

VOLUME TWENTY-ONE

New Leadership Assumes the Helm at DREF

The Delta Research and Educational Foundation (DREF) launched its new fiscal year on July 1, 2022 with new leadership assuming the helm. The newly elected Board President is Ms. Renee L. Harper of Boston, MA. Ms. Harper previously served as board treasurer of DREF. Also joining the DREF team is Ms. Karla M. Green as the newly hired Executive Director, who will manage the daily business affairs of the Foundation's national operation.

A Diamond Life Member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Ms. Harper is a member of Boston Alumnae Chapter. She has served on the DREF Board of Directors since the fall of 2015 and has performed numerous roles in Delta on the local, regional and national levels including Chapter President, National Finance Chair and Leadership DELTA Co-Chair. Ms. Harper succeeds outgoing DREF President Carolyn E. Lewis of New Orleans, LA.

Professionally, Ms. Harper is the Chief Financial Officer and Partner at Education Resource Strategies (ERS), an educational consulting organization. Prior to joining ERS, she was the Assistant Vice President and Controller at Liberty Mutual

In the Boston, MA metropolitan area, she serves on numerous boards including Vice Chair of the Visiting Nurses Association, Chair of Church Council for Greater Framingham Community Church, Vice Chair of the Human Relations Commission for the City of Framingham and Chair of Internal Audit & Scholarships for the Boston Branch of the NAACP.

The incoming DREF Executive Director Karla M. Green hails from Syracuse, NY. She has an extensive professional background in public and non-profit management with twenty years of experience in administration and management, staff recruitment and effective community relationships. She comes to

DREF from the Dunbar Association, a 100-year-old, non-profit organization that offers community services to families and youth with a primary focus on the African American population. Her other career positions include working with the Onondaga County Government,

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Renee L. Harper
DREF Board President

Karla M. Green
DREF Executive Director

Insurance. Ms. Harper earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Rochester, a master in business administration (MBA) from Boston University and a master of science in accountancy from Bentley University. She is also a charter property and casualty underwriter.

DREF Recognizes Milestone Anniversary in 2022

The year was 1967, and many landmark events were occurring throughout the nation. Some of the headlines that year included the first successful heart transplant being performed, noted attorney Thurgood Marshall was appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court, and at the 29th National Convention of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Dr. Geraldine P. Woods, DST 13th National President, led the Grand Chapter in establishing the Delta Research & Educational Foundation (DREF) as a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization. DREF realizes its 55th anniversary in 2022—a milestone year. Since its

establishment in August 1967, the Foundation has upheld its mission of identifying issues that affect Black women, their families, and communities of the African Diaspora, nationally and globally, and creating solutions through research, programming, and funding in support of charitable and educational programs of the Sorority, Inc. and other collaborative organizations.



The 55-year history of the Foundation has been written by Takeia Anthony, Ph.D., the DREF 2020-21 Vivian A. Ware Research Fellow and will be published this fiscal year. Follow DREF on social media to learn how it will recognize its milestone anniversary in conjunction with

August being Black Philanthropy Month and to engage in other celebratory events throughout the program year of 2022-23.

Farewell from Carolyn E. Lewis

Dear DREF Supporter,

It has been my extreme pleasure and privilege to serve as president of the DREF Board of Directors for the past seven years, giving me an integral role in advancing the Foundation's mission of empowering the lives of women and communities through research, education and multi-faceted charitable programming. With your steadfast support and the exceptional leadership of the DREF Board of Directors, I am very grateful to acknowledge that we have fulfilled a robust agenda with accomplishments ranging from new and innovative programs related to health and educational development, scholarly research, publication of our *PHILLIS Journal*, new fundraising ideas, and enhancing our Charitable Engagement Service to Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. chapters.

A major part of our operation is the Charitable Engagement Service to chapters; DREF currently manages donor funds for more than 300 DST chapters, enabling them to receive charitable donations to support their scholarship and public service initiatives. It has been a rewarding experience to lead the Foundation as it received major funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for the Delta

Teacher Efficacy Campaign (DTEC) and as it serves as a national community partner with the National Institutes of Health (NIH) *All of Us* Research Program. My tenure ends as the Foundation recognizes its 55th year, and I am very excited that we have dedicated the past year and a half to having the Vivian A. Ware Research Fellow write the history of DREF.



