

HBCUs and LIS Education: Moving Forward

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ABSTRACT

For nearly 100 years, historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs) have been instrumental in educating Black librarians. Besides providing LIS pedagogy, HBCUs foster many of the college graduates who chose librarianship. HBCU-based LIS programs include Hampton University (1925-1954), Alabama A&M University (1969-1982), the University of the District of Columbia (1969-1979), Clark Atlanta University (1939-2005), and North Carolina Central University (est. 1941). After the closing of all but one of these programs (at North Carolina Central University), there is a need to revitalize HBCU-LIS pathways.

This interactive discussion will center the contributions of HBCUs in LIS and provide new directions for educating and empowering Black librarians. Joining the panel via Skype will be Dr. Shaundra Walker and Tina Rollins, two HBCU-affiliated library directors. Attendees will learn about the HBCU Pathways Project, an effort that has resulted in evidence-based reports on ways to increase the matriculation of HBCU students into LIS programs. The ultimate goal of this project is to actuate racial diversity in the LIS field by providing insight for sustainable, reciprocal, and culturally responsive HBCU-LIS partnerships. In keeping with the conference theme of “Exploring Learning in a Global Information Context,” this panel will delve into Black librarianship in the globalized, 21st-century context.

TOPICS

education programs/school; pedagogy; students; social justice