## A WELCOME CELEBRATION

With the goal of bringing tourism to the Bay area, the City of Daphne received the honor of hosting the 2022 Alabama Welcome Center Retreat. Planned with the Alabama Tourism Department and Tourism Council, this 3-day educational event included industry sponsors, speakers and welcome center teams from around the state. The Original Oyster House, along with the Huntsville Convention and Visitors Bureau, sponsored a top-notch kick-off dinner of fresh local seafood served in their stunning banquet room that boasts amazing Mobile Delta views. Anna Goeke, the 2022 Original Oyster House scholarship winner and intern, decoupaged 90+ oyster shells, one for each attendee, that paid tribute to Oyster Shell Recycling and Gardening programs. A success, it's easy to say that guests had a "shell" of a good time!

By Hayley Hill Photos Layla Lambert, l-egantportraits.com







PHOTOS 1. Pictured from left are Patti Culp, President & CEO Alabama Travel Council, Inc.; Cecilia Mace, Original Oyster House; and Terry Winland, Huntsville Convention & Visitors Bureau. Not pictured: Rebecca Walter, Banquet Manager. 2. Pictured from left are Heather Allen, City of Spanish Fort; and Kara Wilborne, Ange Bagget and Shannon Brannon with the City of Daphne (host city). 3. Pictured from left are Catherine Hasty, OWA Parks & Resorts; Hayley Hill, Publisher Access; Walter Calhoun, City of Mobile, Cecilia Mace, Original Oyster House; Jim Parker, Power Productions; and Eric Finley, Dora Franklin Finley African- American Heritage Trail. 4. Shalynthia Brascom with the Grand Bay Welcome Center. 5. Pictured from left are Ursel Forbes, Baldwin Welcome Center; Rhonda Davis, USS ALABAMA Battleship Memorial Park; and Judi Gulledge, Mobile Carnival Museum. 6. Pictured from left are Jessica Thomas, Paul Shestak, and Bobbi Trevathan with the Baldwin Welcome Center. 7. Gabby Striblin and Linda Adams with the Lanett Welcome Center. 8. Pictured from left are Craig Johnston, Alabama Mountain Lakes; Sonni Hood, Unclaimed Baggage; and Jeff Weisenfield, Alabama State Parks. 9. Pictured from left are Connie Pearce, who retired in September after 25 years of service at Grand Bay Welcome Center and Eric Finley, Dora Franklin Finley African- American Heritage Trail.

























