

VOLUME TWENTY

African American Women & Poverty: PHILLIS Journal 2020 Prevue

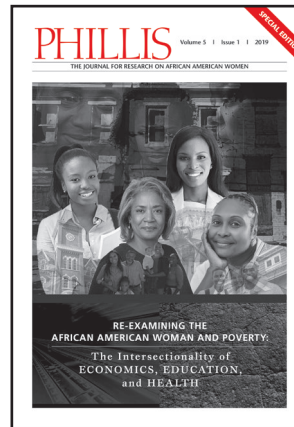
DREF's latest edition of the PHILLIS journal re-examines the organizations 2007 publication, the "Impact of Poverty and Race on the African American Woman" through three specific lenses...economics, education, and health. Rather than compartmentalizing these topics, this issue takes a holistic approach to analyze how the three subjects are all interconnected.

One's socio-economic status, for example, often decides the fate of one's access and quality of education and healthcare. Black women make up a larger portion of the United States workforce than their white and Asian counterparts. Whereas, Black women are the most educated demographic in the U.S., yet they are second only to Indigenous Americans (American Indians) women in poverty, and are rarely appointed to positions of leadership including academia. "The Last Name of Wealth" is a particularly important piece to the puzzle, as it examines how families can inherit

poverty in much of the same way one may inherit wealth.

This level of discrimination often begins in childhood, where Black girls are more likely to experience inequities in every aspect of their experiences in school...from discipline to academic and extracurricular resources. Underfunded schools often don't have the resources to provide advanced courses in math and science, for instance. "Being Tanisha, Mexnari, or Sharde" delves into the inherit biases surrounding uncommon, or historically Black, first names.

The 2020 journal involves a particularly well-rounded take on health among Black women, expanding beyond healthcare access to bridge the gaps to other major public health issues...such as "The Traumatic



Impact of Gun Violence on the Black Community". No stone is left unturned in this arena, as "Issues of Mental Health across the Lifespan in Women of Color," and the "Integration of Physical, Mental, [and] Socio-Emotional Health," take center stage in this issue. Circling back to the intersection of education and health, this issue's "Break Room" article offers, "A Strategic Ap-

proach in Response to Students Experiencing Stress in the Classroom."

With the socio-economic stakes being among its highest in recent years, DREF's latest issue of the PHILLIS journal is truly one every person should read. The quality of life for an entire nation, let alone the world, is greatly improved when we prioritize the equity of the most marginalized communities.

Education Advocacy 'Equity Warriors' Dive Deeper...

The Delta Teacher Efficacy Campaign (DTEC) and Teachers Advocating to lead Great change program (T.A.G.) (DTEC-TAG) have prioritized educational advocacy, policy and equitable opportunities for students across the country. By equipping educators in the T.A.G. program, referred to as "Equity Warriors", to become advocates for their own students and community stakeholders, the program has forged a path in building coalitions to improve educational outcomes in their schools, districts and states.



T.A.G. Equity Warriors (PHOTO BY BRYANT SENGHOR)

Those 'Equity Warriors' hail from D.C., Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, Tennessee and Texas. A pre-requisite for serving as a T.A.G. Equity Warrior, was to be a current "DTEC Change Agent." These change agents were trained on and made aware of a myriad of topics that hinder

student achievement, such as teacher efficacy, adverse childhood experiences (ACEs,) implicit biases in education and culturally inept education strategies in one of the two DTEC Cohorts from 2014-2016.

The program is an extension of the advocacy prong of DTEC and has trained 31 educators on the Every Student Succeeds Act

(ESSA) and advocacy through six policy institutes hosted in Washington, DC at Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (DST) National Headquarters and National Council of Negro Women (NCNW).

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Greetings from the DREF President

Dear DREF Supporter:

I am pleased to share in this winter edition of the FRONT Page Newsletter, as DREF enters the year 2020 with a strong, continued focus on health and education for African American women, their families and their communities; and we have kept our focus on urging communities throughout the country to engage in efforts to quell and eradicate gun violence.

The "Raise Your Voice" toolkit is available on the DREF website and shares advocacy tactics, prevention information, and strategies to educate and engage youth and other groups in developing common sense, practical approaches to address gun violence and related issues.

