

April 25, 2006

For Immediate Release

Contact: Lillian Lewis, HBCU Library Alliance, at [llewis@solinet.net](mailto:llewis@solinet.net), (404) 592-4820  
or 1 (800) 999-8558 ext. 4820  
John Burger, ASERL, at [jburger@solinet.net](mailto:jburger@solinet.net) or  
(404) 892-0943 ext. 4830

## **HBCU Librarians Chosen for Exchange Program with ASERL Libraries**

HBCU Library Alliance and the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) are pleased to announce the selection of five associate-level librarians from the Library Alliance Leadership Program to participate in a pilot exchange program with five member libraries of ASERL during the summer of 2006. Funded by a \$20,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the goals of the exchange are to provide the HBCU librarians with an opportunity to address specific issues of strategic importance to their respective libraries with the assistance and expertise of ASERL library leaders, and to foster additional collaboration between ASERL and HBCU libraries. The project also includes a site visit by the participating ASERL library dean to the HBCU library prior to the exchange.

The participants were selected for their potential for leadership as demonstrated by a record of past achievement, ability to articulate the leadership need regarding the strategic area identified as the focus of the exchange, a history of creative contribution to organizational problem-solving, and experience in effective engagement within and outside of the library to improve library service. The match between each librarian and the institution was based upon the librarian's strategic focus and the expertise of the ASERL institution in that area.

The following HBCU librarians will work with these ASERL institutions:

- Evelyn Council, Associate Director for Collection Development at Fayetteville State University (NC), with University of Tennessee – Knoxville
- Sharlene Harris, Librarian, St. Thomas Campus, University of the Virgin Islands, with College of William and Mary
- Iyanna Sims, Interim Electronic Resources Librarian, North Carolina A&T University, with Wake Forest University
- Janet Walsh, Assistant Librarian for Access Services at Fisk University (TN), with University of Kentucky

*(more)*

- Brenda Wright, Assistant Director for Collection Management at Florida A&M University, with University of Louisville.

“Thanks to ongoing support from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the HBCU Library Alliance is able to offer another extraordinary opportunity to our members,” said Lillian Lewis, HBCU Library Alliance Program Officer. “ASERL’s participation in this project further enriches the experience for all.”

“There has long been a keen interest in fostering alliances between ASERL libraries and HBCU institutions,” commented ASERL Executive Director John Burger. “This exchange program is an important step in cementing those relationships for the future.”

The pilot program includes an extensive evaluation process that will influence the design of the program for future participants.

HBCU libraries serve as unique and indispensable gatekeepers for history, culture, and the African-American experience. Created by the deans and directors of these libraries in 2002, the HBCU Library Alliance seeks to ensure excellence in HBCU libraries through the development, coordination, and promotion of programs and activities to enhance members’ collections and services. Visit [www.hbculibraries.org](http://www.hbculibraries.org).

Founded in 1956, ASERL is the largest regional academic library cooperative in the country, with 37 research libraries and four state libraries. ASERL was a founding member of SOLINET and has supported innovative professional development projects for many years. Visit ASERL at [www.aserl.org](http://www.aserl.org).

###