

Founding Committee
June 14, 2010
Presented by Sandra M. Phoenix, Program Director

The terms of **three** of the founding directors of the HBCU Library Alliance will expire in June 2010.

The directors are:

1. Mrs. Loretta Parham, Board Chair, CEO and Director of Library Services, Robert W. Woodruff Library of the Atlanta University Center (GA)
2. Dr. Janice Franklin, Chair of the HBCU/CUL Digital Initiative, Dean of the University Library at Alabama State University
3. Dr. Elsie Stephens-Weatherington, Board Vice Chair and Treasurer, Dean of Library and Media Services, Virginia State University.

The membership approved a Bylaws change in FY 09 that created a one-year Past Chair voting position. Loretta Parham will serve for one year in that capacity to assist with the transition of new leadership.

Other founding directors who have graduated from the HBCU Library Alliance Board of Directors are:

1. Tommy Holton, Dean, Will W. Alexander Library, Dillard University (LA)
2. Emma Bradford Perry, Dean, John B. Cade Library, Southern University and A&M College (LA).

The founding directors have provided commitment, vision and leadership to the HBCU Library Alliance for more than eight years. They have guided the organization from mere discussion to that of the HBCU Library Initiative to the renamed and incorporated entity (HBCU Library Alliance) providing services that strengthen our member libraries. The founding directors are the faces behind the Mellon grants that fund our Leadership Program, HBCU/CUL Digital Initiative and Photographic Preservation Project.

As new leadership is elected to the Board of Directors, it is critical that the Alliance continue to be recognized by our project partners and funding agencies as an organization committed to the mission of supporting and promoting collaboration of information professionals and excellence in library services for members. For this purpose, I am proposing that the Board establish a Founding Committee.

The Founding Board Chair, Loretta Parham, serves on the Founding Committee to:

- attend, as needed, any Board and/or committee meeting
- offer continuity and representation as the Alliance pursues funding options
- provide guidance and support during leadership transition
- assist in evaluating the performance of the Alliance in achieving its mission

The Founding Committee members can attend any Board meeting of the Alliance and offer consultation, guidance and support. Their knowledge and historical perspective will enhance the effectiveness of the Board. For example, Dr. Janice Franklin's leadership of the HBCU/CUL project is critical to the inaugural success of this initiative. As Vice Chair and Treasurer, Elsie Stephens-Weatherington's knowledge of the membership and the Alliance's financial planning and reports will assist new leadership. Dean Perry brings diversity of experiences ranging from being the first African-American chair of the SOLINET Board of Directors, and the first time appointment of a librarian to the Commission of Colleges for the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). Tommy Holton, along with the other founding directors, served on the 2003 Project Planning Grant that provided the framework for the first Leadership Program.

The skills and energy of the newly elected Board members combined with the foundational and historical perspective of the Founding Committee will strengthen the HBCU Library Alliance Board and its membership for the foreseeable future.

Approved by the HBCU Library Alliance Board of Directors
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