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HBCU News

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HBCU NEWS

HBCU Library Alliance Holds its Second Leadership Institute

The HBCU Library Alliance held its second Leadership Institute, August 10-15, 2007, at the Aberdeen Woods Conference Center in Peachtree City, Ga.

The 2007-2008 Institute, facilitated by KTA Global Partners, was kicked off by opening speaker Kate Nevins, Executive Director of the Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET). Speakers such as Charles Greene, from the White House Initiative on HBCUs, also participated in the six-day event.

“Hosting the leadership institute is one of the major activities for the Alliance,” said Lillian Lewis, HBCU Library Alliance. “Our goal is to address the impending shortage of library directors by preparing trained leaders to deal with the complex issues facing libraries. The participants are also better able to advance a vision for the library as a valued partner in the teaching mission of their institution.”

Funded by a grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the Leadership Institute was established to provide

theoretical and practical instruction and useful resources to encourage the development of leadership skills within the HBCU library community.

Eleven libraries participated in this year’s Leadership Institute. Those libraries were **Hinds Community College** in Mississippi; **Jackson State University** in Mississippi; **Johnson C. Smith** in North Carolina; **Mississippi Valley State University**; **Morehouse School of Medicine** in Georgia; **North Carolina Central**; **Southern University** in Louisiana; **St. Augustine’s College** in North Carolina; **Tougaloo College** in Alabama; **Tuskegee University** in Alabama; and **Wiley College** in Texas.

HBCU Library Alliance Begins Mentor Development Program at Leadership Institute

The HBCU Library Alliance debuted an innovative program to develop mentors at its second Leadership Institute. The Mentor Development Program is part of a larger initiative, funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, to foster and develop leadership within libraries at Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs).

Mentoring was a critical factor in the success of the HBCU Library Alliance’s first Leadership Institute, providing a support network for participants during the Institute and beyond. The Mentor Development Program seeks to strengthen coaching and mentoring skills for selected participants in the first Leadership Institute, and provides a practical opportunity for using coaching and mentoring within the context of the second Leadership Institute.

The Mentor Development Program is in a pilot phase. It currently includes targeted activities to define roles and responsibilities; evaluate mentoring and coaching effectiveness through self-assessment and 360-degree feedback; provide training for skill development; and provide a support network for mentors. In addition, mentors will be matched with librarians participating in the Leadership Institute to assist in the completion of projects focused on strategic issues within the librarians' campuses. The Mentor Development Program is being facilitated by The Human Resource Department in Atlanta.

Six directors of HBCU libraries who participated in the first Leadership Institute are serving as mentors. They are:

- *Zenobia Blackmon*, H. Councill Trenholm State, AL
- *Mary Jo Fayoyin*, Savannah State, GA
- *Marilyn Gibbs*, Claflin University, SC
- *Laverne McLaughlin*, Albany State, GA
- *Loretta Parham*, The Robert W. Woodruff of the Atlanta University Center, GA
- *Joan Williams*, Bennett College, NC

Eleven libraries will benefit from the work of the mentors. All participated in this year's Leadership Institute. Those libraries are **Hinds Community College** in Mississippi; **Jackson State University** in Mississippi; **Johnson C. Smith** in North Carolina; **Mississippi Valley State University**; **Morehouse School of Medicine** in Georgia; **North Carolina Central**; **Southern University**

in Louisiana; **St. Augustine's College** in North Carolina; **Tougaloo College** in Alabama; **Tuskegee University** in Alabama; and **Wiley College** in Texas.

Founding of Historically Black Colleges and Universities Celebrated

Online collection includes more than 1,000 scanned items from HBCU institutions

The first digital collection of documents and materials chronicling the founding of America's historically black colleges and universities is now available online at <http://contentdm.auctr.edu>. "A Digital Collection Celebrating the Founding of the Historically Black College and University" includes more than 1,000 scanned photographs, manuscripts, letters and publications from 10 institutions designated as Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU).

The project, which was funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, represents the first collaborative effort by HBCU libraries to make a historical collection digitally available. The online collection, which is hosted by the Robert W. Woodruff Library of the Atlanta University Center, is the product of a partnership between the HBCU Library Alliance, HBCU institutions, the Southeastern Library Network (SOLINET) and Cornell University.

The contents of the collection date back to the early 1800s and include campus charters, student yearbooks, early campus architectural drawings, and a rich assortment of photographs featuring first presidents, graduating classes,

famous alumni and churches, which often served as the first classrooms at several of these institutions. "This is an excellent resource for scholars and others interested in understanding the importance of institutions of higher learning founded by African-Americans. It offers direct access to original documents and images chronicling the story of these institutions, which are usually only available to researchers by travel to the institutions themselves," said Dorothy Autrey, chair of the history and political science department at Alabama State University.

The online collection features materials from **Alabama State University, Atlanta University Center, Bennett College for Women, Fisk University, Grambling State University, Hampton University, Southern University, Tuskegee University, Tennessee State University and Virginia State University.**

To view materials from the collection, go to contentdm.auctr.edu. For more information about the partnership and the HBCU Library Alliance digital library initiative, visit <http://hbculibraries.org/html/programs.html>.

SOLINET PRODUCT NEWS

SOLINET Receives NEH Grant for Its Preservation Field Services Program

The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) awarded \$500,000 to SOLINET to support its regional Preservation Field Services program for libraries, archives, and museums. The grant will fund education and training, reference services, consulting, and provision of free information resources

to strengthen programs to preserve and protect collections in cultural organizations.

Plans and programs that support preservation are critical to enable access to collections and information resources now and in the future. The 2005 *Heritage Health Index Report* from Heritage Preservation reports that 77% of collecting institutions do not specifically allocate funds for preservation in their budgets, and that only 20% have paid staff dedicated to preservation. Furthermore, 80% do not have a written emergency response plan with staff trained to implement it.

Collections in all formats are in need of focused and ongoing preservation attention, and many continue to be damaged because of storage in poorly controlled environments or inadequate facilities. With the grant from NEH, SOLINET plans to increase preservation knowledge and skills in cultural organizations, provide support for effective preservation planning and management, and strengthen the regional preservation community.

The Preservation Field Services Program at SOLINET has provided leadership, collaboration, and educational services since 1984, with many activities funded during that time by other grants from NEH. During this new grant, SOLINET will continue its successful preservation education and training program, focusing on the development of more web-based courses and a new online curriculum devoted to preservation of digital resources. New interactive, web-based resources will be developed and freely provided to promote preservation best practices and enable ready access to