



## PRESS RELEASE

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## HBCU Library Alliance Completes Fourth Phase of Leadership Institute

**Atlanta, Georgia – December 6, 2012** - The Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) Library Alliance completed the fourth phase of its Leadership Institute. The Leadership Institute, part of the larger HBCU Library Alliance Leadership Program, is a nine-month program funded by a \$600,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to develop and support effective library leadership at HBCUs. The fourth phase, and last round funded by the Foundation, builds on previous successes to further strengthen HBCU libraries and staff leadership skills.

The nine-month Leadership Institute culminated in a four-day conference, held on November 8-11, 2012 in Atlanta, GA. Leadership Institute participants were selected with assistance by HBCU Library Alliance Board Chair Mary Jo Fayoyin, Savannah State University (GA) and Board Vice-Chair Cynthia Henderson, Howard University (DC). Participants presented their projects to the larger group during the conference, and represented the following HBCU Library Alliance institutions: Alabama State University, Bennett College (NC), Claflin University (SC), Coahoma Community College (MS), Delaware State University, Johnson C. Smith University (NC), Lincoln University (MO), Mississippi Valley State University, Saint Augustine's College (NC), Savannah State University (GA), University of the Virgin Islands, West Virginia State University and Winston-Salem State University (NC).

The theme for the conference was a Call to Action and focused on energizing library leadership in HBCUs. The keynote speaker was Dr. Sandra Casey-Buford, Director of Diversity and Inclusion from the Massachusetts Port Authority. The conference ended with sessions for participants to share what they had learned over the nine-month period and from each other during the project presentations. All participants received a Leadership Institute certificate and a copy of *The Four Agreements: A Practical Guide to Personal Freedom (A Toltec Wisdom Book)* by Don Miguel Ruiz.

“The Leadership Institute was a resounding success and continues the HBCU Library Alliance tradition of creating leaders in librarianship. I am honored to be a part of this journey and look forward to the contributions of these individuals as they enrich HBCUs and the overall library community,” states Mary Jo Fayoyin, Director of Library Services at Savannah State University, GA, and Chair of the HBCU Library Alliance Board of Directors.

“We are encouraged by the enthusiasm, dedication and creativity of our Leadership Institute graduates. It is my hope they continue this passionate work at their institutions and with the HBCU Library Alliance for many years to come,” says Sandra Phoenix,

HBCU Library Alliance Executive Director.

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 and archives 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.