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## **Carolina Biological Supply Company Partners with Association for Science Teacher Education to Help Future Science Teachers**

*Carolina announces ~~hard-planned~~ plan with ASTE to support an unusually high number of vital new K-12 science teachers facing many challenges and new science standards post COVID-19*

**BURLINGTON, NC, March 28, 2023** – Leading school science supplier [Carolina Biological](#) tackles science teacher retention by partnering with professional association, Association for Science Teacher Education (ASTE). By providing an unprecedented influx of new science teachers with support and resources to get started teaching in science classrooms, Carolina hopes to help change the daunting 35 percent turnover of science teachers from the profession during the pandemic, since 2018. Because of this exodus, there is a much greater than normal need for direction, support and guidance for the wave of new grades K-12 science teachers. The preparation of science teachers is vitally important to the K-12 educational system and for this reason Carolina is fully supportive of ASTE's initiatives and their members. This partnership represents the shared goals of both organizations. A lot has changed in science education over the last few years that led to so many teachers leaving, including daily responsibilities, preparation, teaching and learning modalities and challenging new science standards. Educators in training are struggling just to become new educators, as well as learn to implement new science standards.

Carolina is a respected expert in high-quality science education and offers many basic science materials and resources aligned to NGSS standards that provides ease-of-use and enhanced support with digital, print, and hands-on materials. As part of the partnership with ASTE, Carolina is providing members with valuable resources to help teachers get started in their classrooms and to learn how to use the wealth of science equipment they may face for the first time in their new schools. Carolina will also provide a vouchers for free or discounted

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supplies from Carolina, once they receive their first teaching assignment, to give teachers an extra boost and get started with science materials they need for their classroom.

Together Carolina and ASTE can work to advocate with a stronger voice for STEM education strategies and emergency Federal funds. Because students fell even farther behind in STEM subjects during COVID-19, the Deputy Secretary of U.S. Education, Cindy Marten, recently announced an update to the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief ([ESSER](#)) Fund. ESSER Funds can now be used for strategic improvements in STEM education. Carolina is helping support all science teachers, as well as new science educators with direct information about how these funds are available now. Carolina can reach out to school district leaders about ESSER funds use for science and STEM investment.

For teachers looking for funding for special projects or ideas for their classroom, Carolina has a website dedicated to supporting those ideas called Carolina's Dream Big initiative at <https://knowledge.carolina.com/dream-big/>. This site provides inspirational ideas and offers a chance for educators to win a \$1000 grant for their idea or provide example projects from other educators that could be purchased using ESSER funds. The Carolina Knowledge Center site also provides important resources for school district Science leaders, high school and middle school Science Chairs, teachers, and for new teachers with a "New Teacher Resources" section on the Knowledge Center.

Another component of teacher retention and part of Carolina and ASTE's partnership is the recognition and awards of exemplary programs and leaders in science teacher education. In addition to three \$1,000 awards teachers can already apply for directly on Carolina's Dream Big page, Carolina has also agreed to fund five honorees in 2023 through ASTE's annual Honorarium Awards program, as well as the annual John C. Park NTLI award of \$1,200.

"We are proud to partner with ASTE, who has a distinguished record of supporting teacher educators, scientists, science coordinators and supervisors, and informal science educators as they prepare new science teachers for the nation's schools," said Jim Parrish, President and CEO at Carolina Biological Supply Company."

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### **Carolina Products**

Carolina’s thoughtful and award-winning product lines are some of highest-quality instructional materials available. They make it easier for teachers, especially if they are new, to follow with a consistent design and lesson flow. Simplified investigations reduce teacher prep and classroom instructional time, and fewer and less expensive materials make the kits cost-effective. Tested lessons and materials ensure the safety, quality, and accuracy of investigations, and ADA compliance of instructional materials supports equity. Digital resources engage students, support teachers, and provide reporting to administrators.

### **The ASTE**

The Association for Science Teacher Education (ASTE) provides leadership and support for professionals involved in the education and development of teachers of science at all levels. ASTE promotes scholarship, collaboration, and innovation in science teacher education, and seeks to advance policy and practice that contributes to more just and equitable outcomes for teachers of science.

### **Carolina Biological Supply Company**

From its beginnings in 1927, Carolina ([www.carolina.com](http://www.carolina.com)) has grown to become the leading supplier of science teaching materials in the world. Headquartered in Burlington, NC, Carolina serves customers worldwide, including teachers, students, and professionals in science and health-related fields. The company is still privately owned by descendants of the founder, geology and biology professor Dr. Thomas E. Powell Jr.

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