

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

*Division of*  
Community Affairs

**COVID-19**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA<sup>®</sup>



# VISION DAYS

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA®

WOODLAWN  
HIGH SCHOOL

**Vision Days** is a campus-wide effort focusing on early recruitment of high school students from rural and underrepresented areas in Alabama. During Fall 2019 the Division hosted customized campus visits for 383 freshmen from 16 high schools. During Spring 2020, 265 sophomores from 9 high schools — the inaugural fall 2018 class — returned to campus for their sophomore visit.

Prior to UA's spring break, we continued to **engage students from some of our Vision Days campus visits through a West Alabama Chamber of Commerce initiative that included interview prep for the students.** Later, we conducted this via webinars and utilized Community Affairs work-study students who had returned home to help the University stay engaged with these prospective students.

In July we began hosting student information exchange sessions — from current UA students to incoming freshmen — utilizing the Zoom and Facebook Live platforms. These sessions will continue throughout the fall.

We used **GIS mapping software to determine the communities with the greatest density of our population of Vision Days students.** In August we will host 3–4 recruiting events in these communities for participants, high school counselors, parents, K–12 officials, and UA alumni.



HomeFirst is a financial wellness initiative that serves Greene, Hale, and Tuscaloosa County individuals and families on their path toward first-time homeownership or foreclosure prevention.



During the 2019–2020 academic year, the program served 75 clients from three counties.

We continue to conduct training sessions remotely via Zoom and telephone for clients in the pipeline and will expand the program to welcome a new class in fall 2020.



The UA Parent Teacher Leadership Academy utilizes research-based practices to provide professional development to parent and teacher leaders who use their knowledge to support students' achievement through strong family-school partnerships.

An important element of this program is the development of projects by teams of parents and teachers from each school that are developed and implemented as part of their School Improvement Plan (SIP) focusing on parental involvement.

Under normal circumstances, parents and teachers have an opportunity to display their project posters in a forum where they share their ideas with other parents and teachers from other school districts. **This year, we combined this with a virtual graduation celebration via Facebook Live.**



We will begin the 2020–2021 PTLA sessions online as we recognize the hard work of the 2019–2020 graduates and welcome a new cohort in session one in September 2020.



Through the Center for Community-Based Partnerships' **Swim to the Top (S3T)** program, swim instructors from The University of Alabama and Tuscaloosa City Schools work with YMCA Barnes Branch summer attendees to provide quality swim instruction, physical education, and academic enrichment activities.



# SWIM *to the* TOP

Swim to the Top continued to serve children and youth from the Benjamin Barnes YMCA in summer 2020. Using Google Sites, and with the help of partners at the YMCA, Swim to the Top was able to deliver water safety, basic swimming, physical education, and academic enrichment lessons virtually. Undergraduate and graduate students from The University of Alabama College of Education, as well as Tuscaloosa City and County school teachers, served as virtual instructors for the program and were responsible for creating, recording, and delivering content. Overall, parents appreciated the effort made by the Swim to the Top program and are looking forward to returning to the pool when it is safe.

# CROSSROADS CIVIC ENGAGEMENT CENTER



CAMPUS  
DIALOGUES

UA's **Crossroads Civic Engagement Center** remains committed to hosting the conversations that build community. Especially in this time of great social and economic stress, the work of civic dialogue and the development of leadership skills for public life have a heightened relevance for our students and community partners.

Under its new name, the **Crossroads Civic Engagement Center** is excited to be back on campus this fall, fostering a healthy democratic society at the Capstone and beyond. UA Crossroads will continue to provide resources and opportunities for civic learning through its ongoing dialogue and Engaged Learning initiatives. Based on the Sustained Dialogue model for talking across social and political differences, the Civic Leadership Dialogues project will enter its fourth year, developing vital civic skills in UA student leadership and contributing timely democratic engagement research for applications in higher education. As part of UA's Plan for Return, Crossroads is excited to share issue-based civic engagement materials in a new virtual format, as well as a Campus Dialogues Toolbox to encourage meaningful community conversations in person and online. Crossroads' Engaged Learning offerings will additionally support campus and community partners in the effective delivery of content within their own groups through the use of innovative strategies and the creation of interactive environments.





