



NEW FACILITY

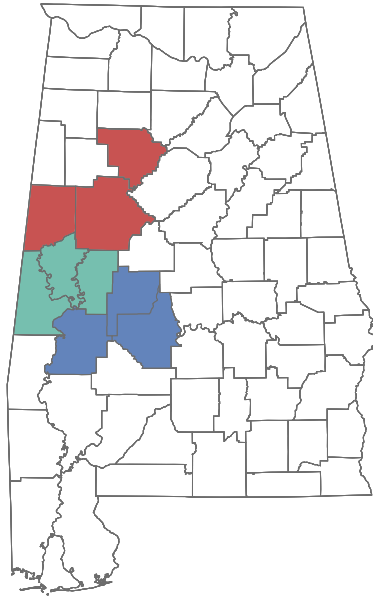
# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

*tour*

MAY 10, 11, & 12, 2023







**DAY 1**

- WALKER COUNTY
- PICKENS COUNTY
- TUSCALOOSA COUNTY



**DAY 2**

- GREENE COUNTY
- SUMTER COUNTY
- HALE COUNTY



**DAY 3**

- MARENGO COUNTY
- PERRY COUNTY
- DALLAS COUNTY



A MESSAGE FROM

## **Dr. Samory T. Pruitt**

*Vice President for Community Affairs*

### **Welcome to The University of Alabama's fifth New Faculty Community Engagement Tour.**

The Division of Community Affairs is pleased that you have chosen to participate, and we believe this tour will be beneficial to you whether you are a faculty member, staff, a student or a community member.

Created in 2004, the Division is recognized nationally and internationally for its leadership in community engagement. I am honored to be the immediate past president of the executive committee of the Engagement Scholarship Consortium, which coordinates activities and programs worldwide in this field.

Community-engaged scholarship exists at the intersection of teaching, research and service, the three pillars of The University of Alabama's mission. The tour plays an important role in advancing that mission by providing opportunities to connect, and for community members to become the teachers while members of the University community embrace the role of learner.

The tour — Exploring New Places, Meeting New People, Engaging New Communities — provides an exciting opportunity to see engagement scholarship in action. Its purpose is to encourage new community-University partnerships.

We are confident that this time together will prove to be a source of inspiration for each of you to connect your research passions to addressing community needs through new partnerships. You may also be encouraged by the work already taking place at various tour stops.

After the tour is complete and you have had an opportunity to explore new partnership possibilities, we invite you to share with us your plans, your progress and your victories.

All the best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Samory T. Pruitt'. The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning and several loops and flourishes.

Dr. Samory T. Pruitt

*Vice President for Community Affairs*



A MESSAGE FROM

## **Dr. James T. Dalton**

*Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs*

The Division of Community Affairs, together with the Office of Academic Affairs, the Graduate School, the Center for Community-Based Partnerships and the Council on Community-Based Partnerships, conducted the first New Faculty Community Engagement Tour in 2017. The tour, which was designed to assist new faculty in learning about the University's partnership efforts in nearby communities, featured three, daylong explorations throughout West Alabama and the Black Belt region. It was a resounding success and, accordingly, we committed to offering it annually.

Modeled after tours sponsored by other Engagement Scholarship Consortium (ESC) member institutions, these three days in May provide unique insights into the possibilities that exist through community-engaged scholarship. Our hope is that the knowledge gained through participation will assist faculty and staff,

graduate students and community partners in identifying community needs that overlap with research interests and coursework, as well as facilitate innovative partnerships that connect community partner learning opportunities with University resources, enabling both to benefit from authentic and inventive community engagement.

UA's mission — to advance the intellectual and social condition of the people of the state, the nation and the world through the creation, translation and dissemination of knowledge, with an emphasis on quality programs in the areas of teaching, research and service — undergirds our community-engaged scholarship endeavors. These efforts provide a unique opportunity to combine teaching, research and service in ways that aid the communities we are privileged to serve.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Dalton', written in a cursive style.

