

VOLUME TWENTY

DREF: Standing Firm at 55th National Convention

The Delta Research and Educational Foundation (DREF) will engage in several program aspects of the 55th National Convention of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. as it realizes its current theme: *Standing Firm to Advance the Mission of DREF*. DREF Board President Carolyn E. Lewis and DREF Executive Director Cheryl M. Thomas will present an update on the Foundation's program and

research endeavors and current calendar of activities at a plenary session.

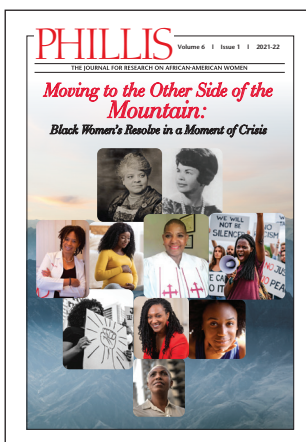
Another major highlight will be the presentation of two workshops on current initiatives: the Delta Teacher Efficacy Campaign (DTEC) and Teachers Advocating to lead Great change (TAG) and DREF Research Matters for *All of Us*. These two workshops will outline the program scope and schedule of events for

the 2021-22 program year. DREF will also have three booths in the convention's Exhibit Trade Show: a general information display, another focusing on DTEC-TAG, and one on DREF Research Matters.

If you are attending convention, hope you will check out DREF agenda items or if you are attending virtually, please scan the QR Code on back page and learn what we are promoting onsite in Atlanta.

PHILLIS Journal Available at DST 55th National Convention

The DREF Sister Scholars Advisory Council is pleased to announce that the 2021-22 edition of *PHILLIS: The Journal for Research on African American Women* will be available at the 55th National Convention of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., November 20-22, 2021. The theme of this edition is "Moving to the Other Side of the Mountain: Black Women's Resolve in a Moment of Crisis," with guest co-editors being Pearl Dowe, Ph.D., and Keneshia Grant, Ph.D.; both are members of the Sister Scholars Advisory Council.



throughout critical moments in history," expressed Lewis.

The scholarly essays featured address topics related to Black mothers as social justice advocates, Black women's digital coping strategies in response to racism and discrimination, Black women clergy and stories of survival, leadership in public health crisis in the Alabama Black Belt, maternal mortality in Brazil, optimism in political engagement, and beauty entrepreneurship regarding the southern Civil Rights Struggle. The VOICES section of the *Journal* presents personal narratives addressing similar topics. Visit the DREF booth at the DST

Convention Exhibit Trade Show to get a signed copy of the current *PHILLIS Journal*, and meet several of the contributing writers. Contributors making a tax-deductible gift of \$50 or more to DREF, may receive a copy of the *Journal*; click link to donate: igfn.us/form/he1bOw

DREF President Carolyn E. Lewis stated that this year's *PHILLIS Journal* is dedicated to the memory of journalist and anti-lynching activist Ida B. Wells and scientist and DST 13th National President Geraldine P. Woods, Ph.D. "They are two phenomenal women whose extraordinary leadership, vision, and courage transformed the lives of African-Americans

Standing Firm with Our Sister Mayors at STJ Forum

The Annual Stephanie Tubbs Jones Social Justice Forum presented by DREF at Delta Day's in the Nation's Capital (April 2021) featured conversations with four African-American women mayors, employing the theme "Standing Firm with our Sister Mayors: Creating Solutions to Crises." The following mayors participated: Keisha Lance Bottoms of Atlanta, Sharon Weston Broome of Baton Rouge, LaToya Cantrell of New Orleans, and Vi Lyles of Charlotte.



Keisha Lance Bottoms



Sharon Weston Broome

STJ Forum moderator Tracee Wilkins (NBC News 4) and DREF Sister Scholar Wanda G. Brockington interviewed the mayors individually and posed questions related to how their cities were managing the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on their local school

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Greetings from the DREF President

Dear DREF Supporter,

It is my pleasure to present our special convention edition of the *FRONT Page* newsletter and extend greetings on behalf of the DREF Board of Directors. We are enthusiastically looking forward to having the opportunity to greet you in-person at the 55th National Convention of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. The last time we gathered in person was at the 54th National Convention held in my New Orleans hometown in 2019. I am grateful that we have made it to Atlanta, GA...*Standing Firmly to Advance the Mission of DREF.*



Carolyn E. Lewis

At the convention, you will have an opportunity to meet several of our new staff members at DREF, which is led by the dynamic non-profit expert, Cheryl M. Thomas, CPA, a Delta member, who came on board in January of this year. As career transitions and new program developments have occurred, new professionals have joined the DREF team to fill vacancies; please read about new staff members in the Program Section of this newsletter. You may also have an opportunity to meet and greet new and returning DREF Board members. I am pleased to welcome four new members to our Board: DST member Tina Fernandez of Tampa, FL; Nicole Lindsay of New Canaan, CT; Fredric A. Navarre of Houston, TX and DST Member Annie P. Whatley of Washington, DC.