*Excellence*

in

# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

*Awards*

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**ALABAMA**

Division of  
Community Affairs  
Council on Community-Based Partnerships

The Council on Community-Based Partnerships exists to connect faculty, staff, students and community partners in research-based projects designed to solve critical problems identified by community members and the University.

Our annual awards program, regularly held during the spring semester, was postponed in its regular format.

The Council announced award recipients via the web and will present awards to those receiving its Graduate Fellowships, Seed Funds, Project Awards and Individual awards during a presentation in late August.

<http://ccbp.ua.edu/fourteenth-excellence-in-community-engagement-awards/>



Through the **Winning Grants and Sustaining Communities Grant Training Program**, currently in its fifth year, selected faculty, staff, and community partners have an opportunity to work in teams and as individuals to learn the art and science of successful grant-writing from David G. Bauer, one of the foremost grant trainers in the nation.

This 2019–2020 cohort included 12 community/University teams. They were able to complete all four one-day workshops and three of the four individual coaching sessions, with the final coaching sessions taking place via Zoom. **The 2020–2021 cohort will begin in August via Zoom, with plans to remain online as dictated by public health concerns. This cohort is comprised of seven teams currently totaling 33 individuals, as well as seven UA staff members who will participate as individuals.**



The Center for Community-Based Partnerships is home to **Global Café** and **Language Partners**. Volunteer conversation partners who are native English speakers offer appointments for language practice and cultural learning. Through these conversations, visitors strengthen their language skills and learn about Tuscaloosa resources, and tutors build an understanding of teaching strategies that strengthen their competitiveness for the Fulbright Program.

**Moving forward, we will continue to offer conversation appointments utilizing Zoom and other technology.**

Working with staff of the Capstone International Center and Modern Languages and Classics, the staff at the Center for Community-Based Partnerships plays an integral role in helping students polish applications for success in the **Fulbright** competition each year.

In early 2020, for the fourth time in five years, **The University of Alabama was recognized as a Top Producing Institution for Fulbright U.S. Student Awards.**

For **2020–2021, we celebrate 36 semi-finalists in the national U.S. Fulbright Student competition — a University record.** To date, three University of Alabama students received Fulbright Student Research Awards and 10 have won Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship Awards for the upcoming academic year.