**Dr. James T. Dalton**

*Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs*

## **JASPER, AL** *WALKER COUNTY*

### **BEVILL STATE COMMUNITY COLLEGE** *Site Coordinator: Paul Kennedy*

Paul Kennedy  
*President, Walker Area Community Foundation*

Cristy Moody  
*Executive Vice President, Walker Area Community Foundation*

Rachel Puckett  
*Director, Healing Network*

Mike Putman  
*Executive Director, Jasper Main Street*

Pauletta Windham  
*Community Impact, Walker Area Community Foundation*

## **GORDO, AL** *PICKENS COUNTY*

### **GORDO MUNICIPAL COMPLEX** *Site Coordinator: Rev. Wayne Davis*

JB Blackney  
*Executive Director, Gordo Housing Authority*

Vonceil Duckworth  
*Research Director, Pickens County Geological Library*

Frank Duran  
*Owner, Professional Audio-Visual Team*

Shawn McDaniel  
*Educator, Pickens County Career Center*

John Ross  
*Vice President, MidSouth Forestry Services, Inc.*

Roddy Sanders  
*Director of Operations, Peco Foods*

Constance Williams  
*Business Owner, WCW Staffing Inc.*

Representative  
*City of Gordo*

## **ALBERTA, AL** *TUSCALOOSA COUNTY*

### **ALBERTA SCHOOL OF PERFORMING ARTS** *Site Coordinator: Chenale May*

Albert Ike Jr.  
*Pastor, First Missionary Baptist Church Moundville*

Jacque Johnson  
*Senior Director of Community Affairs and Team Development, Alabama One Credit Union*

Kim Turner  
*President and CEO, Boys and Girls Club*

Ellen Potts  
*Executive Director, Habitat for Humanity*

Jay Welboure  
*Partner, B&W Foods, Piggly Wiggly*



## **Walker Area Community Foundation**

Founded 27 years ago, the Walker Area Community Foundation is a nonprofit, grantmaking organization. Its mission is to build a permanent endowment that will forever help support the charitable needs of the community and improve the quality of life for the people of Walker County and the surrounding area. Since its inception, the Foundation has grown from \$6 million to more than \$112 million, while giving away \$29 million to more than 490 nonprofit organizations across the state. The Foundation supports quality of life through funding initiatives involving the arts and humanities, education, recreation, elder care, health and social welfare.

## **Bevill State Community College**

Originally founded in 1992, Bevill State Community College consists of four main campuses and one instructional site. Bevill State provides higher education access and applied technology educational opportunities to more than one-quarter million people across seven counties with a network that reaches more than 4,600 square miles, from the Birmingham city limits to the Mississippi state line. As an accredited two-year institution, Bevill State is dedicated to supporting students' success in West Central Alabama and its surrounding region through educational partnerships and its many programs in health sciences, career technical education, and workforce and economic development.



## Aliceville Museum

The Aliceville Museum was begun in the 1980s as an exhibit in a single room at the Aliceville Public Library. In 1993, a donation of the former Aliceville Coca-Cola Bottling Plant buildings and property set the stage for future Museum growth. Today it boasts four exhibits, including one that features artifacts from the Aliceville Prisoner of War Camp, which existed from 1942 to 1945. It includes the largest collection of WWII POW artifacts in the U.S. The Museum also features the complete and intact bottling equipment of the Aliceville Coca-Cola Bottling plant in a Coca-Cola exhibit. Local history items are shown on display in the Aliceville and Pickens County Exhibit, including photographs from one of Alabama's first female commercial photographers, Willie Gardner.

## Gordo High School

Founded in 1898, Gordo High School is one of three high schools in Pickens County. Located off Highway 82, the school encourages students' academic growth through the motto, "GREENWAVE," an acronym meaning: Guides Respectful, Responsible, and Productive Students, Encourages Every Learner, Nurtures the Well-being of All, and Values Each Individual. The school is home to several successful athletic programs. In addition to education, agriculture is a driving force behind Gordo's economy, with an emphasis on chicken and cattle production.





## **Alberta Park**

Designed by Martin Aquatic Design and Engineering, the Alberta Park fountain serves as a memorial at the site of the April 27, 2011 tornado, which drastically affected Tuscaloosa County, and honors the resilience of the community in its aftermath.

## **The Gateway**

The Gateway Innovation and Discovery Center is a workspace dedicated to fostering meeting spaces and creativity for youth, small businesses and community members. The Center offers free access to high-speed internet, laptops, tablets, and a digital library, with workspaces for meetings and collaboration. The Gateway is home to educational programming and presentation spaces for visitors to learn and share ideas.

## **The Alberta School of Performing Arts**

The Alberta School of Performing Arts (TASPA) is a K-8 school focused on providing students with learning and instruction in visual and performing arts alongside the traditional Tuscaloosa City Schools' curriculum to encourage students' creativity. TASPA students regularly participate in the Realizing the Dream Essay and Art Contest. In 2021, students designed a school mural symbolizing unity with funds the school received for winning entries in the 2021 Realizing the Dream Essay and Art Contest.



