

For immediate release

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SOLINET and the HBCU Library Alliance Receive \$600,000 Grant to further HBCU Leadership Institute

ATLANTA – (January 12, 2009) – SOLINET and the HBCU (Historically Black College and Universities) Library Alliance received a \$600,000 grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to expand the focus of the highly successful HBCU Library Alliance Leadership Program.

Recognizing that leadership is a prerequisite for a successful library, SOLINET and the HBCU Library Alliance partnered to strengthen HBCU libraries through the introduction and implementation of a leadership development initiative. “As a result of funding from the Mellon Foundation and our partnership with the HBCU Library Alliance, two successful programs of leadership development have been completed, reaching senior library staff at 44 Historically Black Colleges and Universities. With the confidence, skills, and knowledge gained through the Leadership Institute, participants have tackled strategic issues and begun new programs to expand services to students and faculty. This new grant addresses the ongoing need for leadership development for library professionals,” said Kate Nevins, SOLINET Executive Director.

While the Leadership Program has proved to be effective, it has reached only a portion of the HBCU library community. “The HBCU Library Alliance is pleased to receive the funds needed to build on earlier successes. The new Leadership Program will create a new multi-part, nine-month leadership development and education program to be offered to HBCU librarians through both face-to-face and web-based classes. We also plan to continue the successful staff exchange program with the Association of Southeastern Research Libraries (ASERL) and provide focused programming on advocacy and networking for senior librarians,” said Loretta Parham, Chair of the HBCU Library Alliance and CEO of the Robert W. Woodruff Library, Atlanta University Center.

SOLINET

The Southeastern Library Network, Inc. (SOLINET) is an Atlanta-based not-for-profit library cooperative serving Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia and

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the Caribbean. A membership network of libraries and other information organizations, SOLINET works in collaboration with many partners, from local to international, to provide leadership for cooperative action, improve access to information, and enable members to effectively anticipate and address the region's needs for education, economic development, and improved quality of life. www.solinet.net.

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 the excellence in HBCU Libraries and the development, coordination, and promotion of programs and activities to enhance member libraries.

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