This has been an exciting and rewarding year for DREF filled with new opportu-

nities and renewal of resources to continue major existing initiatives. I extend appreciation to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for awarding DREF another program grant to conduct the Delta Teacher Efficacy Campaign from August 2021 through January 2023. I would also like to acknowledge that we have received additional funding from the National Institutes of Health *All of Us* Research Program to continue as a national community engagement partner for Year Five of DREF Research Matters. I am also excited about our newest partnership with the American Pharmacists Association Foundation's IMPACT Diabetes, an awareness and prevention campaign. Learn more about these two leading-edge initiatives at our convention workshops and in the Exhibit Trade Show. This year also marks the milestone of having the 2021 Vivian A. Ware Research Fellow, Takeia Anthony, Ph.D. research and write the history of DREF. Yes, we will soon have a published book documenting the 54-year of our Foundation!

Thank you, immensely, for *Standing Firm* with DREF as you support our programs, volunteer with ongoing initiatives, and contribute funds to benefit operations and charitable programming. We are indeed grateful for your steadfast support and welcome your continued collaborative efforts.

Sincerely yours,
Carolyn E. Lewis
DREF Board President

Standing Firm with Our Sister Mayors

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systems, economic climate, and health disparities. Other questions related to police reform, the 2020 summer uprising following George Floyd's death, voting accessibility and other concerns.

The mayoral dialogue was presented as a videotaped virtual event with live participation of two expert panelists: Nadia E. Brown, Delta member and professor of government at Georgetown University (then at Purdue University) and Sharon



LaToya Cantrell



Vi Lyles

Austin, professor of political science at the University of Florida. The forum was designed to hear concerns and needs of the cities represented and encourage audience members to volunteer with local municipalities...*Standing Firm with Our Sister Mayors.*

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

DREF CFC NUMBER IS 11213

Ware Fellow Writes DREF HISTORY

Takeia Anthony, Ph.D., the 2021 Vivian A. Ware Research Fellow, has researched the history of DREF and documented her findings to result in a published book. The narrative written by Dr. Anthony chronicles the history of the Foundation through its charitable and educational programs, its leadership, philanthropic activities, and collaborations with Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. and other organizations. The book will be available early next year; stay tuned for the book's promotional engagement calendar (virtual and in-person). This year's Ware Fellowship has a two-part responsibility: writing the DREF history and creating an online archival exhibition of The Center for Research on African-American Women.



Dr. Takeia Anthony

Dr. Anthony is an Associate Professor of History at Kentucky State University. Her areas of expertise are Mobilized African Diaspora and Archiving. A member of Bowling Green (KY) Alumnae Chapter, she has published several articles, a book, book chapters, and a historical spoken word album. She is an alumna of Howard University in Washington D.C. and North Carolina Central University (NCCU) in Durham, N.C.

DREF Partners with APhA Foundation to Prevent Diabetes

The American Pharmacist Association Foundation (APhA) has selected DREF to be one its national community-based partners to facilitate IMPACT Diabetes, a national diabetes prevention program. Visit the DREF informational booth at the DST 55th National Convention or visit DREF website to learn how you, your family members, and/or chapter members can benefit from this health initiative.



IMPACT Diabetes is a year-long education and wellness program that will teach participants the skills they need to prevent type 2 diabetes. In the first six months, participants will attend a weekly class that will focus on a particular skill. In the sec-

ond half of the year, periodic classes will be available to assist with achieving long-term success. Throughout the program participants will have a personal lifestyle coach available to provide support and answer questions. The IMPACT Diabetes classes will be offered in-person and virtually; online video classes are also available.

The APhA Foundation received a grant from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to promote and facilitate enrollment in the CDC's National Diabetes Prevention Program.

DTEC-TAG Welcomes New Program Director

With the awarding of a new program grant for the Delta Teacher Efficacy Campaign—Teachers Advocating to lead Great change (DTEC-TAG) initiative from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, DREF has hired a new program director to lead the effort. Kenya C. Ramey, a Delta member, joined the DREF staff in September as DTEC-TAG program director. She will lead the effort in bringing awareness to and addressing the need to increase teacher efficacy through an introspective professional development model.



Kenya C. Ramey

The new program director indicated that plans include covering the following topics with the DTEC-TAG Equity Warriors: Social Emotional Learning, Culturally Relevant Teaching, Learning and Leadership, Equitable Digital Learning, Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), Teacher Career Advancement and others. Special initiatives will address a new series entitled "Doctors Speaks!" along with 21st Century Education Segregation Tactics and Sustaining Educator Health and Wellness.

