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## Delta Sigma Theta members prepping teens for success

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Do you know where you want to go? Do you have the right tools? Do you know how to get there? The Marietta-Roswell Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority helps teens find the keys to their future at Teen Forum 2011 "Driven: Do you Hold the Keys to Pursue Your Passion?"

Patsy Pattman, president, said the teen forum is a free event that is open to the public. There will be interactive workshops created to equip all teens (middle through high school) in the Marietta area with tools and resources they need to go to college, be successful and serve their communities.

The annual event on March 19 is part of a youth development program under the sorority's national 5-point programmatic thrust that includes economic development, educational development, international awareness and involvement, physical and mental health, and political awareness and involvement.

"Because of the diverse topics we cover, it's important for teens to see they can interact with role models. The topics are things they can take forward to the future," Pattman said. "Everything we provide is very relevant to their needs. It's very important that we keep focusing on our teens because our teens are our future," she said.

Aquila Harris, 17, is a senior at Pebblebrook High School. She said she plans to attend the forum along with others in the sorority's Delta Academy and Delta Growing and Empowering Myself Successfully, an arm of the education development committee. For seven years, the Austell resident has been involved in the sorority's Delta Academy and Delta GEMS, dedicated to providing girls with training in leadership, planning, team building and communication skills that prepares, motivates and empowers today's youth.

Harris, whose mother died seven years ago, said, "Even though I've gone through everything, I still have been able to maintain and to stay in school. I'll be graduating this year and going on to college. That's why I think the Delta GEMS program and Delta Academy have helped me to become a better woman so that I can move on in life and become an independent woman."

The forum will also feature a women's and men's luncheon to encourage parental involvement parents in their children's education.

"(The programs) help you to prepare yourself to go on to college and be on your

own without depending on your parents so you can be independent," she said. "It helps you to prepare for the real world." Harris was chosen to attend the sorority's national convention last year as an example of how this program can impact lives.

"The teen forum serves to enrich our middle and high school students," said Lisa Morgan, MRAC's educational development committee chair. "If we're having workshops like these, we're part of the solution."

Founded in 1913 by 22 students at Howard University and with more than 950 chapters globally, the local alumni sisterhood - whose theme is "BE the Difference for Change" - uses their collective strength to improve our community. For more, visit [www.deltastigma theta. org](http://www.deltastigma theta. org) or [www.dstmrac.com](http://www.dstmrac.com).

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