



PRESS RELEASE

CONTACT:

Sandra Phoenix
HBCU Library Alliance Executive Director
404.592.4820
sphoenix@hbculibraries.org

HBCU Library Alliance Receives New Grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

Atlanta, Georgia – November 1, 2013 - The Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Library Alliance has received a new grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to support the assessment and strengthening of library services for faculty research at historically black colleges and universities. The project will foster improved library services on individual HBCU campuses and develop collaborative approaches to expand HBCU community-wide library support for faculty research.

The project will begin by assessing librarians at HBCUs to better understand current capacity and identify library needs related to research support. In partnership with the HBCU Faculty Development Network, additional assessment will be done with HBCU faculty to better understand the support they need for research, especially in regard to services that are or could be provided by librarians. Assessment results will be shared with individual campuses and used to identify needs and issues that could be addressed collectively through the HBCU Library Alliance.

Following the assessments, which will gather valuable information about library support and faculty research needs, the HBCU Library Alliance will develop model programs for library-based research support services through sub-grants to eight HBCU libraries. The sub-grants will allow participating libraries to implement innovative programs and increase engagement with faculty in provision of support for research. In addition, training programs will be provided to assist all HBCU librarians in developing stronger relationships with faculty and improving research support services. Educational programs supported through the project would also share the results of the library and faculty surveys and provide opportunities for sub-grant recipients to mentor other HBCU librarians in expansion of research support services.

"The Mellon Foundation continues to reaffirm the purpose of the HBCU Library Alliance, and with this grant award, is further reinforcing our role of making our libraries and librarian staff better able to serve their faculty and students," states Cynthia L. Henderson, Executive Director of the Louis Stokes Health Sciences Library at Howard University and Chair of the HBCU Library Alliance Board of Directors.

"The HBCU Library Alliance is honored to receive this grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to continue our mission of strengthening HBCU libraries and their staff. We

are excited to build on the work we have done in developing leaders within HBCU libraries and helping them to improve research-related services while enhancing the library-faculty relationships to serve students at these culturally significant higher education institutions," says Sandra Phoenix, HBCU Library Alliance Executive Director.

For more information about the HBCU Library Alliance, 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.

###