

BBC WELCOMES NEW CO-CHAIR

The Black Belt Commission welcomed its newest Co-Chair at its May 12th meeting at the Lowndesboro Interpretive Center in Hayneville. Joseph Brown is the Area Manager for Alabama Power Company's Western Division. As Area Manager, Brown is responsible for Public Relations, Economic Development, Community Development and Government relations for west Alabama. His involvement in the community and especially with workforce development in Alabama is extensive, including serving as past chairman of the Regional Workforce Development Council and a founding board member of West Alabama Works, Inc. He also sits on the board of Directors for the State Workforce Investment Act Board and the 65 county WIA Board.

In the community, Brown is a member of the Junior Achievement Board of Directors, the United Way Board of Directors, as well as serving as Chairman of the Advisory board for the University of West Alabama and the Co-Chairman of the Advisory council for the Aliceville Federal Prison. He also serves on the board of Directors for the Montgomery Institute in Meridian, Mississippi.

Joseph is a graduate of the University of Alabama-Birmingham with a bachelor's of Science in Finance with a minor in Economic. He is a graduate of the Duke University School of Business and the Southern Company Officer Training program. He has been with Alabama Power for 28 years.

Brown fills a void left by Co-Chair Margaret Bentley, formerly with Alabama Power. He will serve with Beatrice M. Forniss, Senator Billy Beasley and Mayor Sheldon Day. The missions and responsibilities of the Black Belt Commission are implemented by the Alabama Rural Development Office under the direction of Director Ron Sparks.