

NEW FACULTY

Community Engagement Tour

EXPLORING NEW PLACES • MEETING NEW PEOPLE • ENGAGING NEW COMMUNITIES

MAY 11-13, 2022



Executive Report

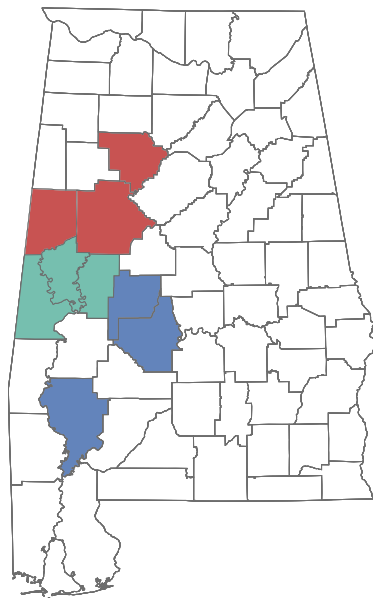
Prepared by Carol N. Agomo and James E. McLean

INTRODUCTION

The New Faculty Community Engagement Tour (NFCET) exists to engage early-career faculty and advanced graduate students in three, day-long tours of West Alabama and the Alabama Black Belt. This initiative provides participants with opportunities to develop innovative partnerships with community members and other campus researchers interested in community-based approaches to addressing community needs while playing a vitally important role in advancing the University's mission by facilitating campus-community partnerships.

Following a 2-year break brought about by the global pandemic, the NFCET returned better than ever! The 2022 Tour took place on May 11, 12, and 13, included stops in nine West Alabama counties and engaged undergraduate students for the first time.

The Division of Community Affairs is proud to host this Tour in partnership with the Office of Academic Affairs, the Graduate School, the Center for Community-Based Partnerships and the Council on Community Based-Partnerships.



DAY 1

WALKER COUNTY

PICKENS COUNTY

TUSCALOOSA COUNTY

DAY 2

GREENE COUNTY

SUMTER COUNTY

HALE COUNTY

DAY 3

PERRY COUNTY

CLARKE COUNTY

DALLAS COUNTY

UA TOUR PARTICIPANTS

35 faculty, staff and students traveled on the Tour over three days; approximately 63% of them traveled on all three days. Traveler disciplines include social work, anthropology, history, mathematics, public health and many more. Common among travelers was an interest in beginning or continuing community-engaged research.

Each stop along the Tour included discussions with community members to share community successes and challenges, as well as ways we might work together to increase successes and reduce challenges. Community members shared community efforts related to **education, health and well-being**, and the **primary sources of family income**.

Planners administered surveys at the end of each day to obtain feedback from travelers. A copy of the survey is available for viewing in Appendix A.

The survey includes three quantitative items, which asked travelers if they were satisfied with the Tour, if it met their expectations, and if they would recommend the Tour to others respectively, on 10-point scales, with 10 being the highest score possible and 1 being the lowest score possible.

Specifically, the items were:

- On a scale of 1-10, how would you rate your satisfaction of today's Tour?
- On a scale of 1-10, how well did the Tour meet your expectations?
- On a scale of 1-10, how likely would it be for you to recommend this Tour to others?

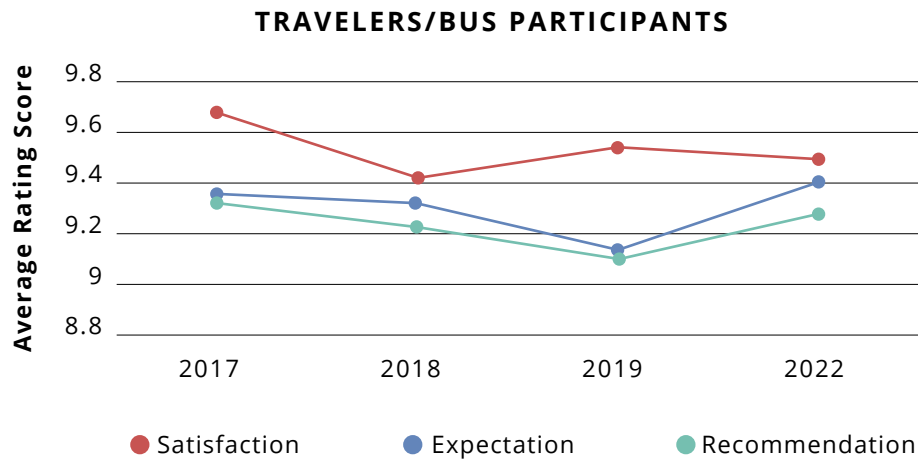


Table 1 and **Figure 1** below show average scores and trends in satisfaction, expectations, and recommendations across the four years the Tour has taken place.