Carolyn E. Lewis

Applause to all of our volunteers, the Sister Scholars Advisory Council, collaborative partners, DST Grand Chapter, and our dynamic DREF staff for your part in making great things happen for DREF. I extend my sincere congratulations to the incoming DREF Board President Renee L. Harper of Massachusetts and the newly elected members of the DREF Board: Sandra Johnson Phillips of Nevada, Gwendolyn Mason of Georgia, Vonetta Mickens of North Carolina, Khristan Murray of Nevada, Cristel Turner of Illinois, and Karen Stanley of Alabama. Thank you, all, for *Standing Firm* with DREF to create possibilities and improve lives.

Sincerely yours,
Carolyn E. Lewis
DREF Board President
2015-2022



DREF Board Members in attendance at April 29, 2022 meeting; Seated from L-R: Dee Dee James Kong, Renee L. Harper, Deborah Jones-Buggs, Elsie Cooke-Holmes, Carolyn E. Lewis, Constance Y. Ross, Joan M. Prince, Soraya Williams Farver, and Cheryl M. Thomas. Standing L-R: Dorcas Washington, Annie P. Whatley, Suzanne Brown Peters (in red and black jacket), Angela M. Williams, Tina Fernandez, Doris Gray Brown, Steven V. Hunter, Leona M. Bridges, Tchicaya Robertson, Josie Daniels, Yanique O. Moore, Anjanette Wyatt, and Fredric A. Navarre

Regional Conference Workshop Focuses on Collaborative Programming

Check out the DREF workshop at this year's DST Regional Conference to learn about three program initiatives being offered by the Foundation. Entitled "DREF & DST Collaborating to Effectuate Community Empowerment," the workshop highlights the following programs:

- Project IMPACT: Diabetes Prevention
- DREF Research Matters for *All of Us*
- Delta Teacher Efficacy Campaign (DTEC)-Teachers Advocating to lead Great change (TAG)

DREF is partnering with the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Foundation to present Project IMPACT, a year-long education and wellness program that teaches participants the skills needed to prevent type 2 diabetes. DREF Research Matters for *All of Us* continues its outreach efforts to educate African Americans about the importance of biomedical research and achieving health and wellness.

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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Delta Research and Educational
Foundation @DREF_1967
#DREF

DREF CFC NUMBER IS 11213

DREF Selects 2022 STJ Summer Intern



Lydia Fertil

DREF has selected Lydia Fertil, a student at Florida State University (FSU), as the 2022 Stephanie Tubbs Jones Summer Intern. Ms. Fertil is a dual degree major studying international affairs

and cyber criminology. She has been assigned to complete her internship this summer in the office of Congresswomen Yvette Clarke (D-New York).

This year's STJ Intern is passionate about aiding her community and has integrated it into her campus life at FSU, where she is involved in student government, the Diversity and Inclusion Institute, undergraduate research and other co-curricular activities.

DREF presents the annual STJ Summer Internship in collaboration with the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, Inc. Created in memory of Congresswoman Stephanie Tubbs Jones (1949-2008), Greater Cleveland Alumnae Delta member and democratic U.S. Representative who represented Ohio's 11th congressional district.

The STJ Summer Internship is made possible by a generous donation from the Clinton Foundation and key support from Delta member Michele V. Hagans.

Join the Effort—Project IMPACT: Diabetes Prevention

You are invited to learn about the Project IMPACT: Diabetes Prevention initiative currently being sponsored by DREF. Embracing the theme: "Saving Your Life in 3D: Defeating the Disease with DREF," the initiative welcomes African American individuals and families to join the effort in preserving their health by preventing diabetes in their lives. Simply scan the QR code to take a brief survey to determine if you qualify to partici-



pate in a health and wellness program that will equip you with skills and resources to live a healthier lifestyle—one that could prevent diabetes.

DREF was selected by the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) Foundation to be one of its national community-based partners to facilitate the Project IMPACT diabetes prevention program. For more information, kindly contact the DREF program director at dpcoleman@deltafoundation.net.

DREF Research Matters Seek Healthcare Professionals and Researchers

As a part of its current activities, the DREF Research Matters for *All of Us* initiative encourages Delta members and other African American women who are healthcare professionals or medical researchers to access the National Institutes of Health (NIH) *All of Us* Research Hub,



where they can have access to quality and relevant data. DREF presented a virtual symposium for *Deltas in Healthcare & Biomedical Research Education* on June 25, 2022. Held in conjunction with the DST

National Program Planning and Development Committee and the Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center (*All of Us* Research Program Healthcare Provider Organization), the symposium provided continuing education for healthcare providers and educated participants about the NIH *All of Us* Research Program and additional medical and research topics.

