



## Introduction

The Society of Actuaries' (SOA) Aging and Retirement Strategic Research Program in collaboration with the International Association of Black Actuaries (IABA) and the Organization of Latino Actuaries (OLA) issued the *Aging and Retirement Issues in People of Different Races and Ethnicities Call for Essays* in Spring 2021. Our sincerest thanks to the collaborating organizations for the participation of their representatives and support for this effort. The resulting collection of essays is part of the SOA's work to dedicate a portion of its ongoing research efforts to exploring actuarial issues relevant to people of different races and ethnicities in the United States.

This effort aimed to explore how differences in wealth and retirement outcomes are experienced by people of different races and ethnicities and to promote a better understanding of the underlying issues surrounding the differences. A panel of judges did a blinded review of the essays for publication and awards. The judges selected three essays for prizes. Consideration was given to creativity, originality and the extent to which an idea could contribute to furthering the conversation on these issues.

The prize-winning essays are the following:

**First place:** J. Michael Collins and Cliff A. Robb, *Inequalities in Retirement Security: Unique Challenges for African American Households*.

**Second place:** Dania Francis and Christian E. Weller, *Necessary Family Financial Support Perpetuates Racial Wealth Inequality Across Generations – Evidence from the Coronavirus Pandemic*.

**Third place:** Karl Canty, *Closing the Retirement Readiness Gap*.

Our appreciation and congratulations again go out to all of the authors in this collection.

Special thanks to the members of the Project Oversight Group for their participation and review of the essays.

**Project Oversight Group members include:** Adrian Cox (representing IABA), John Cutler, Barb Hogg, Grace Lattyak, Cindy Levering, Anna Rappaport, Ruth Schau.

SOA Staff included Lisa Schilling, Barbara Scott, Steve Siegel and Solskin Gomez-Krogh.

And thanks to Adelaida Campos (representing OLA) for her review of the essays.