



PRESS RELEASE

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HBCU Library Alliance Leadership Institute Expands Mentoring Program

Atlanta, Georgia – May 9, 2012 - The Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Library Alliance announces that it is expanding the mentoring element of its Leadership Institutes in Phase IV of its Leadership Program. In addition to training, individualized coaching for mentors along with a continuing emphasis on building strong mentoring relationships within the program will be added. As an additional benefit, this new mentor training also enables mentors themselves to strengthen leadership skills and coaching on their own campuses.

The HBCU Library Alliance Leadership Program is funded through a grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the primary objective is to provide theoretical and practical instruction and useful resources to encourage the development of leadership skills within the HBCU library community and on their own campuses. The program hosts Leadership Institutes designed to identify emerging leaders in HBCU libraries, and offer them training on critical library leadership skills such as staff administration and strategic library assessment. In addition, a key element of the Leadership Institute is to pair participants with mentors who are demonstrated leaders in the field and can help strengthen participant skills and position them to fulfill their leadership potential.

“Past Institutes have demonstrated that the mentoring program and the relationships it builds have been critical to the success of Leadership Institute graduates, so we want to be sure our mentors have top-notch training as well,” says Marvelyn Thomas, HBCU Library Alliance Mentor Consultant. Sandra Phoenix, Executive Director of the HBCU Library Alliance, says “Between training, site visits, attendance at Institute classes, and work with mentees, individual mentors donate two to three weeks of their time to the Leadership Program. Mentors are usually directors of libraries, so their willingness to provide so much time to the Program is a sign of their commitment to leadership development within the HBCU library community. We are grateful for the time they give to the program, and for the results we see from their involvement.”

Prior graduates of the Leadership Institutes have demonstrated ongoing success as well. Cotina Jones, a graduate of Leadership Institute 3, recently accepted the position of Associate Director of the Library at North Carolina Central University (NCCU). “We are delighted to have Ms. Jones on board, and we know that her experience and leadership skills will help us continue to offer excellent services to our students and researchers,” says Dr. Theodosia Shields, Library Director at NCCU. Further demonstrating the importance of the mentoring program, Ms. Jones has returned to the HBCU Leadership Institute 4 as a mentor. “The HBCU Library Alliance Leadership Institute was critical in preparing me for my new role as Associate Director. I am very much looking forward to

continuing with the program as a mentor and sharing what I've learned with up and coming leaders in the HBCU community," says Ms. Jones of her involvement in the program. For more information about the HBCU Library Alliance and the Leadership Institutes, please visit www.hbculibraries.org.

About the HBCU Library Alliance

The HBCU Library Alliance is a consortium that supports the collaboration of institutions dedicated to providing resources designed to strengthen the libraries and archives of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and their constituents. The purpose of the HBCU Alliance is to ensure excellence in HBCU Libraries and the development, coordination, and promotion of programs and activities to enhance member libraries.