A major aspect of the DREF Research Matters for *All of Us* initiative is informing African Americans about the importance of biomedical research on one's health and wellness. The recent symposium was a part of a series that communicates the key role of research from a biological and sociological perspective. DREF extends appreciation to all symposium facilitators, participants and presenters. In addition to learning about the NIH *All of Us* One in a Million Campaign,

participants heard presentations from the following distinguished panelists:

- Dr. Joy Cooper and Dr. Kasandra Scales—Maternal Mortality
- Dr. Yvonne Collins—Healthcare and Climate Change
- Dr. Ouida Collins—Hypertension Update
- Dr. Jasmine Manley—Chronic Kidney Disease
- Dr. Lucio Miele—Genomic Return
- Dr. Nicole Redmond—Researcher Workbench

The panel was moderated by Dr. Monique Pierce Hamilton.

For more information about the DREF Research Matters for *All of Us* initiative, please contact program representatives at ResearchMatters@DeltaFoundation.net

DTEC-TAG Presents Monthly Webinar Sessions on Education

It's time to lean in and hear topical issues in education addressed by national leaders and educators. The Delta Teacher Efficacy Campaign (DTEC) and Teachers Advocating to lead Great Change (TAG) is presenting a monthly webinar series entitled "Education: NOW!" The webinar series is held on the fourth Thursday at 6:00 p.m. Eastern Time. The sessions will focus on program components that are addressed in the DTEC-TAG professional development curriculum offered to participating educators: Implicit and Explicit biases, Critical Race Theory, Culturally Relevant Teaching, and Learning and leadership. Other foci include Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), Mental Health and Wellness, and The Whole Child Approach.

The DTEC-TAG program is committed to ensuring that students receive an equitable education that prepares them to enter and excel in college and, ultimately, create a thriving life and career now and for future generations. Please follow DTEC-TAG on social media for registration details on the "Education: NOW!" series.

Thank You to AARP-DC

The DREF Board of Directors extends appreciation to the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)-DC for being a platinum sponsor (\$10,000) for the DREF Literary Jam held during Women’s History Month (March 2022). The event celebrated women in the arts, featured a book discussion on Cicely Tyson’s memoir- *Just As I Am* and party music by DJ Vince Adams of Chicago. Proceeds from the DREF Literary Jam benefit DREF operations and its charitable and educational programming.



DREF Board Members extend appreciation to Louis Davis, Jr., AARP-DC State Director, at April 2022 meeting. Pictured L-R: Dr. Joan Prince, Mr. Davis, Annie P. Whatley and Carolyn E. Lewis.

Ways to Contribute Funds to DREF

▲ General Donation via Mobile Cause; use the following link to donate: igfn.us/form/HCOU1w, then complete the donation form that comes to your mobile phone via text.

- ▲ Mail a contribution check or money order to the DREF Office (1703 New Hampshire Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20009)
- ▲ Payroll Deduction and Matching Gifts (where applicable); inquire at your employer’s Human Resources/Personnel Office
- ▲ Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) and State Campaigns; inquire at your federal or state employer’s Human Resources/Personnel Office. **The DREF CFC Number is 11213.**

- ▲ Make a donation in honor of or in memory of an individual
- ▲ Chapter Donation: chapters are encouraged to make an annual donation to DREF
- ▲ Support one or more of DREF’s annual fundraisers:

- The Annual Giving Tuesday Day of Philanthropy which occurs on the Tuesday following Thanksgiving
- End-of Year Charitable Donation
- Special Event Fundraiser
- Mother’s Day Roses & Violets Campaign

August is Black Philanthropy Month; show your support –

Donate to DREF

igfn.us/form/HCOU1w

New DREF Leadership

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the Huntington Family Centers, and the Syracuse City School District. Ms. Green succeeds Cheryl M. Thomas, CPA, as DREF Executive Director.

Karla is a member of Syracuse (NY) Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., where she most recently served two terms as First Vice President.

Her leadership in the Syracuse community also extends to serving as a Board Member of Central Current, a non-profit Digital News Publication; volunteering as a chapterone for the Annual HBCU Tour with Jr. Frontiers of Mohawk Valley, serving on the administrative team for Saturday Academy Education and Mentorship Program with 100 Black Men of Syracuse, and as Board Member of WCNY Public Broadcasting Service.

The new DREF Executive Director earned a Bachelor of Science in Business Management from Hampton University and a Master of Arts in Education from Trinity College in Washington, D.C. She has also done additional studies in the Executive Master of Public Administration at Syracuse University.

For more biographical data on DREF leaders, please visit www.deltafoundation.net.

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Board Members as of July 1, 2022