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## **Editors' Conclusion: Special Issue by Sisters and Brothers of the Academy Institutes**

**Kimberly L. King-Jupiter & Anna L. Green**

*Co-Guest Editors  
Auburn University*

It has been said many times by many people that “we stand on the shoulders of giants,” and *Sisters of the Academy Institute* (SOTA) and *Brothers of the Academy Institute* (BOTA) responds with “if we do not make new giants, then whose shoulders will the next generation stand on?” With this in mind, SOTA and BOTA continue to create, foster, and support young African American graduate students and professors through efforts of collaborative scholarship. In order to impact the nature of our existence on a broader scale, SOTA remains committed to the identification of vehicles that will allow us to disseminate the lessons we have learned. Furthermore, SOTA’s 2<sup>nd</sup> Research Boot Camp and the Research and Writing Symposium and BOTA’s *Journal of the Professoriate* and Think Tanks remain at the center of each organization’s efforts to promote diversity through the development of initiatives that will improve the likelihood that black people will enter educational doors and leave with a degree in hand and their self-esteem intact.

We are indebted to the *Journal of Thought* for providing us with the opportunity to produce this special issue. As co-editors, this venture has given us the opportunity to mentor and nurture the voices of the future. It has also allowed members of our organization to provide readers of this journal with a collection of manuscripts problematizing strategies central to the pursuit of equity and democracy in this country. After all, unless we embrace our racial, gendered, and class identities as educators, policy-makers, and health professionals, we cannot give birth to strategies consistent with the dream of a democratic society constructing us all as equals.