

## PRESS RELEASE - For Immediate Release

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## **HBCU Library Alliance Receives Prestigious NEH Chair's Grant**

MCDONOUGH, GA, July 15, 2024 – The HBCU Library Alliance is proud to announce that it has been awarded the NEH Chair's Grant of \$29,398.50 from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH). The Endowment awards grants to top-rated proposals examined by panels of independent, external reviewers. This significant funding will support the participation of student library ambassadors and non-director library staff in the HBCU Library Alliance's 10th Membership Meeting, scheduled to take place in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, from October 27 to October 29, 2024.

The NEH grant will cover essential aspects of the conference, including travel expenses for seven student library ambassadors, twenty-one non-director library staff, and six preconference presenters. Additionally, the grant will provide per diems and administrative costs, ensuring a comprehensive and enriching experience for all attendees.

The HBCU Library Alliance recognizes the importance of cultivating leadership and empowering non-director library staff and student library ambassadors. These individuals are crucial to the success and growth of HBCU libraries, and the Alliance is committed to providing them with opportunities to contribute, share their experiences, and exchange ideas on addressing the challenges and opportunities faced by HBCU libraries.

During the membership meeting, non-director library staff and student library ambassadors will be encouraged to actively participate in discussions, panel sessions, workshops, and interactive activities. This will facilitate meaningful dialogue, knowledge sharing, and the development of new strategies to address the evolving needs of HBCU libraries.

The student library ambassadors will be recognized during the opening session of the membership meeting with certificates and public acknowledgment. This recognition not only encourages their engagement but also promotes a culture of appreciation within the HBCU Library Alliance community, highlighting the valuable contributions of these future leaders.

The theme of the membership meeting is "The HBCU Library Alliance: Empowering our Members to Face the Future of Democracy and Education." The keynote speaker is <u>Dr. Marybeth Gasman</u>, Executive Director of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Institute for Leadership, Equity & Justice and the Executive Director of the Rutgers University (NJ) Center for Minority Serving Institutions.

For more information about the HBCU Library Alliance and the 10th Membership Meeting, please visit HBCU Library Alliance's <u>website</u> or contact the Alliance at <u>info@hbculibraries.org</u>.

## **About the HBCU Library Alliance:**

The HBCU Library Alliance is a consortium that supports the collaboration of information professionals dedicated to providing numerous resources to strengthen library and archival support for Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Established in 2002 and incorporated as a 501(c)(3) in 2006, the HBCU Library Alliance's mission is to transform and strengthen its membership by developing library leaders, preserving collections, and planning for the future.