

**PRESS RELEASE: (For immediate release)**

**Date: April 21, 2015**

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### **Women's Advocacy Day 2015**

Good afternoon. I am Tayon Nicole Dancy, Wake County resident and member of the Western Wake Alumnae Chapter and the NC Social Action Committee of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated. I am representing Esther Hardin of the New Bern Alumnae Chapter, NC Social Action Chair. The Regional Director, Andrea M. Jeffries and our National President, Dr. Paulette C. Walker both send you greetings.

When women were given the right to vote in 1920, it was Women and Delta Women who lead this change through Women's suffrage efforts. On April 15, 2015, Delta's from all over NC descended on the NC State Capitol again dressed in our fabulous red for our annual Delta Days Event themed "Advocacy in Action: A Stronger Presence – A Stronger Voice". We must continue to use our voices at all levels of government to create significant change and we must encourage our communities, families, and friends to be an active part of the political process. I will not and you should not stand back and look on the political process as a mere spectator. I must, you must, we must, take on the mindset that..."we are champions, and they're gonna here us roar"!

I am a product of a great woman, Ms. Carolyn Collins Williams, who raised me and two other siblings while working and living at a poverty level. The earned income tax credit provided an avenue for her to make ends meet and to provide basic care for us. I am a proud product of neighborhood schools surrounded by low income homes where teachers like Mrs. Deborah Boddye Lowe took an active interest in my success both inside and outside of the classroom. These women are why I was able to be a straight A student and obtain my Bachelors Degree at the great University of North Carolina at Charlotte and my Graduate degree at North Carolina State University while remaining on the Dean's List. I am a product of the Head Start Program for low income families where I developed a love for learning. I was a recipient of Medicaid services because the income my mother made was not enough to cover healthcare cost. Because of my mother that fought to keep me off of the streets, the many Delta women that took me on as their young mentee, the many teachers that pushed me to excellence, and many of the women like you here today that fight for your communities and others to have a fair chance at life, I am who I am because of you and your efforts. I stand here today to advocate for others because of what so many women did for me. I have a vested interest.

Women, ladies, champions, I charge you today, to stand up collectively so our voices can be heard. Whether we are like Delta Woman, Loretta Lynch, who still waits in anticipation of her confirmation as the 1<sup>st</sup> African American Woman Attorney General; Or like Delta Woman, Daisy Bates, who guided and advised the nine students, known as the Little Rock Nine; Or like First Lady Michelle Obama, who is a woman that stood by her man, the most unlikely candidate

for President of the United States of America, I must, you must, we must, take on the mindset that..."we are champions, and they're gonna here us roar"!

Together let's demand our legislators to bring teacher pay closer to the national average because they are who our children will spend the majority of their time with receiving instructions and preparing for this world full of challenges and opportunities. Demand them to provide access to healthcare for low income families by accepting the expansion of Medicaid so that children and adults can receive the proper healthcare. Demand our legislators to increase minimum wage to a reasonable living wage so families like mine growing up no longer have to choose between family time and working 2-3 jobs to just live paycheck to paycheck. We as women today continue to be on the forefront of driving our families, friends, and communities to use their voices in the political process through voting, advocacy, and running for political positions.

And in case you didn't know, our Father, God created man and woman in His own image. We stand on the shoulders of so many that have come before us, but we rest and have peace in knowing that we can do all things through Christ who strengthens us.

**WE ARE WOMEN, HEAR US ROAR!!**

Respectfully submitted,

Tayon Nicole Dancy  
Western Wake Alumnae Chapter  
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Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Incorporated