

# THE DELTA WORD

Washington DC Alumnae Chapter Newsletter



DELTA SIGMA THETA  
WASHINGTON DC  
ALUMNAE CHAPTER

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## Entrepreneurship Expo

The economic crisis that Americans currently face has challenged them to create their own income instead of relying on the economy to create jobs. Becoming a small business owner is what the spirit of the Entrepreneurship Expo, presented by WDCAC's Financial Fortitude committee, sought to cultivate and create. The Expo

featured business owners, marketing professionals, and relaxation specialists to aide in the building of new business owners.

The Expo was an all-day affair, attended by over one hundred participants hungry for information. Among the many talented and experienced presenters were entrepreneurs in the areas of marketing, funding, maintaining balance as an entrepreneur, and securing government contracts, to name a few. Presenters not only focused the basics of building a business but shared personal success and failures. The keynote speaker Amanda Miller-Littlejohn, a branding expert that explained the importance of branding using the perfect example of Beyoncé and the branding that has led her to be a worldwide name. The participants ranged in entrepreneurship interest levels from college students interested in entrepreneurship to current business owners looking to take their business to the next level. The presenters were able to meet one-on-one with a number of participants and answer personalized questions. Many presenters were interested to see the growth of the participants from the day and the participants were looking forward to more networking opportunities and seeing the Entrepreneurship Expo grow into an annual event.

The Entrepreneurship Expo is a wonderful example of merging a community need with a great idea and turning into a successful event. It definitely educated, inspired, and empowered many district residents to become successful entrepreneurs.

*"I do feel that the message was well received...I look forward to hearing the future business owners stories of success next year"*

*-Kim Swainn*

*Funding Your Business Presenter*



# PRESIDENTS PEN

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*"There are so many great  
projects and activities  
happening in WDCAC"*

*-President Poe*

## **Happy Holidays Sorors!**

Welcome to the first installment of the The Delta Word for the Sorority Year! In our first publication, I hope you're encouraged by all the work WDCAC has accomplished so far in the 2014 – 2015 sorority year. As you continue to peruse the newsletter, I hope you are inspired to participate on a committee in the life of the WDCAC. WDCAC has so many opportunities to serve. If you aren't able to serve on a committee, we look forward to your continued contributions to the WDCAC fundraisers and activities.

As this 2014 comes to an end, 2015 holds so many opportunities for WDCAC. In 2015, WDCAC will turn 94 years old on February 3, 2015. On March 7, 2015, we will host our 11<sup>th</sup> year of Distinguished Men Cookin' with the Deltas. Don't forget your early bird tickets for \$40! In April, we will be participating with in Comcast Care Day for the third year. We will hold our 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Gwendolyn E. Boyd, STEM is Everywhere event. In May 2015, we will unveil our revamped Public Meeting event called Community Forum and Scholarship Ceremony and hosting a community forum on 'Educating Our Sons.' We will also be starting a new partnership between the Washington Mystics and Healthy Lifestyles: A Journey to Wellness committee. We will culminate our year with a new fundraiser. We will be hosting a concert with vocal and national artists.

There are so many great projects and activities happening in WDCAC, I cannot list them all! Stay current on WDCAC activities by visiting our various social media venues i.e. LinkedIn, Instagram, Facebook and the WDCAC web site. Finally, I wish you and your families a wonderful holiday season! See you in the 2015.

Sisterly,  
President Nichelle Poe



# Upcoming Chapter Events

The Washington DC Alumnae Chapter Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc. presents

## Winter Wonderland: Holiday Party 2014

**Where:** The VIP Room DC - 6201 Third Street NW Washington, DC

**When:** December 14, 2014 3:00-7:00PM

**Attire:** Holiday Chic

**Cost:** \$25 per ticket

Please Contact [membership@wdcac.org](mailto:membership@wdcac.org) for tickets



DELTA SIGMA THETA  
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WEDNESDAY  
DEC 17

WASHINGTON DC ALUMNAE CHAPTER OF

**DST**

ENTREPRENEUR NETWORKING MIXER

DOORS OPEN 5PM

**DIEGO**  
2100 14TH ST NW

# The Chapter Word



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The Washington DC Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. received a Federal Children's Bureau *2014 Adoption Excellence Award* in the category Business Contributions/Initiatives. This is a national recognition by the United States Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) for the extraordinary contributions made in providing adoption and other permanency outcomes for children in foster care.