Kenya is a graduate of Virginia State University (BA, History) and Temple University (MA and MED, Africana Studies - Social Studies Teacher Education). For the past 15-plus years, her professional experience includes being an educator in different capacities (teacher, department chair, curriculum writer, instructional coach and program manager) with the New York City Department of Education, District of Columbia Public Schools and several international communities. She was a

Fulbright Scholar, and is currently pursuing her doctorate degree. She is a member of Washington (DC) Alumnae Chapter.

DREF Research Matters Engages New Program Manager

Alesha K. Russey, Ph.D., was recently hired to serve as program manager of the DREF Research Matters: Creating Possibilities to Achieve Health and Wellness for *All of Us* Program. Dr. Russey was previously DREF's Research Matters Collegiate Engagement Coordinator and Research Specialist. She has successfully led and managed DREF's Historically Black Colleges and Universities Research Accelerates Possibilities (R.A.P) initiative, which educates, engages, and encourages students to participate in the *All of Us* Research Program / Research Hub / Data Browser. With the Foundation selected as a national community engagement by the National Institutes of Health *All of Us* Research Program for Year 5, DREF Research Matters will expand its outreach campaign to include pop-up clinics with medical professionals, encourage African-American students to pursue biomedical research careers, include more HBCUs in the R.A.P. component, and increase the number of designated cities for outreach.



Dr. Alesha K. Russey

Dr. Russey earned a Bachelor of Science degree in biology, and has taught science in both public and post-secondary schools. She has designed and led academic equity, diversity, and inclusion research projects and has a Ph.D. in Urban Higher Education Administration from Jackson State University. She is a member of Federal City Alumnae Chapter.

As DREF's Research Matters program manager, Dr. Russey will serve as the lead professional to create and implement outreach and engagement activities. She will work collaboratively with the principal investigator, Cheryl M. Thomas, DREF Executive Director, to create comprehensive strategies, manage resources and execute plans to increase awareness in African-American communities about the importance of biomedical research and clinical trials.



For more information about DREF programs and Fundraising Activities, scan QR code.

Giving Tuesday is November 30th

The annual day of philanthropy is just around the corner... Giving Tuesday occurs this year on November 30th. Join DREF supporters catch the enthusiasm of giving on this day designated to support non-profit organizations. Make a special charitable donation to DREF on Giving Tuesday. Giving Tuesday is an annual worldwide campaign that takes place on the Tuesday after Thanksgiving. Check out DREF social media platforms to make your donation electronically, or mail a check to the DREF office.



Combined Federal Campaign Season is Now

Combined Federal Campaign- Contribute to DREF with ease and consistency using Workplace Giving! Federal employees are able to participate in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), which enables them to donate to the 501 (c)(3) charity of their choice via automatic payroll deduction. CFC registration season is currently and will continue through mid-January... Make DREF your choice. All you need is the desire to give. Giving to DREF via automatic payroll deduction is effortless and the funds are not missed because it is automatically done each pay period. Several state employment systems also offer automatic payroll deduction for charitable donations. The DREF CFC Number which is 11213.



Workplace Giving—Don't Leave Money on the Table

In the private sector, employees can utilize Workplace Giving by simply making a call, visit, or sending an email to their Human Resources Department requesting to enroll in automatic charitable giving. If DREF is not on the company's list, you can request that it be added. Contact DREF office if you need more information about Workplace Giving. In some instances, employees can receive charitable donations on their behalf based on their volunteer hours. Many companies also offer Matching Gift opportunities, doubling or tripling the donation made by the employee to their selected non-profit...consider DREF to receive Workplace Giving benefits from your company.

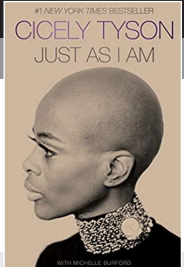
Congrats and Farewell to Ashley Daniels

The DREF Board of Directors and staff congratulate Ashley Daniels, Ph.D., on earning the doctorate degree in political science from Howard University in May 2021. Ashley served as the office manager at DREF since 2012 and her last day of employment at the Foundation was July 2, 2021. DREF leadership applauds her achievements and extends gratitude for her dedicated service to the Foundation. Dr. Daniels began a one-year fellowship in July. Ashley is a member of Delta's Fort Washington (MD) Alumnae Chapter.



Ashley Daniels

SAVE THE DATE: MARCH 19, 2022
LITERARY JAM
 CELEBRATING WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH
 An Evening of Music and Literary Notes (virtual) : National Reading Circle
 Party Music by DJ Vince Adams : Book Discussion: Just As I Am
www.deltafoundation.net



DECEMBER 31, 2021
 Last day to receive Charitable donation for 2021 tax year

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