



PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

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NEH Grants \$350,000 to the HBCU Library Alliance to Support HBCU Student Development

McDonough, Georgia — The HBCU Library Alliance is thrilled to announce the award of a \$350,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) to launch the "Advancing Diversity in the Library Preservation Profession: Developing Summer Internships in Partnership with HBCUs" program. This three-year initiative aims to introduce undergraduate HBCU students to librarianship careers, focusing on preservation, archives, and conservation work. The program includes a hybrid format of virtual seminars and on-site, hands-on internship experiences.

The program will support twenty-four sponsored students from HBCUs by fostering collaborative research and educational efforts among a diverse group of renowned institutions. Among the participants, Fisk University, Tuskegee University, and Morgan State University—each distinguished HBCUs—will serve as host sites, collectively sponsoring six students and enhancing preservation capabilities in HBCU libraries through targeted training. Additionally, Brown University will sponsor two students, while the University of Kansas and Duke University will each sponsor one. Harvard University and the Conservation Center for Art & Historic Artifacts (CCAHA) will also contribute by sponsoring one student each.

"We are grateful for the support of the NEH and the commitment of our partner institutions in advancing diversity within the library preservation profession," said Executive Director Sandra Phoenix, "This initiative not only enhances opportunities for HBCU students but also enriches the entire academic community."

Dr. Melissa Tedone, Program Advisor, HBCU Library Alliance Board Member, as well as Associate Director of the Winterthur/University of Delaware Program in Art Conservation

(WUDPAC) stated, “I'm grateful to the NEH for recognizing the HBCU Library Alliance's important work caring for humanities collections and educating the next generation of library leaders. This award will support the Alliance and its institutional partners in providing a strong foundation of preservation education to students exploring a range of cultural heritage professions — future librarians, archivists, and conservators, among others. The award also highlights the significant collections of HBCU libraries that are so crucial to our understanding of American history and culture.”

About the HBCU Library Alliance

The HBCU Library Alliance is a consortium that supports the work of the information professionals at the libraries, archives, and special collections of the country's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs). Guided by the historic significance of HBCUs, the strength and voice of the HBCU Library Alliance is evident through its ongoing involvement and connection to its membership of libraries serving HBCU institutions. Since its founding, the HBCU Library Alliance has provided an array of resources and programs to transform and strengthen its member libraries by developing library leaders, preserving member collections and making them more accessible, and planning for the future.

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