Table 1 Average Traveler Scores 2017-2019 and 2022

TRAVELERS				
	2017	2018	2019	2022
Satisfaction	9.32	9.23	9.11	9.28
Expectation	9.36	9.32	9.14	9.41
Recommendation	9.68	9.42	9.54	9.49

Figure 1 Average Traveler Scores 2017-2019 and 2022



The overall responses were positive, with all the mean scores exceeding 9.0 on a 10-point scale. Judging from the responses received, the travelers were very satisfied with the Tour, thought the Tour met their expectations and would recommend it to others in the future. There were no responses below a five, and more than half of the responses for each item were a 10.

The three open-ended questions sought to gather information to improve future tours. The three qualitative questions on the survey were as follows:

- Do you have any suggestions to improve today's Tour in the future?
- Is there any additional information you would like to know about places you visited today?
- Please add any additional comments you would like to make.

Responses suggest that travelers are generally interested in learning more about community indicators, educational attainment and increased networking time.

"[The Tour] deepened my understanding of the communities in West Alabama and The University's engagement to them."

"The enthusiasm and pride shown by panelists were inspiring!"



COMMUNITY PARTNER FEEDBACK

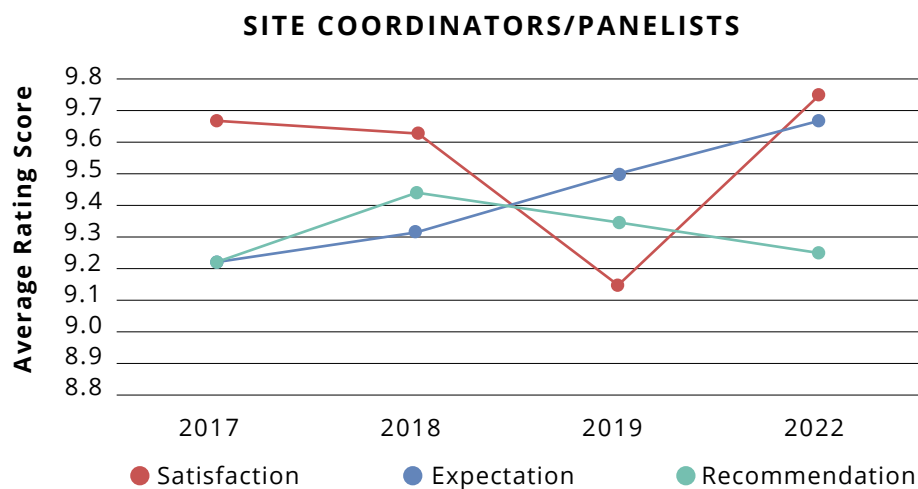
There were 56 community partners who served as site coordinators and panelists over the nine sites visited. We surveyed the community partners via Qualtrics. A copy of the survey is available for viewing in Appendix B.

Like the surveys for travelers, the survey administered to community partners asked three quantitative questions that addressed satisfaction, meeting expectations, and the likelihood of participating in future tours. **Table 2** and **Figure 2** show average scores and trends in satisfaction, expectations, and recommendations of community partners across the four years the Tour has taken place.

Table 2 Average Community Partner Scores 2017–2019 and 2022

SITE COORDINATORS/PANELISTS				
	2017	2018	2019	2022
Satisfaction	9.22	9.44	9.35	9.25
Expectation	9.22	9.31	9.5	9.67
Recommendation	9.67	9.63	9.15	9.75