## **EUTAW, AL** *GREENE COUNTY*

### **ROBERT H. YOUNG COMMUNITY CENTER** *Site Coordinator: Judge Lillie Jones-Osborne*

Christopher Jones  
*Director, Greene County Ambulance Service*

Corey Jones  
*Superintendent, Greene County School System*

Lillie Jones-Osborne  
*District Judge, Greene County/  
Chairman, Greene County Children's Policy Council*

Mildred Morgan  
*Director, Greene County Community in Action Coalition/  
Facilitator, Strengthening Family Program*

Mollie Rowe  
*Director, Eutaw Housing Authority*

John Zippert  
*Chairman, Greene County Hospital Board*

## **YORK, AL** *SUMTER COUNTY*

### **POPSTART COMMUNITY SPACE** *Site Coordinators: Marcus Campbell & Marguerite Hinrichs*

Tommie Armistead  
*County Commissioner*

Jeffrey Artis  
*Retired FBI and Business Owner*

Marguerite Hinrichs  
*Executive Director and Curator, Coleman Center for the Arts*

Willie Lake  
*Mayor, City of York*

Loretta Wilson  
*Hospital Administration, Hill Hospital*

Wendell Larkin  
*Larkins Restaurant*

La'Shun Wallace  
*Owner, Bay B's*

## **GREENSBORO, AL** *HALE COUNTY*

### **SALEM BAPTIST CHURCH** *Site Coordinator: Llevelyn Rhone*

Shay Cherry  
*CEO, Hale County Hospital*

Arthur Crawford  
*Probate Judge, Hale County*

Mattie Harris  
*Hale County Director, Department of Human Resources*

Marlon Murray  
*Director, Hale County College and Career Academy*

Lisa Williams  
*Outreach Coordinator, NAPS*

**Day 2**

## Greene County Hospital

The Greene County Hospital is the hub for the Greene County Health System, which includes the hospital, the Greene County Residential Care Center, the Greene County Physicians Clinic, the Greene County Eye Clinic and the Greene County Health System Home Health Agency. Their mission is to provide optimal medical care to the residents of Greene and surrounding counties.

## Children's Policy Council

The mission of the Greene County Children's Policy Council is to mobilize stakeholders in working collaboratively to develop and implement a community plan that addresses the needs of the children of Greene County. The Council operates an after-school tutorial program for students that has engaged in a project to collect the stories of

residents who participated in the civil rights movement in Greene County. This program began paying tribute to selected Greene County trailblazers in 2011. Initiated by District Judge Lillie Jones-Osborne, the program was originally supported by a grant from the Black Belt Community Foundation. Through the program, students have acquired valuable information on their community and their own families.

## Robert H. Young Community Center

The Robert H. Young Community Center in Eutaw (old Carver School) was the site of the historic 1965 student boycott and protest that took place during the height of the civil rights movement.



## Hill Hospital

Hill Hospital of Sumter County provides general medical and surgical care, as well as emergency room care, to the citizens of Sumter County through both the hospital and its many clinics. Over the years, Hill Hospital has engaged in a number of partnerships with UA.

## Board of Education

The Sumter County School System consists of three middle schools and one high school. The school system has long struggled from a low tax base that results in tight budgets for the schools. The University of Alabama has been part of the UA/UWA In-Service Center and AMSTI for many years, and Sumter Central High School is a GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) participant.

## Coleman Center for the Arts

The Coleman Center for the Arts was founded in 1985 through the grassroots efforts of the citizens of Sumter County to promote positive social change, address civic needs, build local pride and use creativity for community problem-solving. It achieves these goals through programs such as an artist-in-residence, an annual exhibition of local art and an education program. The Center is supported through local, state and national donations.





### **Salem Missionary Baptist Church**

Founded in 1869, Salem Missionary Baptist Church traces the roots of its founders to the original Salem Baptist Church in Old Troy (on the eastern edge of what became Greensboro, Alabama). With \$2,000 from the proceeds of the sale of the original Salem Baptist Church, former slaves built their own church on Baptist Hill, which is the present-day location of Salem Missionary Baptist Church. Salem has doubled as a school in addition to being a house of worship. Its founders were motivated by a widely shared impulse to possess their own church, which was common among emancipated slaves. Salem stands as a symbol to its founders' drive for self-ownership, religious independence, and civic engagement that came after emancipation, and continues today.

### **Safe House Black History Museum**

The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. sought safety from the Ku Klux Klan in 1968 in a modest house in Greensboro two weeks prior to his assassination. An active civil rights movement participant and friend of the King family converted the house into the Safe House Black History Museum to document the local area's participation in the struggle.





