[Re]Defining Liberal Arts Education in the 21st Century
Call for Papers

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Featuring Dr. William D. Adams, Chairman
National Endowment for the Humanities
Keynote Speaker

www.jsums.edu/liberalarts/conference

The College of Liberal Arts at Jackson State University invites proposals from scholars on all topics related to “[Re]Defining Liberal Arts Education in the 21st Century.”

The purpose of this first conference, scheduled for October 6-8, 2016, is to explore the reasons Liberal Arts disciplines are undervalued by students, parents, and others and to examine how we might [re]define or reframe our roles in an increasingly multi-disciplinary and inter-disciplinary academic world in which job preparedness appears to be the goal of higher education rather than critical and analytical thinking and writing. At the conference, we will also discuss the role of and need for a conference on the liberal arts and how we might move forward.

On Friday, October 7, a series of free plenary sessions will be available to the general public, including a keynote address by Dr. William D. Adams, Chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities, at 2 p.m. in the JSU College of Liberal Arts room 166/266. Chairman Adams will discuss “the ways a robust liberal arts education can help students confront the opportunities and concerns of the 21st Century.”

The Program Committee will accept proposals for individual papers (20 minutes) as well as panels with two or three papers (75 minutes), and roundtables with commentators and a moderator (75 minutes). Possible themes might include but are not limited to:

- The Liberal Arts in crisis: the search for meaning versus the desire for marketable skills
- The purpose of a Liberal Arts education in the 21st Century
- The role of a Liberal Arts education at high research institutions
- The role of a Liberal Arts education at HBCUs
- Redefining or reframing the focus of the Liberal Arts
- Technology/social media in Liberal Arts education
- Liberal Arts disciplines and their relationship to STEM
- A Liberal Arts education as preparation for graduate school
- Liberal Arts: Bringing “artisanal thinking” (i.e., innovation) to a mass market economy
- The value of the humanities to STEM students and researchers
- Pedagogical approaches in the Liberal Arts: Teaching the test-focused student
- 21st Century academic freedom and the Liberal Arts
- The role of a Liberal Arts education in social issues

Proposals for individual papers should include a paper title, 500-word abstract, and a 150-word bio or two-page CV. Proposals for sessions (three or four members and a moderator) and roundtables (two or three members and a moderator) should include a title, 250-word abstract for the panel or roundtable that
identifies the roles of each presenter (chair, commentators, presenters), in addition to a 500-word abstract and title for each paper, and a 150-word bio or two-page CV for each participant.

Registration is $150 ($25 for students) and includes one meal, the opening reception, refreshments, and conference materials. For people who will attend the Friday plenary sessions only, registration is free, but a $20 seat at the luncheon that day will be available for purchase through the conference registration site.

The conference hotel, Hilton Garden Inn Downtown Jackson, is offering special room rates of $119/night.

For more information, visit www.jsums.edu/liberalarts/conference.

Proposals must be e-mailed to the Program Committee in the College of Liberal Arts at mwa@jsums.edu. The **deadline** for proposals is **May 1, 2016**. Accepted proposals will be notified by June 1, 2016.