Introduction

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The *Journal of African American Studies* is happy to present nine manuscripts in this issue on the theme of education. We are grateful for the work of guest editors Professors Lisa Hobson, Department of Educational Leadership, ldhobson@pvamu.edu; and Deborah Harris, Department of Educational Leadership and Counseling, dlharris@pvamu.edu, at Prairie View A&M University. They initiated the idea of an issue covering historically black colleges and universities (HBCU) and assisted in soliciting manuscripts, administering peer review, and engaging in decision making on several of the articles. We hope to encourage more discussion on the topic of leading faculty members and students in their goal to produce “a more perfect union” where we respect one another’s differences and treat everyone in the context of their liberty with justice. We go to press at a short time following Sandy Hook Elementary School shootings in Connecticut and the Boston Marathon bombings. These events cause many of us to recommit to educational goals found in our national founders vision for unification. The senseless victimizations causing death and maiming, particularly of our nation’s children, devastated us. We can only agree with the 8-year-old victim of a Boston Marathon bomb, Martin Richard, when he held a poster reading, “No more hurting people: Peace.” It is in this spirit that we offer the following manuscripts. We hope they generate vigorous discussion, sustained differences of opinion, and thought in our goal to develop evidence-based improvements in educational opportunities and outcomes.

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