

## **A Message from Curriculum Associates' CEO, Rob Waldron**

June 8, 2020

As the leader of an organization that serves our nation's educators and children, I see the critical role Curriculum Associates must play in addressing the ways in which systemic racism in American education hurts Black students specifically and students of color more broadly. We take our role in changing that system very seriously. I came to this work decades ago, convinced it was the most impactful, direct way to improve life outcomes for children. I still believe this, but I'm learning more each day that this charter is not confined to the tools we provide. It needs to be reflected in our values, our culture, and in the diversity of our workforce.

Assessment and instruction programs that deliver the most accurate view and equitable support of student learning are needed, but we must also examine our agency in addressing the less-obvious ways racism works in school systems and the private sector companies who serve them. We have begun that journey at Curriculum Associates, and we mean to accelerate and improve our progress on it.

The most important job I have right now is to listen, study, and learn. We are having challenging, deliberate, transformative conversations about diversity, power, and agency within the company and with our partners. We are humble. We are responsible. We are reading and sharing stories. We are questioning. We are listening intently.

While public articulation of the upgrades to our internal and external programs is needed, hasty decisions could set these critical changes back. This communication is evolving, and I look forward to sharing more about how the trajectory we're taking will affect our partners and our work together. Curriculum Associates stands with Black children, Black teachers, and Black communities during this painful and hopeful time. We are working hard to serve you better.