

Prince William County Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc.
P.O. Box 1099
Woodbridge, Virginia 22195

April 20, 2019

On behalf of the Prince William County Alumnae Chapter, I am writing to provide comments about SunTrust's support of the greater Prince William County community and its youth through SunTrust's generous sponsorship of our annual Martin Luther King Oratorical Program held each January at the Hylton Memorial Chapel in Woodbridge, Virginia. Our organization, chartered in 1984, has a 501c7 tax status, and we are affiliated with the Delta Education and Research Foundation, a 501c3 organization which shares in the support of the program.

In addition to developing an appreciation of the oratorical legacy and contributions of Dr. King, our program also supports the applicable achievement goals of the participating school divisions (Prince William County, Cities of Manassas and Manassas Park) and promotes the enriching benefits of our diverse community. The support of SunTrust along with others has helped us host over 2,500 participants from the greater Prince William County, Virginia are, which include a diverse audience, the youth program participants and their parents, more than 200 community volunteers and multiple media outlets.

Over 700 students have participated in this competition over the past 30 years, and many have been recognized locally, statewide, and nationally and attest to benefits of this life-changing experience. One of our orators from 2000, Dr. Ibram Rogers, is now a professor at the University of Florida and recipient of the 2016 National Book Award in Nonfiction. In 2016, his mother sent the program chairs this message: "Writing and giving the speech for this contest had a profound effect on Ibram's life. It allowed him to internalize the impact of our people's history on the future of this nation... The MLK oratorical competition makes more of a difference than you realize. Thank you."

This kind of impact on youth would not be possible without the support of organizations like SunTrust. We are committed to serving our community in substantive and meaningful ways, and it has been encouraging to know that SunTrust shares this public service mission. It has been the consistent and persistent work of SunTrust and Muriel Garr, one of your Senior Vice Presidents, which has made this support impactful for the youth we serve. Again, we are grateful for the support of SunTrust. We look forward to the merger of SunTrust and BB&T and the opportunity for a continued partnership.

Sincerely,

Lorraine P. Jackson
President, Prince William County Alumnae Chapter
Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated