Archway Partnership: Connecting Georgia Cities to Higher Education Resources
March 8, 2010

It can often be difficult for cities to navigate the various bureaucracies and policies they encounter as they go about providing government services. The University of Georgia’s Archway Partnership helps cities navigate the university system and link local priorities to higher education resources.

Nearly all of the 33 cities involved with the Archway Partnership have reaped the benefits of hundreds of internships and student projects including website design, policy analyses, disaster management, landscape and architecture design, downtown revitalization, economic development, data collection, tourism development, as well as leadership and educational programs.

Two master of landscape architecture students from the University of Georgia’s College of Environment and Design work to complete conceptual designs for the city of Sandersville.

"It is Archway’s job to listen to the community’s needs and issues, and then find higher education resources to help communities achieve their goals," said Matt Bishop, the Archway Partnership’s coordinator of operations. "We recognize that it is vitally important for cities to be a part of that process. Cities are members of the local Archway Executive Committee in each of the eight Archway Partnership portals across the state, actively identifying community needs."

Following are just some examples of the types of impact the Archway Partnership can have in Georgia’s cities.

Sandersville
The City of Sandersville partnered with the Archway Partnership to reinvigorate its downtown and enlisted the aid of landscape architecture students to create designs that would complement the city’s sense of history while encouraging more pedestrian traffic and economic development downtown. The students created conceptual designs that breathed new life into buildings and added local trees and plant to the downtown cityscape. The city can now implement these designs as soon as the funds become available.

Hawkinsville
The Ocmulgee River is a precious resource for the city of Hawkinsville, and as the city grows, local leaders have been seeking ways to preserve the river’s environmental and historical significance. Helping Hawkinsville protect the river’s legacy, the Archway Partnership enlisted students and faculty from UGA’s Land Use Clinic and College of Environment and Design to expand the city’s Uchee Shoals Riverfront Boat Landing and develop a park that promotes eco- and heritage tourism, economic development, and sustainable community development. Over the course of the project, the CED students worked closely with groups across the community to create a design for the city of Hawkinsville Riverfront Park Project, thus enabling the community to improve existing recreational facilities and encourage greater usage and stewardship of the Ocmulgee River in Pulaski County.

“We had a very good local plan for the Uchee Park, but the UGA students guided us to an even better design,” said Wilson Credle, a Hawkinsville city commissioner. “Landscape architecture students Hazel Lewis and Gwen Wolfgang made some insightful and valuable suggestions, and we will incorporate all their suggestions in the final plan."

Forest Park
Seeking to redesign the 1,000+ acres currently occupied by Fort Gillem into an intermodal industrial park with greenspace and recreational amenities, the city of Forest Park turned to the Archway Partnership. The
partnership is tapping students and faculty from UGA’s College of Environment and Design to engage in a weekend-long design charrette focusing on redevelopment of the fort. Several summer interns will also be utilized to provide further design assistance.

Hartwell
In the city of Hartwell, Archway connected the city with UGA Masters of Public Administration and Policy students and faculty to revise the city’s personnel policy manual. Overhauling the 20-year-old manual, students spent 180 hours updating policies to bring them in line with current state and federal public personnel law. They also updated the presentation of the manual, incorporating two decades worth of amendments and style changes into a more coherent, user-friendly document.

"With my own busy schedule I couldn’t get in and do what needed to be done for the book, and I saw this as a great opportunity," said Hartwell City Administrator David Aldridge. "It’s a final product to be proud of. I’m very happy with the work these students did and would recommend them to anyone else."

For more information about the University of Georgia’s Archway Partnership, visit http://archwaypartnership.uga.edu.

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