



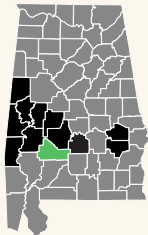
# The Black Belt Bulletin

ISSUE 39 | JULY 15, 2024 | FOCUS ON RECRUITMENT



## SPOTLIGHT ON - WILCOX COUNTY -

Wilcox County is located in southwestern Alabama and is one of the 12 Black Belt counties serviced by the BBCF. The City of Camden serves as the county seat.



WILCOX CO. HAS A TOTAL AREA OF **907** SQUARE MILES



Wilcox County is the result of land carved from Dallas and Monroe counties whose own territories were originally taken from Creek Indians, as settled in the Treaty of Fort Jackson (1814). It was named after Lieutenant Joseph M. Wilcox, an army officer from Connecticut who was killed in a battle with the Indians on the banks of the Alabama River in this region in 1814.



WILCOX CO. HAS A POPULATION OF **10K**

Of Wilcox County's 10,059 residents, 70% are Black, 27% White and 3% mixed race, Hispanic and Native American. The Alabama River courses throughout the county with more than 144 species of fish, allowing the river to underpin the local economy. In addition, the Alabama River is home to the Roland Cooper State Park and the William Dannelly Reservoir, adding to the county's scenic nature.

The well-known and major attractions in Wilcox County include bass fishing on Lake Dannelly, touring historic buildings or purchasing local art and craftwork from Black Belt Treasures, located in Camden. Wilcox County is home to Gee's Bend, where you can take a ferry to experience and buy the historic quilts of the world renowned "Gees Bend Quilters". Descendants of the Pettway family produce quilts using techniques and artistry passed down 6 generations.

The Black Belt Community Foundation is active in Wilcox County through the disbursement of arts and community grants along with other civic projects. Those living in Wilcox can access the resources of the BBCF or donate to the organization through one of your local Community Associates.



André P. Saulsberry  
BBCF Board Member  
Wilcox County

Sources: [encyclopediaofalabama.org](http://encyclopediaofalabama.org); [wilcoxareachamber.com](http://wilcoxareachamber.com); [wilcoxcountyal.org](http://wilcoxcountyal.org)

### BBCF WILCOX CO. COMMUNITY ASSOCIATES:

Shelia Dortch, Ansidina Finklea, Daniel Garner, Rosemarie Garner, Jacqueline Hives, Ethel Johnson, Kim Kelly, Alma King, Creola Mooror, Janice Robinson, Sheryl Threadgill-Matthews, Joyce Williams

### BBCF WILCOX CO. 2024 GRANT RECIPIENTS:

(ARTS GRANTS & COMMUNITY GRANTS)

- BAMA Kids, Inc.
- Bessie W. Munden Recreational Park
- Black Belt Treasures Cultural Arts Center
- Build A Better Community
- Camden Community Youth Development Center
- Freedom Quilting Bee Legacy
- Lily Baptist Community Center & Youth Dev.
- Wilcox ArtWorks
- Wilcox Co. Dolly Parton Imagination Library
- Wilcox Co. Section, National Council of Negro Women

## BBCF Hosts 1st "Chat and Chew" Recruiting H.S. Employees

On July 9, 2024, BBCF held a "Chat and Chew" at their new headquarters in Selma, to promote Head Start recruitment for new employees. When asked to describe the event, Sandra Orum, BBCF Director of Human Resources said, "This is an employee information session, intended to invite local citizens to explore job opportunities with Head Start via the BBCF. Our goal is to create a pipeline to support our Head Start schools around the Black Belt".



BBCF Human Resources Director, Sandra Orum.



Kathy Thomas (left), BBCF Head Start Education Coordinator and Mentor / Coach, speaks with attendees during the "Chat and Chew" recruitment event on July 9th. Positions for HS Education Mentor / Coach are currently available. Apply today!

While Head Start recruitment brings the children to mind, the program, with 307 total children, could not exist without the many cooks, bus drivers, custodians, teacher's aids, teachers, mentors, substitutes, floaters, administrators and various other

positions needed to operate fully functioning schools. According to Felecia Lucky, BBCF President, "BBCF uses community employment for our Head Start programs and provides over 70 jobs for local citizens in the four counties where we operate Head Start (Choctaw, Dallas, Marengo, Wilcox)."

Attendees were given program and employment insights (Chat) from the director of Head Start, Dr. Taquila Monroe, President Lucky, HR Director Orum and other Head Start administrators. All were treated to pizza and drinks (Chew), promoting camaraderie. The session was interactive providing human resources tips, in-depth information about Head Start and resumes were accepted. Chat and Chew attendees gain the benefits of company information and employment tips and are placed in the BBCF registry to contact them when job opportunities arise.

Interested in applying for a position with BBCF Head Start? Submit your cover letter, resume, and recent references to: [HR@blackbeltfound.org](mailto:HR@blackbeltfound.org)

Because of the variety of jobs, requirements for employment range from High School diploma to master's degree (requirements for each position are set by the federal office of Head Start). Other requirements and qualifications were disclosed to the attentive group, along with a review of the BBCF Head Start website, to engage the attendees meaningfully. When asked what an essential trait was to be a Head Start employee, Orum replied, "love the kids, this is a unique area that requires the employee has to have a connection to the babies." Dr. Monroe offered, "Success in Head Start requires not just a skilled hand, but a compassionate heart, ready to nurture, inspire, and empower our youngest learners."



Current BBCF Head Start teachers and staff in action! Left: Marengo County HS teachers and staff helped students plant flowers for their moms for Mother's Day 2024. Right: Choctaw County HS teachers guided students through a virtual trip of the Smithsonian National Zoo in May 2024.

For additional information about available positions for employment within the Black Belt Community Foundation and BBCF Head Start, please visit our website, [blackbeltfound.org/join-our-team](http://blackbeltfound.org/join-our-team).