

Gladys Castle “Friend of Delta State” Service Award

The Delta State University National Alumni Association recently announced the annual Alumni Service Awards recipients. Each year, the Alumni Association presents four service awards: the Hugh Ellis Walker Alumni Service Award, the Kent Wyatt Young Alumnus Service Award, the Gladys Castle Friend of Delta State Awards and the Legacy Award.

The Gladys Castle Friend of Delta State Service Award is presented to a non-alumnus who has made outstanding service and contributions to Delta State. The Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce is being recognized this year for this award.

The Cleveland-Bolivar County Chamber of Commerce is a voluntary organization organized for the purpose of advancing the civic, commercial, industrial, economic, social and general interest of the people of Cleveland and Bolivar County. It encourages the growth of existing industries and businesses, while giving proper assistance to any new firms or businesses seeking to locate in the city or county. It supports all activities believed to be beneficial to the community. The chamber has a long history of supporting Delta State University. Each year, the chamber hosts the annual DSU Welcome Back Party to show appreciation to faculty and staff as they begin another school year and to continue the great “town-gown” relationship. The chamber also assists Delta State with local activities for the Teach for America corps members and staff during their Summer Institute. The chamber also formed the Delta State/Community Task Force to address building Cleveland business and community support for DSU. The goals for the group are: making Cleveland more identifiable as the “Delta State Community” and building community pride/support for Delta State Athletics and the university as a whole. The group spearheaded the highway banner program, with over 50 banners installed along Highways 61 and 8, letting visitors know Cleveland and Bolivar County are proud to host this great institution.