

**VOLUME NINETEEN**

## DREF Board Launches New Research Agenda

At its last meeting held in the fall of 2015, the Delta Research and Educational Foundation (DREF) Board of Directors identified one its top priorities for the next two years will be “growing and developing” its Center for Research on African American Women (The Center) by conducting new research projects on issues pertinent to the lives of African American women. The Sister Scholars Advisory Council (SSAC), the advisory panel for The Center, will be instrumental in implementing the new research initiatives and educational development activities.

DREF President Lewis has appointed board member, Tchicaya Ellis Robertson, Ph.D., to lead the Sister Scholars Research Subcommittee. As an executive with a multi-national consulting firm, Dr. Robertson is responsible for research in a broad range of industries. “Tchicaya is an excellent choice to lead and position our new

research activities; she has an extensive background in business and research,” stated Lewis. The SSAC Research Subcommittee has decided to use Infographics to share data resulting from their research



DREF Board of Directors: Seated L-R: Pat Hurlock, Josie Daniels, Dr. Paulette C. Walker, Carolyn E. Lewis, Constance Y. Ross, Esq., Taylor McCain, and Deborah A. Jones-Buggs; Standing L-R: Xavier C. Richardson, Dr. Martha Scott Lue Stewart, Teresa Harman, Johnnie Brooks Bookers, Larry P. Suarez, Phyllis Dickerson, Michelle Rhodes Brown, Leona Bridges, and Patricia W. Lattimore; not pictured: Renee Harper, Sharnita Johnson, Jerry Malone, Esq., Suzanne Brown Peters, Dr. Tchicaya Robertson, and Dr. Anjanette Wyatt.

PHOTO BY ANGELA HOLMES

projects and will conduct two research projects this year. The topics identified by the committee for this year’s focus include 1) Entrepreneurship; 2) gun violence; and 3) social activism.

## Giving Tuesday: A Good Day for DREF

Thanks to the increasing support of DREF donors, the contributions received on “Giving Tuesday” (December 2, 2015) reached an all-time high, totaling \$23,280.36—significantly more than the \$6,198.70 raised in 2014. This was the fourth year that DREF participated in the “Giving Tuesday” fundraiser, a day of philanthropy promoted as a special time to support one’s favorite non-profit organization.

DREF President Carolyn E. Lewis applauds the efforts of DREF Board members for taking an active role in promoting the day of charitable giving and increasing the amount raised for DREF. “I want to thank all of the supporters who contributed, embracing technology to make it happen and much appreciation is extended to my fellow DREF board members and our staff for doing the ground work,” stated Ms. Lewis.

*Thank You*

## STJ Forum Addresses Navigating Justice for ALL

The Center for Research on African American Women presented its annual Stephanie Tubbs Jones Social Justice Institute Forum on the topic: “Women and the Law: Navigating Justice for All” at the 2016 Delta Days in the Nation’s Capital. The Forum, held on Saturday, February 27, featured a distinguished panel of African American women attorneys addressing the topic from various perspectives which honed in on diversity and inclusion



Paulette Brown, Esq.

in the legal profession, the need for more civil rights attorneys, community engagement and the law, human trafficking of girls and other areas.

The invited panelists included Paulette Brown, the first African American to serve as president of the American Bar Association; Congresswoman Marcia L. Fudge (D-OH) and a past national president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; Frankie

Muse Freeman, former member of the U.S. Civil Rights Commission and a past national president of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; The Honorable Gloria Reno, Circuit Court judge in Missouri; Arlene Y. Coleman, president of the Cook County Bar Association in Illinois; and Nina R. Hicks, ethics officer for the City of Atlanta, GA. The panel discussion was moderated by Denise Rolark Barnes, publisher of the *Washington Informer* newspaper.

## Greetings from the President

Dear DREF Supporters:

It is my pleasure and privilege to extend greetings to you on behalf of the DREF Board of Directors. This is an exciting time at the Foundation, where we are aiming to make great things happen for the empowerment of African American women and their families. Congratulations to you, our donors, for taking us to a new level in our recent "Giving Tuesday" fundraising effort; we achieved the highest amount ever in our four years of participation.

