

Creating a Biology Curriculum Representative of Black and Brown Scientists

What brought you to this work?

Samuel: I am interested in understanding the barriers to Black students having an interest in the sciences. Why is science thought of as an after-choice in our communities and why aren't we doing more to counter it both in formal institutions and in our homes?

Delale O'Connor: I'm committed to finding a more equitable and justice-centered way of working with educators as they support Black and Brown youth. I'm excited to work with Andre as an co-conspirator and thought partner as he explores his research interests.

Research questions

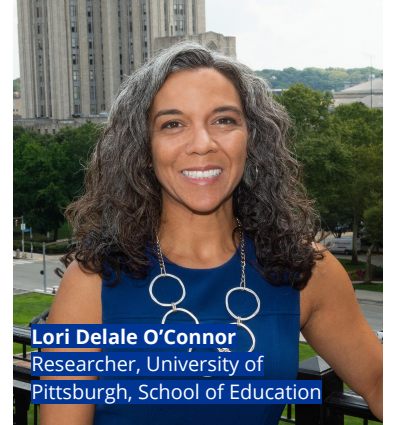
Andre's research is focused on the breakdown and loss of hands-on education particularly in Black communities and the effect on their career trajectory. Why is the funding cut for these programs? Why do we encourage hands-on learning through doing at such young ages then stop so abruptly? Why aren't black scientists represented in the books and how would the students' attitudes change if those textbooks included more examples of black scientists?

Research plan

The research plan is to review NSF and NIH data, national survey of earned doctorates, Census maps, and school performance ratings in science. We will also conduct surveys with students, parents, and teachers. The goal is to develop a biology curriculum that is inclusive of Black and Brown scientists.



Andre Samuel
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