



### **A Message from the National Council for Social Studies:**

In January, 2010, NCSS and the Civic Mission of Schools (CMS) convened a meeting of national organizations in civics, economics, geography, and history, to discuss working together on Common State Standards for Social Studies. That meeting concluded with agreement on a common definition of social studies that acknowledges the importance of the individual disciplines, affirms how and why they are connected, and includes the “literacies” outlined by the Partnership for 21st Century Skills.

“The social studies is an interdisciplinary exploration of the social sciences and humanities, including civics, history, economics, and geography in order to develop responsible, informed and engaged citizens and to foster civic, global, historical, geographic, and economic literacy.”

In October, 2010, a coalition of fifteen states and fifteen professional organizations met in Savannah, Georgia to begin exploring the development of Common State Standards in Social Studies. These groups convened again in February 2011 and began working together on a conceptual framework and criteria for the standards. There are now 18 states involved as the process moves forward.

NCSS is very pleased to be part of this state-led process.

*Below is a list of the other participating organizations:*

American Association of Geographers  
American Bar Association  
American Historical Association  
Center for Civic Education  
Civic Mission of Schools Campaign  
Constitutional Rights Foundation/USA  
Constitutional Rights Foundation/Chicago  
Council for Economic Education  
National Council for Geographic Education  
National Council for History Education  
National Council for the Social Studies  
National Geographic Society  
National History Day  
Street Law, Inc.  
World History Association