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*Bridging the Local and the Global*

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**Speaker Information**

Samory T. Pruitt, Vice President, Division of Community Affairs, University of Alabama

Dr. Samory T. Pruitt became Vice President for Community Affairs on August 1, 2004. In this post, he is responsible for developing and managing the University’s public outreach programs and providing campus leadership to enhance the quality of life within the campus community. This is achieved through the formation of partnerships for engagement scholarship across the areas of teaching, research, and service, which seek to generate and preserve knowledge for the mutual benefit of the University and its community partners. Additionally, Dr. Pruitt provides intercultural leadership for the campus and community. He has worked for The University of Alabama since 1986 in increasingly responsible positions in management and administration in the divisions of Financial Affairs, University Advancement, and the President’s Office prior to being named to his current position. He received his BA in mathematics, his MA in public administration, and his PhD in higher education administration, all from The University of Alabama.

Dr. Pruitt is actively involved in the West Alabama area, where he serves on the Board of Directors for The First Tee of Tuscaloosa, the West Alabama Chamber of Commerce, and the Stillman College Board of Trustees. Dr. Pruitt is a member of the Tuscaloosa International Rotary Club, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., and is a 1995 graduate of Leadership Tuscaloosa. He chairs the Martin Luther King Jr. Realizing the Dream Initiative committee and serves on the leadership team of the UA United Way Campaign. In 2008, he was appointed by the governor of Alabama to serve as Education Chair for the West Alabama Regional Action Commission, which covers six Alabama counties. Dr. Pruitt currently serves as President of the Board of Directors of the Engagement Scholarship Consortium (ESC), consisting of institutions located in the United States, Canada, and Nigeria, and is the publisher of the international Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship (JCES).