**Archway Partnership &**
**PLANNING FOR GROWTH**

**Designing for Safety**—Over time, erosion and development have impacted Glynn County’s public beach access points, making them in some cases impractical, under-used, hard to find, and difficult to navigate. Glynn County residents have also complained that the current access points make parking difficult and lack warning signs that give swimmers pertinent information about tides and general safety guidelines. The Archway Partnership placed two interns from the UGA College of Environment and Design in the community. These interns developed a numbering system for the access points to help emergency services workers, improved warning signs along the beach, developed a landscape plan that improves parking along the access points and uses native plants to landscape the area and provide erosion control. The interns also used the County’s GIS systems to develop a hydrology plan for the entire county that will be used in future land use planning.

**Data for Growth**—In order to plan for growth and attract new businesses, Clayton County needed accurate demographic information. An Archway Partnership intern in Clayton County worked closely with the economic development office to gather this information for the economic development office to present to businesses seeking to locate in Clayton County. The updated demographics made it easier for local leaders to share information with interested businesses and make decisions that directly impact expected growth.

**Creating a Community Plan**—With seventeen different entities concerned with planning in Glynn County, many projects often deal with similar issues. With so many talented planning professionals working in one community, the Archway Partnership and the local leaders were looking for a way to coordinate the planning efforts of Glynn County, the City of Brunswick, Sea Island, Jekyll Island, the Port Authority, the Airport Authority, Georgia Power, the Regional Development Commission and others. Sitting at the same table on a regular basis, these organizations are communicating with one another, discussing each entity’s current and future plans and current and future challenges; and identifying mutual areas of challenge and coordination. This has been called an active and engaged process that unfolds in real time and pools local resources to provide local planning that meets the needs of the entire community.

**Fire Departments**—As the city of Hartwell and Hart County continue to grow, the Fire Department is developing a new strategic plan to meet the needs of the growing population. Working with the Archway Partnership, the Fire Department inventoried the current needs of the community and collaborated with the county and city governments to look at new growth trends. After reviewing the data, the Fire Department worked with local leaders to help decide the Fire Department’s growth priorities. These priorities include more full-time firefighters, comprehensive training, and increased volunteer recruitment. The department also identified which fire stations will see an increase in need in order to strategically plan how to allocate future resources as well as plan for facility and equipment upgrades over the next several years.

**Community Designs**—Students from UGA’s College of Environment and Design have conducted design charrettes in six of the eight Archway Partnership communities, providing new plans for hospitals, schools, industrial parks, municipal buildings, cemeteries, parks, and shopping districts. These students spend an entire weekend learning about the nature, culture, and needs of a community and then set about designing plans that place special emphasis on local needs. At the end of the process, communities have shovel-ready designs that allow them to competitively and aggressively seek out the funds to make these designs a reality. Students gain the benefit of working closely with local leaders to meet a high-priority need. Landscape architecture and design projects are always in high-demand across communities, so the Archway Partnership has funded two College of Environment and Design graduate students to meet design needs of communities outside of charrettes and service-learning classes. These two students have completed dozens of designs that can be quickly implemented within communities.