Please join me in welcoming two dynamic and dedicated Delta women as new members of the DREF board: Renee L. Harper of Massachusetts and Dr. Tchicaya Robertson of Illinois. Both were elected at the



Carolyn E. Lewis  
PHOTO BY SHARON C. FARMER

fall 2015 board meeting to complete two unexpired terms. Ms. Harper of Boston Alumnae is a past national finance chair of the Sorority. Professionally, she is the assistant vice president and controller for the Liberty Mutual Group. Dr. Robertson is a member of Joliet Area Alumnae and is a business executive at a multinational consulting firm, responsible for research in a broad range of areas. We are enthusiastic about their joining our DREF team.

At our last board meeting, we created some pretty bold plans in the areas of fundraising and program development. Stay tuned because your involvement will be integral in making these great ideas come to life. One of our special areas

of focus will be broadening our fundraising base...engaging more donors and seeking more funds from the private sector. We are also concentrating on taking our Center for Research on African American Women to the next level—a level that offers opportunities for the accomplishments and contributions of women of the diaspora to be recognized and showcased.

Looking forward to your taking the journey with DREF to create possibilities and improve lives.

Best regards,

Carolyn E. Lewis  
President

## Remembering Two DREF Leaders

The DREF Board of Directors remembers the distinguished service of two of its former leaders. Last summer, former DREF director Louise E. Taylor, Ph.D., died on June 13, 2015 in Washington, D.C. and on September 7, 2015, Barbara F. Curtis, former DREF board vice president passed in Indianapolis, IN. The DREF board extended resolutions, citing their record of service and stellar contributions to the Foundation.



Louise E. Taylor, Ph.D.

Both women contributed invaluable leadership and service to advance the mission of DREF, from Dr. Taylor's role in strengthening the daily operation as executive in charge of the staff from 1991 until 2002 and Mrs.

Curtis was noted for creating masterful fundraising campaigns. Dr. Taylor led the Foundation in receiving innovative grant awards, such as the Science and Everyday Experiences (SEE) Initiative, a leadership development program for African American women, Healthy Start programming,



Barbara F. Curtis

and others. Dr. Taylor is also credited with facilitating the establishment of the Center for Research on African American Women in 1998.

Mrs. Curtis, a former member of Chicago Alumnae and past member of the DST National Executive Board, created and implemented the Millennium Campaign, one of the Foundation's most successful fundraising drives. She was also a principal architect of the Diamond Jubilee fundraising campaign, an effort that revived DREF during the late 1980s. While a member of the DREF board, she also encouraged her good friend and Delta soror, Eula Dean Roby, to establish a scholarship fund at the Foundation. DREF President Carolyn E. Lewis stated: "Both of these dynamic sisters made an indelible mark on our Foundation, and we are eternally grateful. We work every day to uphold their legacy and to build upon it, keeping our purpose in focus and making the outcome even more impactful."

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)

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Delta Research and Educational  
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#DREF

**DREF CFC Number is 11213**

**Jenkins Family Foundation Awards Grant to DREF**

The James R. and Anita Horne Jenkins Family Foundation awarded a grant of \$26,604 to the Delta Research and Educational Foundation (DREF) in the fall of 2015 for capacity building and infrastructure improvements. Specifically the grant funds will be used to enhance fundraising strategy, particularly donor records database management, and communications. Patricia W. Lattimore, CEO of DREF, stated that the grant award will enable the Foundation to upgrade the integration of the accounting system and donor database and make enhancements to DREF's internet presence and use of social media.

The Jenkins Family Foundation is a private family foundation supporting work in diverse communities. It is especially committed to improving the health, welfare, and educational or otherwise positive development of people of color, people with disabilities, and veterans. Key areas of focus are education and literacy, emergency relief and hardship, organizational viability and capacity building, faith-based community outreach, and arts and culture.



**DREF Fundraising Incentives**

Several items are currently being offered as fundraising incentives. The latest item, debuting this winter, is a purse charm designed by Yanique Moore of 1-800-Love DST, and a member of the DREF Advisory Council. The design of the purse charm reflects the artwork on the Advocacy in Action totebag; charm can be acquired for a donation of \$25 or more. A special combination amount is currently being offered to supporters

who select an Advocacy in Action totebag and book; the combo amount is \$40 while supply lasts. The Advocacy totebag was also designed by Moore and the *Advocacy in Action* book was created by former members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.'s National Social Action Commission with principal author, Dr. Claudia A. Nelson, now a member of the Sister Scholars Advisory Council. The book gives a report of the 100-year history of social action in the Sorority.

