



CALL FOR PROPOSALS

2006 THINK TANK

**Morehouse College
Atlanta, Georgia
October 5 – 7, 2006**

DEADLINE FOR PROPOSAL: April 1, 2006

Black Scholars and the Study of Black Folks: Setting Interdisciplinary Research and Policy Agendas for the 21st Century

On behalf of the Brothers of the Academy (BOTA) Institute, with support from the Sisters of the Academy (SOTA) Institute, it gives us great pleasure to invite you to the Think Tank on the campus of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia on October 5-7, 2006. We welcome junior and senior scholars, community organizers, researchers, teachers, and other professionals involved in the myriad of issues confronting the Black community.

The 2006 Think Tank will explore the social, economic, and political status of Blacks in the 21st century. This call for proposal seeks proposals and subsequent papers that address solutions for health, economic, and educational disparities as they affect the African American community. The Think Tank intends to mobilize the collective contributions and genius of scholars, activists, and community organizers interested in moving beyond rhetoric to providing Black communities with ideas, plans, and programs that result in revitalization efforts.

This year's theme, "Black Scholars and the Study of Black Folks: Setting Interdisciplinary Research and Policy Agendas for the 21st Century," will address the myriad of issues associated with improving the status of African Americans in the United States.

Sincerely,

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Black Scholars and the Study of Black Folk: Setting Interdisciplinary Research and Policy Agendas for the 21st Century

The Brothers of the Academy Institute (BOTA), with support from the Sisters of the Academy Institute (SOTA) are holding their 2nd Bi-Annual Think Tank in Atlanta, Georgia on the campus of Morehouse College. BOTA convenes bi-annually as a community of scholars dedicated to “improving African and African-American peoples, schools, and communities (socially, politically, and economically).” All attendees of the Think Tank are encouraged to submit proposals. BOTA welcomes proposals from a variety of fields and disciplines.

Location

Being the heart and soul of the Civil Rights activities within the tumultuous 1960s, Atlanta has historically been the epicenter of Black culture and education. In recognition of this fact, Atlanta serves as the perfect location for bringing people together to contribute to the intellectual discourse concerning the future of Blacks in America. Lodging for the Think Tank will be at the Westin Peachtree Plaza and all events will be held at the Morehouse Leadership Center at Morehouse College.

Morehouse College ranked twice as the number one college in the nation for educating African American students by Black Enterprise magazine. Additionally, Morehouse College is the nation’s largest, private liberal arts college for African-American men. Founded in 1867, Morehouse College enrolls approximately 3,000 students and confers bachelor’s degrees on more Black men than any other institution in the world. Morehouse offers a number of programs and activities to enhance its challenging liberal arts curriculum through the Leadership Center at Morehouse College, Morehouse Research Institute, and Andrew Young Center for International Affairs. Furthermore, Morehouse holds the distinction of being one of only two historically Black colleges or universities to produce two Rhodes Scholars.

Think Tank Objectives

The Think Tank serves as an important opportunity for professional growth and development for those interested in the well-being of the African American community. The Think Tank offers a diverse array of programs that serve to elicit intellectual thought, discussion, and ideas that can be implemented in African American communities and organizations that serve them.

The Think Tank is intended to move from scholarship to action by linking interdisciplinary approaches and methods in response to a problem or research question that affect the African American community. Papers that are accepted for presentation at the Think Tank may be considered for publication opportunities that result from the Think Tank (e.g., BOTA Proceedings, Special Themed Issue Journal, and Book Project). To meet the objectives of the Think Tank each session will be organized threefold: (1)

papers will be presented; (2) an open discussion of how the papers relate to the guiding question for the theme; and (3) a strategy session suggesting methods for implementation of research findings, policy statements, and future research. Presenters are expected to participate in all three activities of their Think Tank sessions. The Think Tank is an exemplar of collective work and engagement from academics for the benefit of the community.

