

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **BETTER WAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING PROGRAM GRADUATES INAUGURAL CLASS**

Thirty-five local leaders representing the seven-county west Alabama region of Bibb, Fayette, Greene, Hale, Lamar, Pickens and Tuscaloosa counties attended the regional leadership training program sponsored by the West Alabama Regional Commission in partnership with the University of Alabama Center for Economic Development. The training was carried out over four day-long sessions during the months of July and August 2021 at the Hotel Indigo in Tuscaloosa. Participants enjoyed presentations on a variety of topics including professional development, building community capacity, financing and managing projects, and creating resiliency and maximizing assets in their communities. Course materials and reference guides were provided to further support each participant's ability to carry out more effective community and economic development practices.

The training was made possible through funding from the Economic Development Administration (EDA) to assist efforts of the West Alabama Regional Commission's BETTER (Bringing Economic Tools To Enrich and Revitalize) West Alabama initiative to support economic recovery and revitalization in the 7-county region.



<b>County</b>	<b>First name</b>	<b>Last name</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Title</b>
Bibb	Holly	Barnett	Town of West Blocton	City Council
Bibb	Mike	Oakley	Town of Centreville	Mayor
Fayette	Mary	Lollar	Town of Berry	Mayor Pro Tem
Fayette	Rod	Northam	Town of Fayette	Mayor
Fayette	Daniel	White	Fayette Area Chamber of Commerce	Director
Greene	Phillis	Belcher	Greene County IDA	Executive Director
Greene	Sandra	Walker	REACH Inc.	Public Relations
Hale	John	Allen	Rural Studio - Auburn University	Operations Manager
Hale	Bridget	Ball	Town of Akron	Town Clerk
Hale	Johnnie	Collins	Town of Akron	City Council
Hale	Arthur	Crawford	Hale County Commission	Commission Chairman
Hale	Annie	Gee	Town of Akron	City Council
Hale	Norman	Hunter	Town of Akron	City Council
Hale	Jonathan	Rossell	Town of Akron	Mayor
Hale	Pearl	Shepherd	Town of Greensboro	City Council
Lamar	Susan	Chase	Town of Beaverton	Mayor
Lamar	Michael	Easter	Town of Beaverton	City Council
Lamar	David	Gunnels	Lamar County Commission	Commissioner
Lamar	Pam	Kirsch	Town of Lake View	Police Clerk
Lamar	Jeff	Long	Lamar County Commission	County Commissioner
Lamar	Sharon	Nethery	Lamar County Commission	Judge of Probate
Pickens	Melody	Davis	Town of Reform	Mayor
Pickens	Craig	Patterson	Town of Gordo	Mayor
Pickens	Terrence	Windham	Town of Aliceville	Mayor
Tuscaloosa	Gary	Averett	Town of Coaling	Mayor
Tuscaloosa	Adrain	Dudley	Town of Lake View	Mayor
Tuscaloosa	Nick	Lolley	Tuscaloosa County Emergency Management	Director
Tuscaloosa	Scott	Murphy	City of Northport	Director of IT
Tuscaloosa	Max	Snyder	Tuscaloosa County Economic Development Authority	Business Development Director
Tuscaloosa	Brooke	Starnes	City of Northport	Director of Public Works
Tuscaloosa	Ginger	Turner	Town of Vance	City Council
Tuscaloosa	Danielle	Winningham	Tuscaloosa County Industrial Development Authority	Executive Director
Region	Teirdre	Owens	Congresswoman Terri Sewell's Office	Outreach Coordinator
Region	Pamela	Trammell	West Alabama Regional Commission	Community and Economic Development Planner
Region	Cory	Johnson	West Alabama Regional Commission	Director of Community and Economic Development