In 2010 the Sorority's Eastern Region's initiative to address foster care and adoption was designed to be a Regional Day of Service. However, given the complexity of issues surrounding foster care and adoption, it was decided that it would require more than just one day of action to meaningfully address these issues and achieve positive impacts. The Washington DC Alumnae Chapter furthermore has elected to continue this initiative and make it into a full program, developing strategic community partnerships promoting awareness & bringing attention to the needs of children in the District who are living in foster care and those who are waiting to be adopted.

The need for a program such as this is due to the elevated rates of poverty and child abuse or neglect in African American communities which have resulted in a disproportionate share of African American children in foster care systems across the country. According to a 2007 University of Chicago report, Black children make up 37% of the children in foster care systems throughout the country despite the fact that they only make up 15% of the children living in the United States; and unfortunately, approximately 11% of children actually "age-out" of the system. The outcomes facing youth who age out of the child welfare system without permanent families are startling; research tells us that these young people have an increased likelihood in experiencing homelessness, poor health, unemployment, incarceration and other negative outcomes.





**Soror R. Denise Everson has been awarded the 2014 Florence Letcher Toms award. Her six years as a member of WDCAC has been filled with several leadership positions at the local level as well as the National Level. Congratulations Soror !**



## What is Risk Management ?

Risk Management is an initiative of the National Program Planning and Development Committee. It is designed to assist chapters in limiting potential for liability by instituting policies, which protect the communities we serve. Successful implementation of Risk Management policies is a component of the chapter's constitutional compliance requirement. Its policies primarily apply to, but are not limited to committees that focus on youth activities, have a youth component, or must discern what is appropriate to post such as Technology, Arts and Letters, EMBODI, GEMS and STEM.

This proactive measure is a safety precaution to minimize risk. Delta's youth initiatives are not designed to recruit. The fundamental principles of its initiatives are to provide quality mentorship. The purpose of this process is to create an educational framework for establishing best practices. Risk Management policies apply to all volunteers working with youth more than once and over an extended period. Those volunteers who plan to work with youth are **REQUIRED** to attend a training session before working with youth. Please sign up for an upcoming training session. Both Deltas and Non-Deltas (including parents) are considered volunteers. Lastly, participants in Delta's youth initiatives are expected to observe a Code of Ethics that embodies the affirmation of commitment to youth.



And now...the pictures





# What's "The Word" in the City?



By Erin Clark

The news lately has been a dismal view into what a faux “post-racial” society looks like. Police shootings of unarmed African American men have reached the forefront of newspapers and television news sources, brining society to a precipice. With the lack of an indictment for the police killers of Michael Brown and Eric Gardner the precipice has been reached and the hope for justice for these men has fallen over the edge. The bigger picture in all of the recent murders of young Black Men is the lack of justice or the ability to receive justice. A society recently wounded by the death of Trayvon Martin and his killer being tried in court and found not guilty has once again been struck with more killings at the hands of people sworn to protect them. The killing of Michael Brown, in Ferguson Missouri, sparked a nationwide “Hands Up Don’t Shoot” movement where protesters marched and held their hands up honoring Brown’s last words. Following the murder of Eric Gardner, of New York, protests erupted with the phrase “I cant breathe”, once again honoring his last words. The incidents alone were a tragedy and upsetting. The tipping point came when a grand jury to determine if these police officers would face a trial to answer to the deaths of these men both decided not to indict. Rioting and tense moments immediately followed the Ferguson decision not to indict. What became clear nationwide was that there needed to be a response. Some people engaged in non-violent protests, blocked traffic on major highways or engaged in “die-ins”. The most controversial of the protests was the call for a boycott on Black Friday. Soror Rahiel Tesfamariam, was responsible for the “not one dime” slogan that spread throughout social media. Faced with the dilemma of shopping for 50 percent off savings and the chance to purchase electronics at a steep discount, proved troubling for many people. The main problem that people had with the Blackout Friday boycott was that they could not see the connection between missing the sales and the decision to not indict. What many people that went shopping on Black Friday didn’t take into consideration is that solidarity matters. African American shoppers make up a billion dollars in revenue for companies. Living in a capitalistic society, money will always be king. And collectively taking the “Black dollar” away from stores on the biggest shopping day is a solid way to show solidarity and buying power. The idea that nothing changes when a group of people collectively decide to impact any one thing is false. The one thing that minority society lacks is solidarity and a community feeling of collectivism. The idea that what happens to one, affects us all has been lost. When you lose your collective feeling society is able to divide you based on class, color hue, organizational membership, education, and any other dividing factor that can be used to separate people that need each other to succeed. The protests on this issue will continue. Police brutality and the militarization and use of excessive force against minorities is a collective issue. When faced with the question of what to do when offered the opportunity to stand in solidarity with your sister, take it and encourage others to take the same just stand.