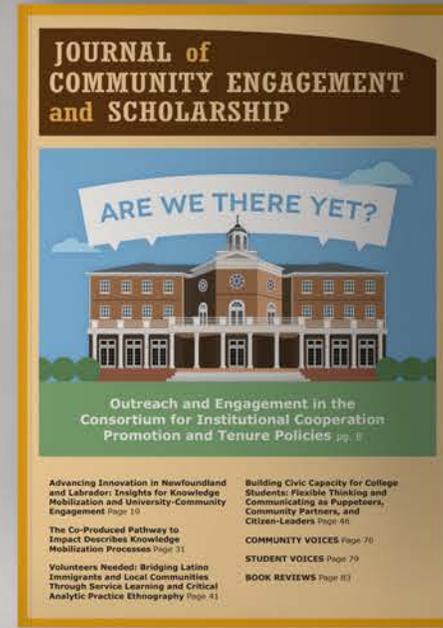
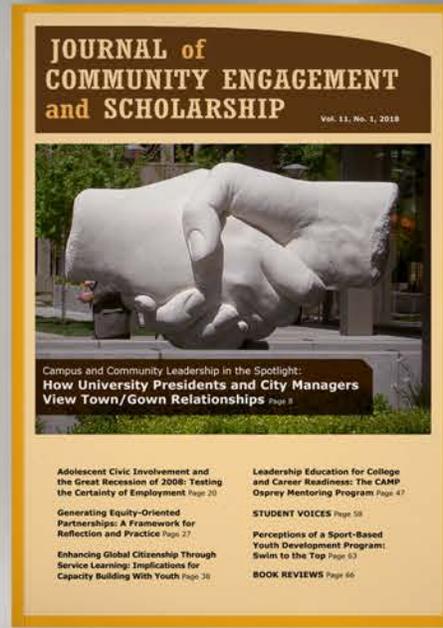
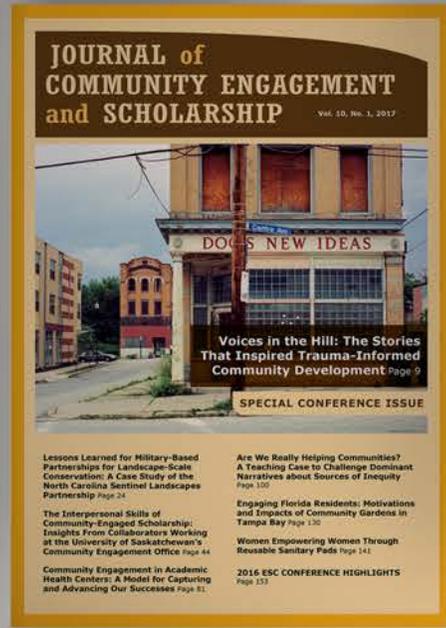
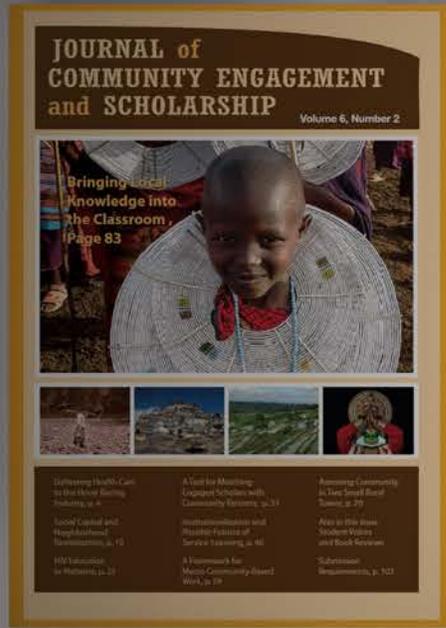


The **Board of Advisors** meets in person twice each year, in the spring and in the fall, though there is much work done throughout the year. The core mission of the group focuses on assisting with the recruitment, retention, development, and career placement of UA students.

Ms. Katie Boyd Britt, President of the Business Council of Alabama, serves as the Board president.

The spring meeting took place virtually and featured presentations by Dr. Myron Pope, vice president for student life, and Dr. Matthew McLendon, associate vice president and executive director of enrollment management in addition to the Board's business meeting.

The group welcomed **4 new Board members** in the spring and has begun planning for the Board's in-state, off-campus fall meeting in **Mobile**.



# JOURNAL of COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT and SCHOLARSHIP

The *Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship (JCES)* is an international peer-reviewed journal on community-engaged scholarship. It has been produced and published by UA since its creation in 2008. Moving forward, *JCES*:

Continues its review process, uninterrupted, in order to support researchers and authors in the publication of accepted manuscripts while advancing the field of community-engaged scholarship.

Utilization of the **Digital Commons platform**, which has been implemented over the past two years, has allowed for faster turnaround of submitted manuscripts, as well as **provided valuable tracking information** about article downloads occurring around the world.



**JOURNAL of  
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT  
and SCHOLARSHIP**

View global readership map [here](#).



The University of Alabama is a member of the Engagement Scholarship Consortium (ESC), and Dr. Samory Pruitt has served as president of the ESC Board of Directors since 2016. Each year, ESC hosts an annual conference that draws more than 600 engaged scholarship professionals from around the globe.

The annual ESC conference, scheduled to take place in Philadelphia September 13–16, 2020, will instead be hosted in a virtual setting. Monetary awards and research grants will still be awarded and the recipients of those awards will discuss their efforts via a webinar rather than in person at the conference. All pre-conference workshops will also be conducted via webinar.

The 2021 conference will take place in Philadelphia, and conference planners have done an exceptional job of planning for both 2020 and 2021 simultaneously.

Dickinson College President and ESC Board Vice President Dr. Margee Ensign is leading a survey of the ESC institutions to capture and disseminate nationally how they continue to engage their surrounding communities and provide assistance during this critical time. **An earlier version of this PowerPoint document was shared in its entirety as a template to lead this national discussion.**