

**Emily M. Dickens, J.D.**

Ms. Dickens has a broad government relations background with almost a decade of experience in local government and higher education. This includes a unique combination of legal skills, knowledge of municipal organization and function, and the ability to establish and maintain relationships with local, state and federal government agencies. She serves as an advisor to a Chief Executive Officer and leadership team on strategic initiatives related to administrative, community, and intergovernmental affairs. She is a team player with the ability to exercise independent judgment and initiative in achieving results while balancing multiple and diverse projects. She is a researcher with the ability to assemble, organize and present, in written and oral form. And, she is skilled in public speaking, public relations, negotiations, and interpersonal communications.

Ms. Dickens is a member of the Board of Directors of the Fayetteville/Cumberland County Chamber of Commerce where she serves as Secretary; the Cumberland Community Action Program Board where she serves on the Executive Committee, the Cumberland County Workforce Development Board, the North Carolina Partnership for Defense Innovation Board and NETWORTH. Dickens is a member of the inaugural class of the Fayetteville Observers 40 under 40.

Over the last five years she has worked diligently to broaden FSU's interaction with the community, local, state, and federal government. In addition, she has brought federal and state resources to campus to support new initiatives. She has provided counsel to the university leadership team and to the boards on which she serves.

Her accomplishments that have brought funding into Cumberland County include securing a \$1.5M federal Department of Defense appropriation for research equipment, developing a project team that was awarded \$1M from the Department of Commerce BTO ARRA Funds, securing State Department of Transportation funding for pedestrian improvements near campus the FSU campus, and writing a grant that led to a half a million dollars in funding from HUD for planning projects in the southern Murchison Road Corridor.

On the federal level, Dickens was a member of the team that led the North Carolina HBCU advocacy effort for Masters-level institution capacity building funds in Title VII of the 2009 Higher Education Reauthorization bill resulting in \$3M over five years to FSU's campus and led HBCU advocacy efforts for preservation of \$25M in HUD funding for Department of Housing and Urban Development HBCU program. She is a member of the Board of Directors of the HBCU Community Development Action Coalition.

Ms. Dickens has recruited, planned and supervised local and statewide events on campus including the Lt. Governors' JOBS Commission, the North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus/HBCU Meeting, NSF Research Conference, and Department of Defense Black History Month Celebration. She manages the Chancellor's Distinguished Speakers Series and served as co-chair of Chancellor's Installation.

She is a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated, and served as North Carolina State Connection Chairman (2006-2010 ) where she developed the statewide legislative agenda based on international sorority initiatives, implemented training for chapter chairmen on working with local government and engaging state legislators in their home offices. She also planned and implemented four AKA Day at the State Capital events that included appearances and speeches by the Governor, Lt. Governor, U.S. Senate candidates, and state lobbyists. She also developed sorority partnerships with the Department of Health and Human Services (HIV Advocacy) and AARP, coordinated a region-wide census activity and presented at three regional conferences. Ms. Dickens has also served as Vice President and Program Chair, (2008-2010) for her chapter. The Chapter received Regional Outstanding Graduate Program (April 2010) based on programs implemented during her term.

A native of Queens, New York, she is married to Wallace H. Sellars, Jr., a middle school administrator.