We are making great strides in our ongoing community engagement work shaped around the *All of Us* Research Program - emphasizing to the African American community the importance of biomedical research in shaping the future of their health care. To continue the expansion of engagement, DREF has united with the **Black Greek Letter Consortium (BGLC)**. Comprised of the nine Historically Black Greek Lettered organizations, BGLC has also partnered with the National Institute of Health (NIH) to educate and bring awareness about the *All of Us* Research Program to the organizations' chapters, councils, membership and the communities in which they serve.

One of our joint educational strategies of which we are extremely proud is the **HBCU All of Us R.A.P (Research Accelerates Possibilities) Sessions**, an in-

teractive program that utilizes technology and hot topic panel discussions to educate and actively engage students of Historically Black Colleges and Universities.



Carolyn E. Lewis
PHOTO BY IMAGINE
PHOTOGRAPHY

The 'Equity Warriors' and T.A.G. leadership hosted 139 events over the two-year grant period, reaching 41,269 people through the advocacy projects. Because of the program's immense success and impact, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation has awarded DTEC-TAG an additional grant to further its advocacy efforts with funding from February 2020 – May 2021. The next phase, called TAG 2.0, is

prepared to produce exponential growth in the number of community stakeholders willing to advocate for equitable educational opportunities for students. These efforts will be obtained through teacher symposiums, offering free professional development, in each of the target areas and continued presentations in schools, community meetings, and other invited spaces.

None of this would be possible without the unwavering leadership, commitment and generosity of our faithful supporters, donors, volunteers, staff and my fellow DREF Board of Directors.

Please take the time to visit our website www.deltafoundation.net to gain greater insights on how you or your chapter might collaborate with DREF to *Create Possibilities and Improve the Lives of African American Women and their families*.

Sincerely yours,
Carolyn E. Lewis
DREF President

Education Advocacy

(Continued from page 1)

Throughout the two-year pilot program, DTEC-TAG has connected with thousands of educators across the country and secured prolific partnerships with organizations such as DST, NCNW, The Education Trust, Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights, and Black Educators Rock, Inc.

The 'Equity Warriors' hit the ground running as the T.A.G. program launched

in December 2016. The program has been successful in training the team with exposures and information that amplified their education and awareness efforts on teacher efficacy as well as the implications of educational policy on local education agencies. These efforts are creating confident advocates and local coalitions in target regional communities; including school / community stakeholders, colleagues and civic organization members.

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The **FRONT PAGE** is published periodically by the Delta Research and Educational Foundation (DREF) to report news and information about its programs, activities, and fundraising efforts. The newsletter is distributed nationally to donors, partners, and supporters of the Foundation. DREF is located at 1703 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington, D.C. 20009; 202-347-1337; www.deltafoundation.net

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DREF Research Matters for All of Us

The Delta Research and Educational Foundation (DREF), in collaboration with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (DST) and the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW), are conduct-



North Carolina Central University students participate in a HBCU R.A.P. Session photo shoot. (PHOTO BY ERIC L. BRIM, E L BRIM PHOTOGRAPHY)

ing a national health initiative entitled “Research Matters: Creating Possibilities to Achieve Health and Wellness for All of Us.” The initiative is made possible by the National Institutes of Health (NIH) All of Us Research Program. The three collaborative partners: DREF, DST, and NCNW have joined forces to implement a national outreach campaign that informs African Americans and minorities about the importance of understanding and participating in biomedical research.

The quality engagements and commitment to improving health and wellness outcomes for African Americans was reflected in Year 3 funding from NIH which saw an increase of over \$255,000 to total \$563,305. The increase in funding has provided opportunities to implement, increase and intensify meaningful outreach in the community. One such advancement is the **HBCU All of Us R.A.P. (Research Accelerates Possibilities) Sessions**. Areas of focus during these interactive programs include historical transgressions, ethical and medical advances, and personal perspectives regarding African Americans and research. The goal is to engage attendees in conversations about past, present and future health related experiences that will accelerate research and improve health for traditionally underrepresented populations.

DREF is appreciative to the following HBCUs that have agreed to host the eight inaugural R.A.P. Sessions: Texas Southern University (Houston, TX); Xavier University of Louisiana (New Orleans, LA); Lawson State Community College (Birmingham, AL); Tennessee State University (Nashville, TN); Le Moyne Owen College (Memphis, TN); Benedict College (Columbia, SC); North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University (Greensboro, NC); North Carolina Central University (Durham, NC).

