



## PRESS RELEASE

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## HBCU Library Alliance Members Elect New Board Members

**Atlanta, Georgia – May 15, 2012** - The Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Library Alliance announces two new elected members of the HBCU Library Alliance Board of Directors, Jerome Offord, Lincoln University (MO) and Monika Rhue, Johnson C. Smith University (NC). The HBCU Library Alliance members in good standing voted for these two new Board members in the annual election, which began on April 11 and closed on April 25.

Jerome Offord, Jr. is the Dean of Library Services and University Archives, and Assistant Professor at Lincoln University in Missouri. He has a dual appointment as the Dean of Library Services and University Archives leading the Inman E. Page Library and ensuring that the library organization is student and faculty centered while providing innovative and traditional library services. As the Library Science Department Head and Assistant Professor, he is responsible for leading a team of library science faculty who are responsible for growing and teaching library science courses for undergraduates who have declared Library and Information Science as their academic minor. Lincoln University created a minor in Library and Information Science to help recruit students from underrepresented groups into careers in library and information science.

Jerome has more than 12 years of experience in higher education and has eight years of non-profit management experience. Jerome's educational background includes a B.S. in agriculture from Lincoln University of Missouri, a M.S. in higher education from Colorado State University, and an M.L.S. from Catholic University. Jerome has published several articles and has made presentations on numerous occasions about minority recruitment. Jerome also believes in serving the community. He is active with his fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. (the oldest historically African American collegiate fraternity) where he serves as the Fraternity's National Archivist and a member of its Historic Commission. Jerome serves as mentor, advisor, and resource to those in the community and campus.

Monika Rhue is the Director of the James B. Duke Memorial Library at Johnson C. Smith University (JCSU) in North Carolina. As the Director, she is responsible for planning, organizing, and delivering library services to JCSU community. Mrs. Rhue administers the daily operation of the library, which includes strategic planning, assessments, budget allocations, program and service development, and managing 13 library staff members. She also manages grant funded activities of the library and actively seeks external funding opportunities by writing, submitting, and receiving grant proposals/funds. Most recently, Mrs. Rhue launched JCSU's Information Literacy Buddy program, which has assisted other Historically Black Colleges and Universities in transforming their Bibliographic Instruction classes into an information literacy program. Mrs. Rhue has also transformed the JCSU Bibliographic Instruction classes into a comprehensive Information

Literacy program, offering a virtual tour, pre-test, self-paced online module, face-to-face instruction and post-test in South Africa, as a People-to-People Library Delegate.

Mrs. Rhue received her Bachelor of Arts Degree from Johnson C. Smith University in Telecommunication/Journalism and her Master of Library and Information Studies from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. Mrs. Rhue was a participant of the HBCU Library Alliance Leadership Institute (April 4-8, 2008), and a recipient of the ACRL Harvard Leadership Institute Scholarship (August 3-8, 2008). Mrs. Rhue is the Chair of the Mentoring Subcommittee for the University of North Carolina Academic and Cultural Enrichment (ACE) Scholars Program and was appointed to serve on the NC LIVE PAC Committee. Mrs. Rhue is the author of *Organizing and Preserving Family and Religious Record: A Step-by-Step Guide* and she is the proud owner of Preserve Pro ([www.preserveproinc.net](http://www.preserveproinc.net)), North Carolina's first African American Archives Consulting business.

"We welcome Jerome Offord and Monika Rhue to the Board of Directors, and look forward to their participation and contributions," says Sandra Phoenix, HBCU Library Alliance Executive Director.

"I am pleased to have Mr. Offord and Ms. Rhue join the Board of Directors as we embark on a new and important year serving our HBCU libraries and their communities," states Mary Jo Fayoyin, Director of Library Services at Savannah State University, GA, and Chair of the HBCU Library Alliance Board of Directors.

For more information about the HBCU Library Alliance, please visit [www.hbculibraries.org](http://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.