The 2006 Think Tank will reconsider the research agenda set forth by W. E. B. Du Bois in his famous Atlanta University studies during the 1890s and early 1900s in which Du Bois proposed a 100 year longitudinal study, to be conducted in ten year cycles, of African Americans and the Black experience. Ultimately, Du Bois' purpose was to encourage Black scholars to use empirical research to positively inform and influence policies pertaining to the Black experience. Heeding Du Bois' call, the 2006 BOTA Think Tank will showcase current groundbreaking scholarship on Black people, discuss policy and reform issues that significantly impact the Black community, address the challenges that Black people face today in a technological and global society, and propose viable policy agendas for the 21st century. In the spirit of the Atlanta University studies, the 2006 Think Tank has committed itself to rigorous scientific approaches, and practical policy proposals on the Black experience in the areas of, for example and not limited to, **politics, education, technology, business, civil rights, social welfare, globalization, mental and physical health, community revitalization, and economics.**

General Information for Submission of Proposals

Papers will be presented in symposia style format, grouped along thematic similarities within a specific issue or research question. Selected proposals will be organized into themes (e.g., education and economic development). Proposals submitted for review must be in APA style (5th Ed) format, no longer than 4 pages in length (not including references). Collaborative interdisciplinary papers are highly encouraged. Proposals must meet the following criteria to be considered for a Thematic Think Tank:

- Designate to which Thematic Think Tank you are submitting.
- Paper Title (Maximum of 10 words.)
- Paper Abstract (Maximum of 100 words.)
- Include the names, titles, and institutions of participating presenters. **All presenters must register for the conference.**
- Brief (500 word maximum) outline/description of the paper that includes thematic relevance, community question that will be addressed, and proposed strategies to address the question.
- Biography of each author should include title, credentials, and previous experiences as related to the theme (not included in the 4 page limit).
- Equipment needs for presentation (Presenters are expected to bring their own computers for the LCD unit and assume the cost for equipment rental.)

ALL PROPOSALS ARE DUE APRIL 1, 2006 AND SHOULD BE SUBMITTED ONLINE TO: <http://www.caarpweb.org/publications/submission.php>

Criteria for Papers

Upon acceptance, the presenter(s) must submit a paper by **September 1, 2006** in APA style (5th Ed) format not to exceed 40 pages in length and must meet the following criteria:

- Must clearly state problem or issue that is being addressed and its relevance to the Think Tank.
- Must provide a thorough overview of the status or condition that is being addressed.
- Must provide an explanation or insight into the issue or condition being addressed.
- Must provide insight into how the current condition will impact the future status of the African American community.
- Must provide suggestions and stimulus for addressing the issue in the form of a strategy.
- Must indicate the potential policy implications (e.g., practical usage).
- Must detail the limitations of the proposed strategies.

Papers submitted by the specified deadline will appear in the Think Tank Proceedings. Papers that meet the expectations outlined above will be invited for inclusion in one of the Think Tank publications.

Think Tank Themes

Presenters will submit their proposals within a thematic area based on the topic. The three themes are: (1) education and economic development; (2) health and health disparities; and (3) community development. The thematic chairs may redirect proposals to other themes if members of the committee feel the proposals are more appropriately placed elsewhere. Therefore, the Think Tank proposal committee invites proposals that correspond with the following themes that address pertinent challenges that are faced within the Black experience and community. Using a variety of methods and strategies, each proposal and subsequent paper should address themes in the following areas:

1) Education and Economic Development

Proposals for this theme may address a wide range of issues such as academic achievement, disparities in educational resources, school leadership, assessment and high-stakes testing, pedagogy for African American student learning, affirmative action, career development, school guidance and counseling, character education, African American entrepreneurship, workforce development, and the connection between economic development and educational attainment.

2) Health and Health Disparities

Proposals for this theme may address a wide range of issues such as HIV/AIDS, suicide, homicide, hypertension, lupus, diabetes, obesity, men's and women's health, and health service utilization among others. A particular emphasis will be placed on prevention interventions, best practices, and the dissemination of culturally relevant prevention and health promotion strategies for African American communities. Underlying this theme is a social determinant of health approaches which considers health across the lifespan.

3) Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

Proposals for this theme may address a wide range of issues such as underrepresentation in STEM, STEM innovations, technology and the community, educational technologies, applied technologies for disaster, security and safety, and technology in religion.

4) Community Development and Public Policy

Proposals for this theme may address a wide range of issues such as community vitalization and family development, parenting, home ownership, urban renewal, African American aesthetics, social welfare policy, art and music, cultural preservation, and religion and spirituality.

Call for Reviewers

One of the major responsibilities for the Think Tank is the review of proposals. You are invited to review proposals in your area of expertise. You may volunteer by sending your name, contact information, *curriculum vita*, and your area(s) of expertise to (ThinkTank2006@caarpweb.org).

General Contact Information

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