



PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

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SHANEÉ Y. WILLIS AND MARION T. KEY JOIN THE HBCU LIBRARY ALLIANCE

MCDONOUGH, GA, January 23, 2024 — The Historically Black Colleges and Universities Library Alliance (HBCU Library Alliance) has announced the addition of Shaneé Y. Willis and Marion T. Key as the Program Manager and Development Officer, respectively. In their new capacities, Ms. Willis will be responsible for developing program objectives and evaluation systems that align with the HBCU Library Alliance's mission and vision and Ms. Key will be responsible for soliciting donors and identifying funding sources for the HBCU Library Alliance. Ms. Willis will facilitate collaboration among member institutions, organize professional development opportunities, and advocate for increased accessibility to information resources that support student success and research. Ms. Key will encourage business development partnerships to advance the mission and goals of the Alliance.

Before joining the HBCU Library Alliance, Ms. Willis served as the Director of Community Engagement for the Digital Public Library of America (DPLA) from 2020 to 2023. Specifically, she handled building and promoting equitable and inclusive collections that reflected the shared cultural heritage with 4,000 institutions in a national network of state/regional digital libraries. She designed technology to make millions of free resources easy to find for the public bringing together digitized and born-digital content from across the country to a single access point for end users and an open platform for developers while ensuring that funders and collaborators are more diverse.

Prior to that position, Ms. Willis was the Community Manager for DPLA from 2019 to 2020. From 2016 to 2019, she was a University Archivist & Assistant Professor at the University of West Georgia and the Director of Library Services at Payne Theological Seminary. At Duke Divinity School Library, she was the Reference & Public Services Librarian from 2013 to 2014 and the Project Coordinator for the Religion in North Carolina Digital Collection from 2012 to 2013. In 2012, she was a Research Assistant for the U. S. Department of Transportation and the North Carolina Museum of History.

Ms. Willis has a Bachelor of Arts in Religion and Philosophy from Bethune-Cookman University, a Master of Divinity from Drew University and a Master of Information & Library Sciences in Archives & Records Management from North Carolina Central University.

Ms. Willis has been an active leader within the archival community and continues to contribute significantly to the professional growth of libraries and archives professionals.

Shaneé Willis can be contacted by email at swillis@hbculibraries.org or by phone at (678) 210-5801 ext. 103.

Before joining the HBCU Library Alliance, Ms. Key served as the Director of Development and Alumni Relations for Fund for Advancement of Minorities Through Education (FAME), a nonprofit educational advocacy agency, from 2016 to 2023. Specifically, she led the fundraising department and all fundraising and campaign activity for FAME. She served as the liaison between the staff and the board of trustees in the strategic planning process and managed community partnerships and engagement. She was responsible for grant writing, the stewardship of donors, and provided funding reports, trends in educational fundraising, networking, engagement programs, and internship opportunities for FAME alumni. She designed and implemented yearly development strategies.

Prior to that position, Ms. Key was employed by St. Edmund's Academy as a Director of Development from 2007 to 2015. She was an Account Executive at KDKA-TV (CBS) from 2004 to 2005. She was employed by the A.C. Nielsen market research company as a Retail Account Manager from 2001 to 2004, a Retail Account Executive from 1999 to 2001, and a Customer Development Account Executive from 1997 to 1999.

She is a trained journalist. She attended Delaware State University and New Jersey City University for her undergraduate studies; her Masters of Organizational Leadership is from Bethune Cookman University, and she is currently a doctoral student at the American College of Education.

Ms. Key's professional life and her personal volunteerism are dedicated to amplifying Black voices. As a 4th generation HBCU attendee, Ms. Key understands the role that Historically Black Colleges and Universities have played in the history of the United States and the influences that libraries have engendered in the development of academic excellence.

Marion Key can be contacted by email at mkey@hbculibraries.org or by phone at (678) 210-5801 ext. 104.

About the HBCU Library Alliance

The HBCU Library Alliance is a consortium that supports the collaboration of information professionals dedicated to providing an array of resources designed to strengthen Historically Black Colleges and Universities and their constituents.

At the heart of the HBCU Library Alliance is the preservation and celebration of our history. Our mission is to strengthen the libraries of HBCUs, ensuring they continue to be valuable resources for generations to come.

Please consider investing by clicking this link: [DONATE](#)

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