Yesterday’s speaker for the Morris College Chapter of the NAACP, Ms. Diane E. Sumpter, has spent more than 40 years working as a catalyst for change in South Carolina and the nation. With an attentive audience in the Neal-Jones auditorium, she looked at the challenges that could wrestle and pin voting rights down. “Voting rights,” the community activist and founder, president and chief executive officer of DESA, Inc. said, “is at an all-time high.”

Reflecting back on her collegiate experiences at the University of South Carolina, she realized she “could make a difference.” Many fail to see voting as a way to make a difference. “We are not recognizing the full power of the power of voting,” she said. So many are not registering and (those who register) are not voting. They fail to see how voting impacts the important areas of our lives. From Pell Grants for students to Medicare for the elderly, affordable housing for low income families and help for the homeless, Sumpter was emphatic about “keeping the power to vote” and not “giving up.”

Commenting on a Supreme Court decision that “early voting restrictions were acceptable,” as early voting gets under way in Ohio, Sumpter cautioned, “There are drastic measures taken to keep us from voting.” She suggested that the solution to “drastic measures” is “the power of going to the polls and vote.” She challenged students to take serious the importance of registering and voting. “Know who you are voting for and read their platform,” students were advised.

Sumpter earned her undergraduate and graduate degrees in English and Social Work, respectively, from the University of South Carolina and has completed numerous professional development courses throughout her career. The recipient of numerous awards and honors, she currently sits on the boards of Carolinas-Virginia Minority Supplier Development Council and Midlands Technical College.

Also speaking during the assembly were Mrs. Patricia Jefferson, director of Registration & Elections Sumter County; Mrs. Delois Woodward, vice president, League of Women Voters Sumter County; and Mr. Emmit Vogt, chapter membership chairman, Morris College Chapter NAACP. They gave the “Voter Registration Appeal.”

In the absence of President Richardson, who could not attend because of important college business, Mr. Robert Eaves, director of Business Affairs, presented a plaque to the speaker and gave remarks.
Mid-semester examinations will be administered Monday, October 6 through Thursday, October 9. President Richardson has repeatedly urged students to study hard and keep their grades up. "Some students play around and don’t do anything the first half of the semester," Richardson observed. "They have the attitude that if they make a ‘D’ or an ‘F’ they can pull it up the second half of the semester. It’s hard to pull it up. Then some fail to pull it up and end the semester with failing grades. They flunk the first semester and say they can make it up the second semester. Again, it is hard to do so."

With government and accrediting agencies mandating that institutions do a better job of holding on to students and increasing their retention rates, which helps the graduation rates to go up, Richardson continues to remind the campus of the ripples caused by failing to do so. "Students who are accepted in college but then don’t study and flunk out, get put out of school because they no longer meet financial aid requirements. Then they are unable to find adequate jobs where they can repay their student loans. When their loans become delinquent, it is held against the institution. An institution’s eligibility for federal financial aid is endangered when its default rate reaches 30% or above."

Students can be of tremendous help to the college by studying and making good grades. Morris College is counting on its students to do well on their mid-semester examinations.

The college’s Learning Resources Center will operate on extended hours during this time; Sunday 3:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. and from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. Monday through Wednesday.

**Career Services: More Than Job Placement**

When it comes to providing assistance for the goal of “landing the job,” the Morris College Career Services Center is the pilot students would want flying by their side. For years the Career Services staff has been able to navigate part-time, full-time, and temporary opportunities for those they serve, but their services don’t stop at job placement. “Clients” as they are referred to by director, Dr. Gloria Seabrook-Wright, “are given assistance in the areas of resume writing, interview skills, social and business etiquette, professional and graduate school placement, as well as internship and volunteer opportunities to name a few.”

Their upcoming events include the Thirty-Third Graduate and Professional Schools Informational Clinic and a Social and Dining Etiquette workshop. The October 14 informational clinic, which will be held in the lobby of the Neal-Jones Auditorium, is from 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon and is free and open to the public. The etiquette workshop, planned for October 23 at 1:30 p.m., is open only to students classified as a senior and because seats are limited those interested are asked to sign the participant list. This event, facilitated by Ms. Yvonne Brown, will be held in the Daniels Dining Hall.

If you or someone you know has not been to the Career Services Center, which is located on the second floor of the Brawley-Starks Academic Success Center in room 209, it will be a great help to visit them and schedule an appointment to discuss their resources and for an assessment consultation. The office can also be reached by telephone at 803-934-3191.

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**QEP Word of The Week**

Ameliorate [uh-meel-yuh-reyt] verb; to improve

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**CONGRATULATIONS to Coach Fulwood and the Lady Hornets Volleyball Team on their 3-1 win against the Lady Tigers of Voorhees College on October 2**

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**NOTICE:** All students interested in competing for the titles of Miss Homecoming, Miss Co-Ed, and Mr. Co-Ed may pick up solicitation letters in the Office of Students Affairs. The deadline for reporting funds for competition is Friday, November 14, 2014. Winners will be announced and crowned during the Pre-Fall Harvest Worship Service and Rally on Tuesday, November 18, 2014.