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For Immediate Release

Africa Network Conference to Feature HBCU Panel

The Africa Network a nonprofit consortium of liberal arts colleges committed to literacy about and concern for Africa in American higher education will hold its annual Conference at Denison University in Granville, Ohio on April 16-18, 2010. One of the features of this year's conference will be a representative panel from Historical Black Colleges and Universities (HBCU) where the need for African expertise and curriculum is especially acute. Although it welcomes the counsel and partnership of African studies scholars and departments in the large research institutions, the Africa Network focus is on the nation's relatively small but influential liberal arts colleges.

The Spring 2009 conference held at the Hickory Ridge Marriott Conference Center in Niles, Illinois drew over 200 faculty, administrators and consultants from 50 colleges and universities, Study Abroad programs, African consulting businesses and Bureaus. One Historically Black College and University was represented. Thus the need for outreach to HBCU's whose emerging college students are viewed as crucial participants in stimulating economic growth, improving public health, environmental issues, security and other issues on the continent. The Network has extended invitations to HBCU's in the past but the upcoming conference hopes to accomplish its goal of HBCU involvement through a participatory panel from institutions as Lincoln University, Fisk University, Claflin College, Bethune-Cookman University and others. WVSU professor Tee Ford-Ahmed will chair the panel.

The Africa Network sponsors two key programs: (1.) The Annual Conference mentioned above, which focuses on creative teaching and the study of Africa in the liberal arts context and (2.) an inter-institutional consultancy program that enables member institutions to visit one another's campuses and to connect the expertise in one institution with the developmental needs and aspirations of another. For example, an Africanist at a member institution who is seeking a more substantial role for Africa in the general education program could apply to bring to the campus an Africanist from a member institution with an exemplary general education program. This program, building on the creative energy and good will found at the annual meetings foster new levels of understanding, common purpose and cooperation.

For more information on the Africa Network or April conference go to www.africanetwork.org or contact Tee Ford-Ahmed @ 304-766-3303