## **DEMOPOLIS, AL** *MARENGO COUNTY*

### **THEO RATLIFF ACTIVITY CENTER** *Site Coordinator: Virginia Norman*

Ashley Coplin  
*Director of Patient Experience and Foundation Operations,  
Whitfield Regional Hospital*

Fred Moore  
*Pastor, Christian Chapel Baptist Church*

Camillia Ratliff  
*Retired Director, Alabama Tombigbee Area Agency on Aging*

Andy Renner  
*Sales Director, Westburg of Alabama, LLC*

Edward Ward  
*Director, Theo Ratliff Activity Center*

## **MARION, AL** *PERRY COUNTY*

### **MARION ART CENTER** *Site Coordinators: Donald Bennett, Emefa Butler, Holly Luther, & Michael Luther*

Robert Bryant  
*Judge, Perry County Children's Policy Council*

Jeff Harrison  
*Executive Director, Selma Area Food Bank*

Adrian Knox  
*Pastor, Zion Church Marion*

Ed Passmore  
*Colonel, Marion Military Institute*

Portia Shepherd  
*Black Belt Women Rising*

Robert Turner, Jr.  
*District Attorney*

## **SELMA, AL** *DALLAS COUNTY*

### **SELMA AND DALLAS COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY** *Site Coordinator: Sheryl Smedley*

Brandon Campbell  
*Regional Director, Southeast Region Center on  
Rural Innovation*

Sharon Dooley  
*Public Affairs Specialist, Small Business Administration*

Becky Nichols  
*Director, Selma Dallas County Public Library*

Christopher Spencer  
*Chief Community Engagement Officer,  
Black Belt Community Foundation*

Henry Thompson  
*Assistant Director of Planning & Development, City of Selma*

Danielle Wooten  
*Director of Planning & Development, City of Selma*

**Day 3**

### **Bryan Whitfield Memorial Hospital**

The Bryan Whitfield Memorial Hospital in Demopolis provides the region with a broad range of health services. This includes physical and mental health care with an emphasis on preventive services.

### **Marengo County History and Archive Museum**

The Marengo County History and Archives Museum Foundation, Inc. was established to tell the story of Marengo County through its history, culture and people. Their history includes the original Native Americans who lived in the region, as well as the French, African American, Jewish and European groups that comprised the foundation of the area. The Museum is located in the Rosenbush Building in historic downtown Demopolis.

The Museum also provides programs and support for the local school systems and other youth organizations. It provides local citizens and others with a place to learn about the county history and culture.

### **Morning Star Baptist Church**

Founded in 1920, the Morning Star Baptist Church became a center for the civil rights movement in Demopolis when Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. came to speak at the church in 1964. In 1988, the church was added to the Alabama Register of Landmarks and Heritage.



## Marion Art Center

Located in the Wilbourne Building in downtown Marion, the Marion Art Center was founded in September 2022 as a space to showcase local artistic talent and encourage arts education through workshops and events for schoolchildren and the community. The Center is home to the civil rights exhibit “It Started in Marion,” which highlights Marion’s role in the civil rights movement.

## Main Street Marion

Main Street Marion is focused on the revitalization of downtown Marion by bringing jobs, dollars and people together. Situated between three major metropolitan areas — Tuscaloosa, Birmingham and Montgomery — Marion is poised for economic growth in agriculture, forestry and tourism.

## C.H.O.I.C.E.

Founded in 2009 by Emefa Butler, the nonprofit C.H.O.I.C.E. (Choosing to Help Others in our Community Excel) has as its mission the creation of collaborative partnerships to ensure access to charitable and educational resources. The Perry county-based organization operates the Uniontown Resource Center, a one-stop community hub that includes meeting areas, an innovation lab, resource rooms, classrooms and a rec room. The organization provides programs and services including workforce development, mentoring, education, cultural arts, health and wellness and athletics and recreation.



## Black Belt Community Foundation

The Black Belt Community Foundation (BBCF) mission is the focal point for gifts and grants to have an impact on those living and working in the region. It was founded in 2004 and has put critical resources into the region to make a lasting impact. Through giving, receiving, and growing, the BBCF focuses on consolidating many region-wide improvement efforts into a common endeavor with a simple mission: “taking what we have to make what we need.” These three areas also move the region forward in attaining a vision of a transformed Black Belt where all residents contribute to healthy communities and reap the benefits of shared gifts and a productive regional economy.

## Edmund Pettus Bridge

Unfortunately, the Edmund Pettus Bridge is most famous for Bloody Sunday — one of the most terrible events in Alabama’s history. On March 7, 1965, a young John Lewis led more than 600 African Americans across the bridge on their way to Montgomery as they sought the right to vote. Lewis and many of the marchers were brutally attacked by law enforcement officers. In the African American community, the bridge has come to symbolize their nonviolent struggle and bravery in the face of overwhelming odds. It is ironic that the bridge is named after a Confederate brigadier general and Ku Klux Klan leader. The reporting of the events of Bloody Sunday influenced the passing of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 later that year.







Office for  
Academic Affairs



Graduate School

Council on Community-Based Partnerships

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**ALABAMA**<sup>®</sup>

Division of  
**Community Affairs**  
Center for Community-Based Partnerships







A white rectangular panel featuring four faint, square-framed portraits of people. Below the portraits, the following text is displayed in red and black: "EXPLORING NEW PLACES", "MEETING NEW PEOPLE", and "ENGAGING NEW COMMUNITIES".