If interested in becoming an Ambassador, hosting an event and/or including information about the All of Us Research Program in an upcoming activity, please email ResearchMatters@DeltaFoundation.net

Detailed information regarding the All of Us Research Program can be found at www.JoinAllOfUs.org/DREF.

Spotlight: Community Empowerment Grantee

Delta Research and Educational Foundation (DREF), in collaboration with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated awards Community Empowerment grants for programs in any of the following areas: Gun Violence Prevention, Voter Registration and Education, or the 2020 U.S. Census.

In partnership with Junior Achievement of Hawaii, the Hawaii Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. presented workshops titled “Money Matters” and “Entrepreneurship” as a significant component of the *Ohana Financial Literacy Program*, during the chapter’s annual Youth Empowerment Summit (Y.E.S.). These seminars, dedicat-



Young participants attending financial literacy workshops hosted by the Hawaii Alumnae Chapter.

Ruby Dee Scholarship Award

DREF is pleased to announce and congratulate Tameisha Anderson on receiving the inaugural Ruby Dee Scholarship Award! This \$1,000 merit-based scholarship is awarded annually to a deserving African American female student who has demonstrated community service and leadership skills; and is either a junior or senior collegiate or a graduate student majoring in English, Literature, Drama, Art, Music, African American Studies, Communications, Education, Fine Arts, Performing Arts, Visual Arts. Tameisha is dance major at Howard University in Washington, DC.



2019 Inaugural winner Tameia Anderson with Dr. Francine Breakfield & L.D. Wells co-editors of An Anthology of Sisterhood. (PHOTO BY BRYANT SENGHOR)

ed to educating students in grades K-12 about entrepreneurship, work readiness, and financial literacy through experiential, hands-on methods, impacted more than 50 registered youth participants.

The youth were exposed to real-world scenarios such as the importance of saving, generating and managing wealth; how to create jobs which make their communities more robust; and how to apply entrepreneurial thinking to the workplace. The Junior Achievement’s unique approach allowed volunteers from the community to deliver the curriculum while sharing their personal experiences with students.

Education Advocacy

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With this momentum, the 'Equity Warriors' hosted professional development sessions for educators such as teacher symposiums and have been invited to speak across the United States on their advocacy work, experiences in literacy acquisition and social-emotional learning. This work with educational advocacy and policy has also included partnerships with local DST chapters, NCNW Sections, presentation/workshop/panel opportunities at the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference, Teach for America regional conference and the creation of a podcast on teacher efficacy and holistic teaching methods called *Teacher Talk Tuesday*.

"The T.A.G. Equity Warriors truly put their hearts into the many activations in the targeted states and superseded the goals for the pilot phase," DTEC-TAG National Project Director Dr. Johni Cruse Craig said. We look forward to amplifying the impact as we launch T.A.G. 2.0 and extend our reach deeper into the D.M.V, Georgia, Florida, North Carolina, Tennessee and Texas focusing on Standards, Assessment and Accountability, Student Pathways, Data, and Finance."

**Support DREF
with a tax-deductible
gift. Donate at
www.deltafoundation.net**

If you would like to connect with a local TAG Team to build TAG 2.0 as an educator or invested stakeholder (parent, administrator, business owner, faith-based leader, etc.) and/or interested in a local partnerships to amplify the teacher symposium efforts, please send an email to dtec-tag@deltafoundation.net.

Please follow DTEC-TAG on social media for current news, updates and trending topics.

 (DTEC-TAG)
 (dtec_change_agent)
 (@DTECChangeAgent)

DEVELOPMENT NEWS



Odell Ruffin's **Campaign 72**

A One Woman performance on the life of Shirley Chisholm
featuring Dominique Brown as Shirley Chisholm

The First African American Woman elected to Congress The First African American Woman to run for President of The United States



Sunday, March 1, 2020
7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Eaton Hotel, 1201 K Street NW,
Washington, D.C.
Tickets \$50

Tickets available at:
<http://igfn.us/form/TuEnxA>

This is a fundraising event to benefit the Delta Research & Educational Foundation (DREF). To learn more about us please visit www.deltafoundation.net.

For additional information call (202) 347-1337.

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