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
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,

Dr. Samory T. Pruitt
Vice President for Community 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,

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*

- Paulette 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*

- Jacquie 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 programing 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: Lleelyn 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
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.
DEMPOLIS, 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
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.

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.
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT
NEW FACULTY
MAY 10, 11, & 12, 2023
EXPLORING NEW PLACES
MEETING NEW PEOPLE
ENGAGING NEW COMMUNITIES