

VOLUME EIGHTEEN

## Carolyn E. Lewis Assumes DREF Presidency

At its spring 2015 meeting, the Board of Directors of the Delta Research and Educational Foundation (DREF) elected Carolyn E. Lewis as its new president, effective July 1, 2015. Lewis, who most recently served as the DREF vice president, succeeds Dr. Alison J. Harmon as president. The new DREF President has experienced a distinguished professional career in business and an extensive record of volunteer service to Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and other national, regional and local not-for-profit organizations and faith-based institutions. She is the Immediate Past National Treasurer of DST (2006-2010) and presently serves as the National Treasurer of The Links, Inc. and The Links Foundation, Inc. (2014-present).



Carolyn E. Lewis

"I am humbled and honored to assume the helm of the Delta Research and Educational Foundation. I look forward to working collaboratively with the DREF Board members, the leadership of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and our communities to continue to "Create Possibilities and Improve Lives," said Lewis.

Ms. Lewis is currently a business consultant with expertise in the areas of tax law, finance, auditing and real estate. She retired with honors, after 38 years of illustrious service, from the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in 2012. At the IRS, she was a senior manager in the Local Taxpayer Advocate Division.

Joining the DREF Board as a member in 2010, Ms. Lewis has been a longtime financial supporter of the Foundation and is committed to ensuring its growth and sustainability to support programs impacting the lives of African American women and their families. Her leadership manner and volunteer service are guided by the scripture Luke 12:48: "to whom much is given, much is required." In addition to

her national volunteer service, Ms. Lewis is engaged in several local community service initiatives in her New Orleans hometown. She is a member of New Zion Baptist Church, where she serves on several ministries and committees.

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## Educators Re-charge at Rally and Luncheon in Houston

The Delta Teacher Efficacy Campaign (DTEC), a program of DREF and DST, will present an Education Re-charge Rally and Luncheon



Manny Scott

on Tuesday, July 28, featuring Rev. Dr. Gwendolyn E. Boyd, 22nd National



Dr. Gwendolyn E. Boyd

President of DST and President of Alabama State University; Manny Scott, author and educator, as featured speakers, with Cynthia Butler McIntyre, Immediate Past National President

of DST, as the mistress of ceremonies. The subscription event (\$40) is open to all—educators, school administrators, parents and others who are also committed to academic achievement. DTEC will also present



Cynthia M. A. Butler-McIntyre

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## Show Your Support to DREF at the 52nd National Convention

At the 52nd National Convention of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. being held July 23-30, 2015 in Houston, TX, there will be several opportunities to learn more about DREF, founded by Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., in 1967, as well as the numerous ways you can support the vision and work of the Foundation. Convention delegates will receive a national update on DREF activities during Plenary Session IX on Tuesday, July 28. A workshop entitled "Talking



Advocacy in Action tote bag available for sale at DREF booth.

Dollars: Making Sense" will be presented on Wednesday, July 29 to share information on using the Charitable Engagement Services of DREF to maximize local fundraising efforts. The Foundation recognizes and extends appreciation to its corporate partner AETNA for supporting the health and fitness activities at convention.

Throughout the convention week, participants are invited to visit the DREF

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## DREF Salutes Outgoing President Dr. Alison J. Harmon

Noted educator and DST honorary member Mary McLeod Bethune once stated: “Next to God we are indebted to women, first for life itself, and then for making it worth living.” The DREF Board of Directors, staff, and key stakeholders salute the esteemed leadership of Dr. Alison J. Harmon for service rendered to the Foundation during her tenure as president. As a woman on task to advance the mission of the Sorority’s national foundation, she has created a distinctive legacy of service and philanthropy. After serving a record number of nine years at the helm of the Sorority’s national foundation, her tenure ended June 30, 2015.

“Her guidance and governance of the Foundation has positioned DREF to grow and move to the next level of philanthropy, strengthening our charitable and educational work and, indeed, creating possibilities to improve the lives of African American women and students,” stated Patricia W. Lattimore, CEO of DREF.

During Dr. Harmon’s presidency, she focused on the following: 1) strengthening the Foundation’s infrastructure; 2) increasing fund development; 3) enhancing support to Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. (Grand Chapter); and 4) developing programs for the Center for Research on



Dr. Harmon hosted an appreciation luncheon for DREF staff on June 24. Pictured (seated L-R): CEO Patricia W. Lattimore, Trenise Cockerham, and outgoing President Harmon; Standing (L-R): Johni Cruse Craig, Ashley Daniels, Cynthia Wheeler, and Deborah Peaks Coleman.

African American Women (The Center). In an effort to provide more resources to Delta chapters, Dr. Harmon created the grantmaking program for Delta chapters and community based programs.