Figure 2 Average Community Partner Scores 2017–2019 and 2022



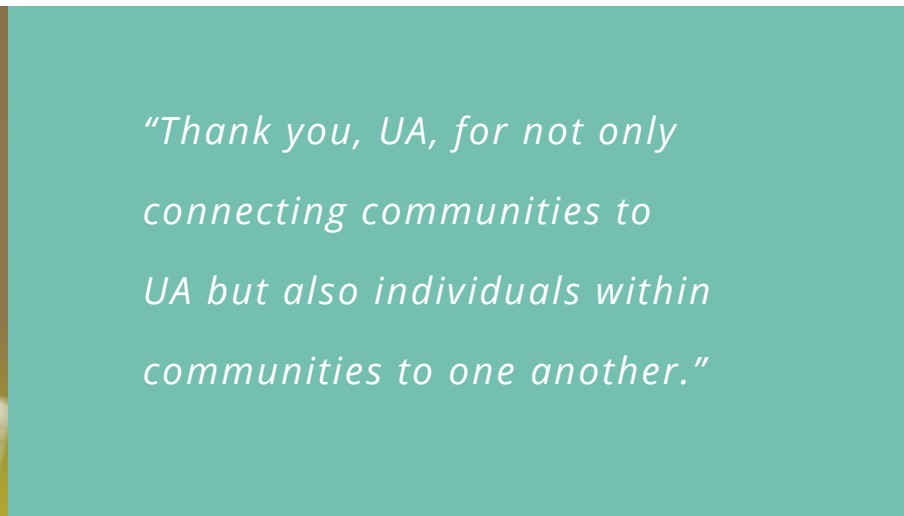
The three open-ended questions sought to gather the information that could help improve future tours. The three qualitative questions on the survey were as follows:

- Do you have any suggestions to improve today's Tour in the future?
- Is there any additional information you would like to know about places you visited today?
- Please add any additional comments you would like to make.

Community partners expressed a general interest in hosting more members of the UA community, with one even asking that we bring a larger group next time.



Greensboro



Selma

SUMMARY

We find the Tour provides excellent relationship-building opportunities for the University, and this is a feeder for other campus initiatives that enhance our relationships between the community and campus. Each year, there has been considerable involvement in the Winning Grants and Sustaining Communities Program from people who learned about the program during the Tour. To date, in 2022, two of the five teams—Pickens County Community Resources Group and the York City Improvement Group—have come directly from the community groups we met on the tours. Additionally, about half of the individual grant workshop participants come because they participated in the NFCET. Of these, three were community members who applied to participate, and the remaining were faculty, graduate students, and staff who traveled during the Tour. Almost half of the total participants registered for the 2022–2023 Winning Grants and Sustaining Communities Program participated in the 2022 NFCET.

Overall, the results collected from UA travelers and community partners were positive. Participants and panelists enjoyed the experience of connecting and learning more about opportunities for collaboration.



APPENDIX A

 **NEW FACULTY**

Community Engagement Tour

EXPLORING NEW PLACES • MEETING NEW PEOPLE • ENGAGING NEW COMMUNITIES

Post-Tour Feedback

Thank you for participating in the 2022 New Faculty Community Engagement Tour for The University of Alabama. We request your participation in this short survey to help us determine 1) how useful the tour was for you and 2) improvements for future tours. This survey should take 5–10 minutes to complete.

1. Please circle the group into which you best fit:

Community Student Staff Faculty

2. On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your satisfaction of today's tour? (Please circle 1 if you were not satisfied at all to 10 if were completely satisfied.)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

3. How well did the tour meet your expectations? (Please circle 1 if it did not meet your expectations at all to 10 if it met your expectations completely.)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

4. How likely are you to recommend this tour to future new faculty, staff or students? (Please circle 1 if you definitely would NOT recommend the tour to 10 if you are extremely likely to recommend it.)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

5. Do you have any suggestions to improve today's Tour in the future?

6. Is there any additional information you would like to know about the places you visited today?

7. Please add any additional comments you would like to make.

APPENDIX B

 **NEW FACULTY**

Community Engagement Tour

EXPLORING NEW PLACES • MEETING NEW PEOPLE • ENGAGING NEW COMMUNITIES

2022 Post-Tour Feedback | Community Participants

Thank you for participating in the New Faculty Community Engagement Tour for The University of Alabama. We request your participation in this short survey to help us determine 1) how useful the tour was for you and 2) improvements for future tours. This survey should take 5–10 minutes to complete.

1. Please circle the site where you participated:

Jasper Carrolton Northport Eutaw York Greensboro Newbern Thomasville Selma

2. On a scale of 1 to 10, how would you rate your satisfaction with your role in the planning/participation of the tour? (Please circle 1 if you were not satisfied at all to 10 if you were completely satisfied.)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

3. How well did the tour meet your expectations? (Please circle 1 if it did not meet your expectations at all to 10 if it completely met your expectations.)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

4. How likely would you be to agree to participate in next year's new faculty tour? (Please circle 1 if you definitely will not participate next year to 10 if you fully intend to participate again.)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

5. Do you have any suggestions to improve next year's Tour?
6. Would you like to suggest any particular actions for follow-up?
7. Please add any additional comments you would like to make.