



PRESS RELEASE – For Immediate Release

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HBCU Library Alliance to Hold Membership Meeting in Baton Rouge, LA

MCDONOUGH, GA, October 2024 — From Sunday, October 27, 2024, through Tuesday, October 29, 2024, the HBCU Library Alliance will hold its tenth membership meeting in Baton Rouge, Louisiana commemorating 22 years of service. The theme is “The HBCU Library Alliance: Empowering our Members to Face the Future of Democracy and Education.”

[Dr. Marybeth Gasman](#), 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 will be the keynote speaker.

The membership meeting will provide a platform for HBCU library professionals, educators, and student leaders to come together, exchange ideas, and collaborate on addressing the challenges and opportunities facing HBCU libraries in the evolving landscape of higher education. The meeting schedule is as follows:

- October 27: Preconference Sessions, 12:30 pm – 5:30 pm
 - The Courage to Lead and Change Management
 - Mapping with Metahouse: How Libraries can Support Virtual Reality Programming on Campus
 - The Journey of an HBCU Archivist
 - Building Value
 - Disaster, Emergency, and Recovery
 - Recharge, Refocus, Renew: Stress Management Strategies for Introverted Library Professionals

- October 28 and October 29: Membership and partner sessions

“We are pleased to receive a Chair’s grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. This funding will allow us to strategically impact the ‘developing library leaders’ component of our mission statement. Engaging with and providing professional development opportunities for student library ambassadors and non-director library staff strengthens both the body of

knowledge and voice of advocacy of the HBCU Library Alliance.” says Sandra Phoenix, Executive Director.

Board Chair Adrienne C. Webber remarks, "As we celebrate the 10th Anniversary Meeting of the HBCU Library Alliance and our 22nd year of existence, we extend our gratitude to one of the founding institutions, Southern University and A&M College, for hosting this significant occasion. This year’s theme, 'Empowering our Members to Face the Future of Democracy and Education,' highlights our dedication to providing tools and knowledge for navigating the evolving library landscape. We will explore innovative strategies to enhance our libraries and support our communities."

These sessions will provide attendees with valuable professional development opportunities, equipping them with the knowledge, skills, and tools to navigate the challenges and seize the opportunities within the HBCU library landscape. The sessions will be led by experts in their respective fields, facilitating interactive discussions, sharing best practices, and fostering a collaborative learning environment.

Other notable individuals scheduled to attend include:

James Neal, Senior Program Officer, Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS), Anthony Mitchell, Senior Deputy Chair, National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH), Patricia Hswe, Program Director for Public Knowledge, Mellon Foundation, Sharon Burney, Program Officer, Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR), and Julie Fisher, Director for Publishing Programs, National Historical Publications and Records Commission (NHPRC).

Visit hbculibraries.org for more information.

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.

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