Dr. Harmon expressed that one accomplishment that she holds dear to her heart is the establishment of the Sister Scholars Advisory Council, a collective of African American who advise the research and educational projects of The Center. On her watch, The Center’s scholarly publication was re-named **PHILLIS: The Journal for Research on African American Women**. Dr. Harmon also led the Foundation in establishing the Stephanie Tubbs Jones Social Justice Institute in 2008. The STJ Institute presents an annual forum at

### Carolyn E. Lewis

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The DREF President earned a bachelor’s degree from Xavier University of Louisiana and the Master of Business Administration (MBA) degree from the University of Phoenix Louisiana Campus. She is also a licensed realtor. She was initiated into Delta Sigma Theta Sorority at the Gamma Alpha Chapter of Xavier University in 1971, is a Golden Life Member of the

Sorority, and former chapter president of New Orleans Alumnae.

Also at the spring board meeting, Delta member Constance Y. Ross, an attorney in Lansing, MI was elected to serve as vice president of the DREF Board and Delta member Dr. Anjanette Wyatt, owner and founder of Clinical Care Pharmacy in Houston, TX, was elected as a board member.

### 52nd National Convention

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informational/fundraising booth in the Exhibit Trade Show, where donations will be accepted. The Foundation will unveil its latest giving incentive item—a charm showing the DREF logo and designed by Cerese D. Jewelry. Be among the first donors to receive the charm when making

a \$100 contribution. You can also visit the DREF booth to purchase a copy of the Advocacy in Action book (\$25) which details the 100-year history of social action in DST. An attractive tote bag (\$65) showcasing the art work from the book’s cover will also be available for sale.

Delta Days in the Nation’s Capital and presents an annual Stephanie Tubbs Jones Summer Internship for collegiate women in collaboration with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation.

While serving as president, Dr. Harmon, an education consultant who resides in Michigan, continuously provided DREF with her time, talent, and treasure. Her leadership resulted in capacity building, new development strategies, original programming and personal donations totaling more than \$32,000. The “Harmon Years” have propelled DREF to greater heights!

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](http://www.deltafoundation.net)

#### The DREF Staff

Patricia Watkins Lattimore  
Chief Executive Officer  
[plattimore@deltafoundation.net](mailto:plattimore@deltafoundation.net)

Deborah Peaks Coleman\*  
Director of Programs  
[dpcoleman@deltafoundation.net](mailto:dpcoleman@deltafoundation.net)

Trenise Cockerham  
Development and Program Associate  
[tcockerham@deltafoundation.net](mailto:tcockerham@deltafoundation.net)

Ashley Daniels  
Office Manager  
[adaniels@deltafoundation.net](mailto:adaniels@deltafoundation.net)

Johni Cruse Craig, Ed.D.  
DTEC Project Director

Cynthia Wheeler  
Financial Consultant  
[cwheeler@deltafoundation.net](mailto:cwheeler@deltafoundation.net)

\*Serves as FRONT PAGE Editor

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Delta Research and Educational  
Foundation @DREF\_1967

#DREF

**DREF CFC Number is 11213**

**Paycation: Let your Travel Benefit DREF**

Everyone is traveling somewhere these days, whether for business or pleasure.



The latest fundraising endeavor presented by DREF is Paycation Travel. When you are ready to book your next trip for vacation, family reunion, a simple weekend getaway, or whatever your reason for travel, please consider using Paycation link included on the DREF website. Paycation Travel offers a network of independent travel representatives who offer discounted costs on vacation packages, hotels and resorts, car rental and cruises. For every trip made using the DREF code, the Foundation earns funds.

The travel industry is an \$8 trillion dollar industry and therein has funds to be raised to support DREF.

**Sign up for Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) this Fall**

During the annual fall campaign of the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), federal employees will have an opportunity to designate DREF as their charity of choice, enabling your donation to be given through payroll deduction. **The CFC Code for DREF is 11213.** To ensure that DREF is knowledgeable of your support, please be sure to complete application in its entirety, especially the part that asks your permission to share your name with DREF. Having your name will confirm you as a DREF donor, and for contributions

totaling \$250 or more your name will be included on the Donor Roll Call in the Foundation's Annual Report, but you must grant permission on the CFC application to release your name to DREF.

**State or Local Government Charitable Campaigns**

In State or Local Government Charitable Campaigns where DREF is allowed to participate, the Foundation may be listed as DREF or as a subset of Independent Charities of America.

**United Way**

Yes, you may support DREF via United Way by designating the Foundation as the recipient of your gift; you must write the name "DREF" on the designation line.

**P R O G R A M N O T E S**

**Scholarship/Internships**

The 2015 Stephanie Tubbs Jones Summer Internship has been awarded to Kimberly Delk, a student majoring in English and Political Science at Howard University. She is interning this summer in the office of Congresswoman Marcia L. Fudge (D-OH). The nine-week assignment is a paid internship sponsored in collaboration with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation. Upon graduating from Howard, the STJ intern plans to attend law school. She is a member of the Sorority's Alpha Chapter where she was initiated in 2014. The STJ Internship is supported by the Bill and Hillary Clinton Family Foundation and Delta member Michele V. Hagans.