Charms, showcasing the DREF logo are also available. The charms are designed by



Cerese D. Jewelry and can be acquired for a donation of \$50. Visit the DREF website to acquire items ([www.deltafoundation.net](http://www.deltafoundation.net)). DST Centennial Commemorative Pin Set (created and donated to DREF by Fourteen Karat Plus) will also be offered to donors contributing \$50 or more.

**Matching Gift Employers**

If you are employed in the private industry and are a donor to DREF, please be sure to determine whether your workplace will match your donation. It's as easy as placing a call or sending an email inquiry to your company's human resources office. You may be required to complete a short form issued by your employer. Most companies match employee donations two-to-one and a few others may offer a three-to-one match. Companies in private industry also make contributions in recognition of an employee's volunteer service. For example, if you volunteer for a specific number of hours per year for charitable causes, your employer may contribute a donation in your honor to a non-profit organization of your choice. Matching gifts, volunteer service hours—great ways to maximize your charitable donation...check it out!

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

**Community Empowerment Grant Deadline extended to March 21**

The deadline for submitting applications for the 2016-17 Community Empowerment Grantmaking program has been extended to Monday, March 21, 2016. Delta chapters are encouraged to apply. A special appeal is being made to collegiate chapters to apply for grants. Grant applications are being accepted for initiatives in the areas of Civic Engagement, Education, Financial Literacy, Health and Wellness and International Awareness and Involvement. In addition to the Community Empowerment Grantmaking program, applications are also being accepted from Delta chapters focusing on initiatives related to Mental Health.

Please visit the DREF website ([www.deltafoundation.net](http://www.deltafoundation.net)) and the Sorority's website ([www.deltasigmatheta.org](http://www.deltasigmatheta.org)) for complete applications details. The grant awards for these two application categories are made possible by the Sorority's Centennial Program Planning and Development Fund maintained at DREF.

**Internship/Scholarship Opportunities**

DREF is currently accepting applications for the **2016 Stephanie Tubbs Jones Summer Internship** offered to undergraduate collegiate women. The selected applicant will have a nine-week paid internship on Capitol Hill; housing will also be provided. The STJ Internship is held in collaboration with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation.

Scholarship applications are also currently being accepted for the following educational opportunities:

- **Eula Dean Roby Scholarship** for education majors
- **Oleta Lawanda Crain Scholarship**; the Crain Scholarship is relegated to applicants in Colorado, Missouri, and Oklahoma.
- **Mentoring Keys Scholarship** for business majors enrolled at a Historically Black College of University (HBCU)

Please visit the DREF website for complete application details for the internship and scholarships. Deadline for application submission is March 21, 2015.

## DTEC Town Hall Meetings held in Communities Across the Nation

During the fall of 2015, town hall meetings were held in forty communities throughout the nation under the direction of the Delta Teacher Efficacy Campaign (DTEC). The local sponsoring organizations were awarded planning grants to support their town hall meeting which engaged key stakeholders in discussions about how to support teachers in being more effective with preparing students to excel academically. Town hall participants included students, local educators, administrators, family members, the business sector and all others committed to advancing teacher effectiveness.

The “Call to Action” Town Hall meetings were sponsored by several chapters of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and community based organizations. Partnering with DTEC on the town hall advocacy sessions were First Book (Advocacy in Action Books on Wheels) and the American Federation of Teachers. The advocacy sessions fulfilled the second phase of the DTEC initiative, a collaboration between the Delta Research and Educational Foundation (DREF) and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.; the program received a major matching grant from the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The third phase of the teacher efficacy initiative will result in a special edition of *PHILLIS: The Journal for Research*



Cleveland, OH



New Orleans, LA



Montgomery, AL



Baltimore, MD



Orlando, FL



New Orleans, LA

on *African American Women*, where scholarly essays will address issues related to teacher effectiveness, culturally responsive teaching, student achievement, and activities of the DTEC program. Dr. Mary Howard-Hamilton, a member of the Sister Scholars Advisory Council, is serving as guest editor of the publication and she is assisted by Dr. Kandace G. Hinton as

contributing editor; both are professors in the Bayh College of Education at Indiana State University. Dr. Mabel Lake Murray, DTEC National Advisory Council member and Dr. Johni Cruse Craig, DTEC project director, are also serving as contributor editors.

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