ABOUT OUR MEMBER UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

The Diversity Alliance is a collaborative effort among American University, the University of Iowa, Virginia Tech, and West Virginia University that represents a commitment to mentoring under-represented populations and establishing a networked cohort of early-career librarians.

The overarching goal is to combine a broad range of experiences working in an academic environment with exposure to research and scholarship. Together, the Alliance institutions will help build a foundation for successful career development opportunities for the program’s residents as well as strongly supported inclusion and diversity initiatives.

American University Library seeks to enable educational and research success by building collections and facilitating access to information across all formats; teaching people how to locate, assess, and use information to meet their needs; and providing welcoming spaces that support a full range of intellectual endeavors.

The University of Iowa Libraries provide leadership in the creation, transmission, and preservation of knowledge to advance intellectual discovery and encourage lifelong learning. With print and digital collections that are richly diverse and deeply comprehensive, the Libraries also offer state-of-the-art resources that enhance teaching and learning on campus and beyond. In partnership with the teaching faculty, the Libraries offer a variety of information literacy and course-related instructional programs designed to develop these critical skills in students in all disciplines.

Virginia Tech’s University Libraries aspire to transform the way people experience knowledge by providing new ways to discover, access, create, sustain, and share information. We facilitate the development of knowledge by providing users with experiences that integrate new, constantly evolving information with existing sources. The Libraries aim to advance learning and research by enabling new types of questions to be asked, new forms of scholarship to be produced, and previously unimaginable problems or solutions to be explored.

West Virginia University is a land grant university and the state’s flagship institution. As social, cultural, and intellectual centers on campus, the WVU Libraries actively support the University mission to deliver high-quality education, excel in discovery and innovation, model a culture of diversity and inclusion, promote health and vitality, and build pathways for the exchange of knowledge and opportunity between the state, the nation, and the world.

http://american.edu/diversityalliance
THE PROGRAM

The Diversity Alliance Residency Program is an academic library program that seeks to provide professional mentoring and practical training to under-represented groups in librarianship. Competitive positions are offered at each of the four member institutions for a three-year period. Residents are encouraged to apply directly to their preferred institution(s).

The program is open to any recent graduate with a Master’s Degree in Library Science and an interest in a career in academic librarianship. Early-career candidates will also be considered if their professional experience is outside academic libraries.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Below is a representative outline of the skills residents gain as well as the benefits of participating in the Residency Program.

Experiencing
- Engage in hands-on learning with all aspects of academic librarianship
- Develop proficiency in one area of specialization

Researching and Growth
- Develop an understanding of the trends and topics of interest for your area of specialization on the national/international level
- Develop a familiarity with the scholarship within your area of specialization
- Strive towards adding your own professional contribution

Developing in your new career
- Honing professional skills
- Strategies for staying active in the discipline
- Preparation for entering the job market and becoming a leader
- Connecting with new residents

INSTITUTES

Each of the four Alliance libraries will host an institute for all Diversity Alliance residents. The institutes will run 2–3 days and be centered on a theme, such as effective leadership, professional development, and collaboration, plus allow for informal networking events and tours with your fellow residents.

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE

The Diversity Alliance believes that in order to be a successful academic librarian, one must stay active in the profession. The program offers each resident professional development funds to offset the cost of library conference attendance and travel.