South Carolina State University
HBCU Library Summit on Open Education Resources (OERs)
Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program

South Carolina State University (SC State) requests $249,999 from the Laura Bush 21st Century Librarian Program to sponsor a Summit on affordable and Open Educational Resources (OER) for HBCU academic librarians. The Summit is intended to provide training on open education resources that will empower and equip librarians with the knowledge to become advocates and leaders of the OER and affordable learning movement at their respective campuses. Librarians from public and private HBCUs will be invited to attend the Summit, devoted to professional development activities on OERs. Topics will include the various types of OER repositories (textbooks, multimedia, courses, etc.), Creative Common licenses, and OER curation and evaluation. Moreover, the Summit will explore challenges and solutions to the adoption of OERs faced by HBCUs that are not present in other colleges and universities. The deliverable for this project will be a two and one-half day Summit, with planning beginning in August 2019 culminating into a Summit in June 2020. The Co-Principal Investigators will present the findings from the Summit at a national conference. The Principal Investigator is Dr. Ruth A. Hodges, Interim Dean of Library and Information Services and Co-Principal Investigator is Dr. Diane M. Burnette, Executive Director, Center for Teaching, Learning, and Extended Studies. Dr. Hodges has over 25 years in librarianship and is an active member of several library-related professional organizations including the HBCU Library Alliance. Dr. Burnette has over 25 years of experience in distance education and digital learning. She previously served as Director of Online Collaborative Programs for the University System of Georgia (USG). The USG academic libraries led the development of the highly successful Affordable Learning Initiative in Georgia and the GALILEO virtual library service.

Statement of Broad Need
Textbooks have increased 88% over the last decade, averaging about $1,250 a year at four-year public colleges. The cost of textbooks and other course materials present barriers to the completion of a college education. Congress and other leaders consider Open Education Resources (OER) as one solution to reducing college debt which is a national imperative. Studies have shown that over 90% students do as well or better in open textbook courses as compared to courses using traditional textbooks. [1, 2, 3] Moreover, empirical evidence demonstrates that OERs address affordability and attainment gaps by improving student outcomes, particularly among Pell Grant recipients and populations historically underserved by higher education. [4] In Fall 2017, HBCUs enrolled approximately 114,000 students, many of whom represent low-income, first generation college students. [5] These students would greatly benefit from the use of OERs to lower their cost of attendance. In the U.S., academic libraries have been at the forefront of the OER and affordable textbook movement to support the creation, adaptation, adoption, awareness of open and affordable textbooks. [6] However, HBCU librarians have limited resources to support their professional development, particularly for librarians employed at HBCUs with less than

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[1] Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor. (2016). College tuition and fees increase 63 percent since January 2006. *The Economics Daily*. https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2016/college-tuition-and-fees-increase-63-percent-since-january2006.htm

[2] Ma, J., Baum, S., Pender, M. & Welch, M. (2017). *Trends in College Pricing 2017*, *The CollegeBoard*. https://trends.collegeboard.org/sites/default/files/2017-trends-in-college-pricing_1.pdf ;

[3] D Durbin, J., King, A. S., Smith, T., Polis, J., & Sinema, K. (2018, 18 April). Richard J. Durbin, Angus S. King, Tina Smith, Jared Polis, & Kyrsten Sinema to Betsy DeVos. April 18, 2018 [Letter on open textbooks]. https://www.durbin.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/Open%20Textbooks%20Pilot%20Implementation%204.18.18.pdf

[4] Colvard, N.B., Watson, C.E., & Park, H. (2018). The impact of open educational resources on various student success metrics. *International Journal of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education,* 30(2), 263-276.

[5] U.S. Department of Education. Institute of Education Sciences, National Center for Education Statistics.

[6] Yano, B. (2017). *Connect OER Annual Report, 2016-2017*. Washington, DC: SPARC. https://sparcopen.org/our-work/connectoer/reports

4,000 students, which is approximately 90% of the 106 HBCUs. If HBCU librarians are to serve as leaders of OER initiatives on their campuses, they must have the skills and knowledge in order to become OER advocates. The Institute of Museums and Library Services has played a major role in supporting the professional SC State development of specialized librarian populations on OERs. Examples of these projects include The Regents of University of Minnesota OER Bootcamp, the Black Hills Special Services Cooperative OER training for rural school librarians in North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming and the Creative Commons professional development and certification program for librarians. As an activity within the *continuing education category*, the HBCU Summit on Open Education Resources is consistent with these activities and aligned with the *National Digital Infrastructure and Initiatives (NDII)*.

Project Design

Performance Goals and Outcomes

- Empower librarians with knowledge and skills to become advocates for free and low-cost textbooks and serve as resources for creating, finding, adopting, and adapting free and affordable content.
- Introduce librarians to best practices for the development, maintenance, sustainability of an OER initiative within their respective campuses.
- Equip librarians with skills to identify and share best practices for the production, review, dissemination, and/or preservation of open educational resources (OERs).
- Enable librarians to become more knowledgeable of the OER curation process.

Upon receipt of the grant funds, planning for the summit agenda, keynote speaker and workshop leaders will be finalized by August 1, 2019. A part-time program assistant will be hired no later than September 1, 2019. A conference planning committee will be organized comprised of representatives from the HBCU OER Initiative and HBCU participating academic librarians. A conference website will be developed with online registration opening by March 1, 2020. The SC State Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs will send letters to the Chief Academic Officer for the HBCUs inviting them to send their head librarian to the Summit.   The Summit will be held June 2020 in South Carolina. The two and one-half day program will feature a keynote speaker, panel discussions, small group sessions, networking opportunities and concurrent workshops. A survey will be distributed to all participants following the Summit to ascertain their plans to implement an OER initiative at their home institutions.

Diversity Plan

HBCUs are among the most diverse institutions within the American higher education enterprise. Invitations to attend the Summit will be extended to public and private HBCUs.

Broad Impact

With 106 public and private HBCUs, the potential impact of this professional development activity is significant. The proposed HBCU Summit would provide HBCU academic librarians with two and one-half days of intensive training on OERs and adoption strategies, thus equipping librarians to become leaders in developing OER initiatives on their affiliated campuses. Such initiatives would support college affordability and ultimately lead to improved student retention and graduation rates and might serve as a model for institutions of similar sizes.

Budget Summary

SC State requests a total budget of $249,999 over a one -year period without cost sharing.
This includes $192,307 in direct costs and $57,692 in indirect costs calculated at the South Carolina State rate.
The direct costs are delineated into librarian travel stipends ($113,800) conference facilities and materials ($22,244), presenter honoraria and travel ($20,378), a part-time program assistant ($16,600), conference travel PI and Co-PI ($8,600)**,** and release time for the PI and Co-PI ($10,685).