charged regarding your hotel cancellation. No action is required on your part. If you have already sent us an e-mail regarding the need to cancel your hotel reservation, you will not receive a response.

If you cancelled your reservation online with Orchid Events between March 10th and today, March 11th, you may have already been charged a \$25 cancellation fee. We are working on waiving those fees immediately and the funds should be available in your account within 5-7 business days. No action is required on your part regarding a refund of the fee.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.

- If you made a reservation with a hotel directly, please contact that hotel to cancel your reservation.
- Many airlines are providing special accommodations for those who have booked flights. Please contact the airline directly to explore cancellation options as early as possible.

Fortunately the decision to cancel the 2020 Leadership Summit will not impact the financial standing of our organization. We thank all of our committed partners who support our work and that of science leaders everywhere. Our annual membership and business meetings will be held virtually in the coming months and all NSELA members will be welcome to attend.

I am personally very disappointed that I will not see you in Boston. As we work together to Advocate, Collaborate, and Educate, many of us realize the power of face to face convenings to this effort. I am thinking of all of you during this challenging time for our nation; we thank you for your commitment to educating our nation's children.

James Blake, Ed.D.
President
National Science Education Leadership Association
2019-2020