*Kimberly Delk, 2015 STJ Intern*

of mentors to coach them in educational development, personal development and cultural enrichment. The first half of their award will be received in the 2015 fall semester. The Mentoring Keys Scholarship is made possible by a generous donation from the KeyBank Foundation.

Two new scholarships will be awarded in the new fiscal year beginning July 1, 2015. The Detroit Alumnae Chapter, in collaboration with DREF, will award the Lillian Pierce Benbow Graduate Scholarship for the Arts to Derrell Acon, who is a doctoral student studying voice at the University of Cincinnati College-Conservatory of Music. The Southern Region of DST, under the leadership of

Cheryl Turner, regional director, and Britany Stephenson, regional representative, have established a scholarship fund at DREF in memory of Dr. Yvonne Kennedy, the 19th National President of Delta, former college president, and Alabama state legislator. The Kennedy Scholarship will be awarded to an undergraduate Delta student enrolled in college in the Southern Region.

The inaugural Mentoring Keys Scholarship for students majoring in business related fields at an HBCU have been awarded to twin sisters Nicole Thompson and Natalie Thompson, who are enrolled at Jackson State University. The students will each receive a \$5,000 scholarship and the benefit of having an advisory council

*In Memory of Dr. Louise E. Taylor, former director of DREF, who passed on June 13, 2015.*

*A memorial service will be held September 19, 2015 in Washington, D.C.*



**Educators Re-charge**

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a workshop on Wednesday, July 29 entitled "Educational Change Agents-Back to Basics: Educators Refresh, Re-Direct, Re-Focus and Re-Charge." You can learn more about the enrichment program for educators by visiting the DTEC booth in the Exhibit Trade Show or on the DREF website.

## DTEC Town Hall Meetings Kick-Off in August

The “Call to Action” Town Hall meetings presented by the Delta Teacher Efficacy Campaign (DTEC) as advocacy sessions to support teacher efficacy as it relates to student academic achievement will begin in August 2015 and continue throughout the fall season. The Town Hall sessions will be held in 40 communities throughout the nation. Dr. Johni Cruse Craig, project director of DTEC, stated that community partners are still being sought for the sessions, asking businesses and individuals to serve as panelists and donors of goods and services. To date, First Book (Advocacy in Action Books on Wheels) and the American Federation of



DTEC concludes Teacher Efficacy Academy in Orlando, FL; pictured L-R: Tatianna Smith, Intern; Dr. Johni Cruse Craig, Project Director; Dr. Paulette C. Walker, DST National President; and Keisha Chandler, Eastern Region Project Manager.

Teachers have signed on to support the Town Hall sessions. To see a complete listing of the sites where the Town Hall

meetings are being held, please visit [www.deltafoundation.net](http://www.deltafoundation.net).

The in-person training sessions for the Teacher Efficacy Academy were held this past spring in six geographic locations and concluded on May 30, 2015 in Orlando, FL. Dr. Paulette C. Walker, national president of DST, gave closing remarks at the Florida session and she asked educators: “Are you going to massage the brain or squeeze the life out of it? Will you cast the long shadow for others to follow or block the sun? Are you a gatekeeper or a bridge builder?” She added that students are not at-risk, they are “at promise.”

## 2015-16 Community Empowerment Grant Awards

This year’s Community Empowerment Grant Awards have been awarded to chapters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. to conduct programming in one or more of the following areas: Civic Engagement, Educational Development, Financial Literacy, Health and Wellness, and International Awareness. Funding was made possible by the Program Planning and Development Centennial Fund established at DREF.

CHAPTER	AMOUNT
Arlington (TX) Alumnae	\$750
Baltimore (MD) Alumnae	\$500
Douglas-Carroll-Paulding Counties (GA) Alumnae	\$500
Helena (AR) Alumnae	\$500
Montclair (NJ) Alumnae	\$500
Newport News (VA) Alumnae	\$500
North Manhattan (NY) Alumnae	\$1,500
Omaha (NE) Alumnae	\$750
San Francisco Peninsula (CA) Alumnae	\$1,000
Seattle (WA) Alumnae	\$500
South Middlesex (MA) Alumnae	\$750
Westchester (NY) Alumnae	\$500
York (PA) Alumnae	\$500

Program Grants with a Special Focus on Mental Health Initiatives will be awarded to the following Delta Chapters:

Charleston (SC) Alumnae	\$1,500
Gary Alumnae	\$500
Glen Ellyn Area (IL) Alumnae	\$500
New Orleans (LA) Alumnae	\$1,500
Orange County (FL) Alumnae	\$750
Orlando (FL) Alumnae	\$500
Richmond (VA) Alumnae	\$750
Stone Mountain-Lithonia (GA) Alumnae	\$1,000
Suburban Houston-Fort Bend (TX) Alumnae	\$500
Tampa (FL) Alumnae	\$1,500

## DREF Board of Directors

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