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For Immediate Release

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SOLINET and HBCU Library Alliance Receive Leadership Grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

SOLINET and the HBCU Library Alliance received a \$500,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to provide professional development opportunities for librarians in Historically Black Colleges and Universities. The two-year project will focus on strengthening leadership within the HBCU library community to effectively integrate library services into campus programs for teaching and learning.

The HBCU Library Leadership Program will use a variety of approaches to aid individual libraries in articulating and advancing a vision for the library as a valued partner in teaching and learning, building partnerships with faculty and administrators and within the broader HBCU community, managing change, and creating a culture of leadership within the library staff. Specific activities include a multipart leadership program, workshops for skill development throughout the library, establishment of mentoring relationships, consulting site visits from experts, and an exchange program for librarians from HBCUs.

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. Current Board members are Loretta Parham (chair), Director/Chief Executive Officer of the Robert W. Woodruff Library at Atlanta University Center, GA; Yildiz Binkley, Director of Libraries and Media Centers at Tennessee State University; Zenobia Blackmon, Head Librarian at Trenholm State Technical College, AL; Janice R. Franklin, Director of the Library and Learning Resource Center at Alabama State University; Tommy S. Holton, Dean of Libraries at Dillard University, LA; Karen McDaniel, Director of Libraries at Kentucky State University; Anita Moore, Head Librarian at Rust College, MS; Emma Bradford Perry, Dean of Libraries at Southern University and A&M College, LA; and Elsie Stephens Weatherington, Dean of Library and Media Services at Virginia State University.

Founded in 1973, SOLINET is a non-profit membership organization serving more than 2600 libraries of all types and sizes in ten Southeastern states and the Caribbean. Primary programs are Member Services, OCLC Services, Preservation & Access, Electronic Databases, Library Products, Digital Services, Educational Services, and Consulting. Visit the SOLINET website at www.solinet.net.

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