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**THE 15th NATIONAL BLACK WRITERS CONFERENCE
SLATED FOR MARCH 26 – 29, 2020
at MEDGAR EVERS COLLEGE, CUNY HAS BEEN POSTPONED.**

BROOKLYN, NY - - The **Center for Black Literature at Medgar Evers College of the City University of New York (CBL)**, and presenting partner **AKILA WORKSONGS**, announced today that the **15th National Black Writers Conference (NBWC2020)** has been postponed.

CBL Founder and Executive Director **Dr. Brenda M. Greene** communicated the following to CBL staff and NBWC steering committee members last night: “Everyone at the Center for Black Literature is genuinely concerned about the health and safety of those who have registered or who intend to participate in our national conference. Thus, until the public health risk is lowered, we will not convene this spring semester.” In the email to her colleagues, she also said: “As you well know, the Coronavirus (COVID-19) is rapidly spreading globally. In this country, the State of New York is the epicenter of this public health crisis. Regarding large public gatherings like NBWC2020, public health officials, Governor Cuomo, Mayor de Blasio, and CUNY Executive Vice Chancellor Cruz have issued clear guidelines about the best way to help keep our public spaces safe from community spread.”

This morning Dr. Greene began exploring possible new dates for fall 2020.

Presenting Partner **April R. Silver** adds: “The weight of this is not lost on any one of the staff and volunteers who work so diligently for CBL. We are all passionate about this work. Ethically speaking, however, we must support the call for ensuring public health and wellness. That is more important than public discourse. This decision is a practical one for the greatest good.”

To be clear: Dr. Greene affirms that the 15th National Black Writers Conference, with the theme ***Activism, Identity, and Race: Playwrights and Screenwriters at the Crossroads***, will be postponed until a later date this calendar year. *It is not canceled.*

General inquiries, including about NBWC2020 registration refunds, are directed to the CBL staff at (718) 804-8883 (office) and via email at writers@mec.cuny.edu. Press inquiries are directed to Lea Byrd at AKILA WORKSONGS: (718) 756-8501 (office) or lea@akilaworksongs.com. Learn more at www.CenterForBlackLiterature.org

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