



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **HBCU Library Alliance Awarded \$70,000 Mellon Foundation Grant**

Atlanta, GA — January 18, 2011 — The Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Library Alliance announces a \$70,000 grant award from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for the Alliance's "Preserving Our History" project. The two-year project will document and disseminate the history of the HBCU Library Alliance and highlight member success stories. This is the first grant awarded directly to the Alliance.

"We are thrilled to receive the grant, which represents a major step forward for the sustainability for the organization," said Sandra Phoenix, HBCU Library Alliance Program Director, who will serve as Project Manager. "The historical documents will serve to spread the successful message of cooperation and collaboration not only nationally, but also internationally to developing countries."

A professional writer will be hired to document the history and accomplishments of the HBCU Library Alliance. The grant deliverables will contribute to the literature about libraries and HBCUs.

The Alliance plans to present the documents at upcoming conferences including the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Annual Conference, providing a model of collaboration for other libraries, particularly in Africa and the Caribbean.

Seven member success stories will be featured in the project to serve as models and learning tools for the larger library community. Examples of innovative HBCU projects include a partnership between The Inez Moore Parker Archives at the James B. Duke Memorial Library at Johnson C. Smith University (NC) with the North Carolina Digital Heritage Center to make materials available online through Digital NC; and the Atlanta University Center's Woodruff Library (GA), which used HBCU Library Alliance's "The State of Libraries at HBCUs"

report to gain project approval and funding for the library's first phase of renovation, completed in May 2010.

For more information about the HBCU Library Alliance, please visit [www.hbculibraries.org](http://www.hbculibraries.org).

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

The HBCU Library Alliance is a consortium that supports the collaboration of institutions dedicated to providing resources designed to strengthen the libraries of Historically Black Colleges and Universities and their constituents. The purpose of the HBCU Alliance is to ensure excellence in HBCU Libraries and the development, coordination, and promotion of programs and activities to enhance member libraries.

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