



DELTA SIGMA THETA SORORITY, INCORPORATED

A Service Sorority Founded in 1913

1707 New Hampshire Avenue N.W., Washington, DC 20009 | (202) 986-2400 | Telefax (202) 986-2513

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CONTACT:

Bernadine W. Stallings, 202-986-2400
bstallings@deltasigmatheta.org

Carolyn McCrea, 202-986-2400
cmccrea@deltasigmatheta.org

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., Announces Tuskegee University as 2017-2019 Distinguished Professor Endowed Chair Award Recipient

WASHINGTON – The Grand Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., announces Tuskegee University as the 2017-2019 Distinguished Professor Endowed Chair (DPEC) award recipient. The 2017-2019 Distinguished Professor is Dr. Vivian L. Carter, associate professor and chair of the Department of Psychology and Sociology. This year's presentation is significant because it marks the 40th anniversary of the first DPEC award, and the first recipient was Tuskegee. The DPEC kick-off event will take place at the University on Tuesday, November 7, 2017.

“Delta Sigma Theta believes in the relevance and tangible evidence that HBCUs are still in the business of developing African-American leaders in every field,” said Beverly E. Smith, National President and CEO. “We are proud to be able to continue our support of schools like Tuskegee as they make monumental strides in higher education.”

Through this strategic initiative, the Sorority presents an award every biennium to allow a professor residing at an HBCU to focus on work that advances the research agendas of African-American faculty and enhances the quality of life for African-American families. The current award is \$200,000 per biennium.

The primary aim of the proposed research project is to determine if current smoking cessation plans would be more successful in communities of color if they were tailored to the specific cultures within those communities and if plans were connected to the associated beliefs and attitudes of targeted populations. For this study, two of the poorest counties in the nation will be the focus of a three-pronged project that targets African Americans in the Black Belt of Alabama. With one of the highest national mortality rates related to smoking and tobacco use being observed within the African-American population, this study may have overarching consequences on the success of cessation programs nationwide. The study is inclusive of student researchers (the next generation of academic scholars) and community forums (dissemination of research findings), and it will be housed long term in Tuskegee's Health Disparities Institute (sustainability efforts).

DPEC was established in 1977 under the administration of Delta Sigma Theta's 16th National President, Dr. Thelma Thomas Daley. Tuskegee University, then Tuskegee Institute, became the first DPEC honoree. Over the past 40 years, more than \$2 million has been awarded to 20 institutions. In the words of Dr. Daley, “Some walls crumble, but the walls of black colleges must hold on!” On this 40th anniversary of the Distinguished Professor Endowed Chair, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., is committed to continuing its legacy of service to Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

ABOUT DELTA SIGMA THETA

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., was founded in 1913 on the campus of Howard University to promote academic excellence; to provide scholarships; to provide support to the underserved; educate and stimulate participation in the establishment of positive public policy; and to highlight issues and provide solutions for problems in their communities. Today Delta Sigma Theta Sorority has over 250,000 initiated members and more than 900 chapters worldwide. The Sorority uses its Five-Point Programmatic Thrust of economic development, educational development, international awareness and involvement, physical and mental health, and political awareness and involvement to create its national programs.###