

“We Speak Your Names”: *Annals of the Next Generation* and the American Association of Blacks in Higher Education Honor the Next Generation of Scholars

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In 2005, Pearl Cleage introduced the poem, “We Speak Your Names,” during Oprah Winfrey’s Legends Ball, an event honoring the legacy of African American (s)heroes, such as Maya Angelou, Coretta Scott King, Nikki Giovanni, and Rosa Parks. In a similar fashion, in this special edition of *Annals of the Next Generation* (ANG), the American Association of Blacks in Higher Education (AABHE) and ANG “speak the names” of a new generation of African American scholars whose research focus on the experiences of African Americans.

Each year, AABHE honors the research of doctoral candidates and recent graduates by providing them with doctoral student conference grants. The grants allow scholars of the next generation to attend the annual AABHE national conference, serving as an introduction to the academy, provides an opportunity for networking, and allows the scholars to present their doctoral research to a national audience.

This issue of ANG honors the 2013 recipients of AABHE’s “outstanding doctoral research” awardees by speaking their names, and by providing the awardees a scholarly venue to introduce their research to an international audience. The 2013 AABHE outstanding doctoral research awardees and honorable mention recipients were invited to submit abstracts of their doctoral research for peer-review and publication in this special edition issue. ANG is excited to highlight and introduce the works of Dr. Crystal J. Allen, Dr. Sosanya Marie Jones, and Dr. Edward Collins—scholars of the next generation—whose abstracts were accepted for publication in this issue.

ANG would also like to acknowledge and speak the names of AABHE’s leadership team, who honored the awardees by facilitating the 2013 AABHE outstanding doctoral research application and selection process: Dr. Brenda Dédé, associate vice president for academic affairs at Clarion University of Pennsylvania and the AABHE Graduate Student Coordinator; Dr. Fred Bonner, Samuel Dewitt Proctor Endowed Chair in Education in the Graduate School of Education at Rutgers University and vice president for research of AABHE; Dr. Barbara Lofton, director of diversity programs for

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the Sam Walton College of Business at the University of Arkansas and immediate past president of AABHE; finally, we acknowledge the application review team.

As the incoming editor-in-chief of *ANG*, I am joining this publication at a critical juncture in U.S. history. The U.S. is striving towards President Barack Obama's goal to be the most college-educated country by the year 2020; U.S. demographics are shifting and minority populations as a collective will soon be the majority (Malcom, Dowd, & Yu, 2010); national and state policies addressing same-sex marriage and unions, immigration laws, and affirmative action dominate political discourse; and, technology continues to reshape news, activism, and life, and has connected the world in unprecedented ways. While some people would see the current landscape as challenging, I am optimistic that the scholars of the next generation are capable of finding solutions for these societal issues through innovative research, scholarship, policy reform, and activism, which is why *ANG* was founded.

Brandon Daniels (2006), inaugural student editor of *ANG*, noted:

When the Center for African American Research and Policy was created in 2005, our goal was to engage in scholarly research in order to advance critical discourse and promote informed decisions as it pertains to policy issues confronting African Americans in both the academy and the society at-large. (p. 7)

Daniels now serves as director of special programs at the Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, an organization that works with almost 40,000 individuals who lead and govern United States' colleges and universities; Daniels represents the next generation of scholars who will change the U.S. for the betterment of society; I speak his name.

I am excited about speaking the names of the 2013 AABHE outstanding doctoral research awardees in this special edition issue of *ANG*, and look forward to additional opportunities to recognize and speak the names of future scholars of the next generation during my tenure as editor-in-chief of *ANG*.

Note

To learn more about AABHE's Doctoral Student Conference Grant Competition, visit www.blacksinhighered.org.

References

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