**Young Professional Visioning Exercise**

Several young leaders in the Dalton-Whitfield area have been discussing their thoughts and dreams for the community and region. The lists below reflect the highlights of the conversations. If these comments inspire you, please feel free to share your own thoughts on the Dalton-Whitfield blog at [http://dalton-whitfieldarchway.blogspot.com](http://dalton-whitfieldarchway.blogspot.com) or email Melissa Lu at [mdlu@uga.edu](mailto:mdlu@uga.edu).

**Things That We Like About Dalton:**

(1) Atmosphere:
   (a) Family-friendly
   (b) Peaceful
   (c) Safe
   (d) Easy to get involved
   (e) Friendly
   (f) Opportunity for growth: young professionals have upward mobility.

(2) Amenities and public services:
   (a) Great public schools!
   (b) Great recreational facilities (parks, golfing, etc.)!
   (c) Great art programs!
   (d) We have a college!

(3) Enviable Quality of Life Factors
   (a) Short commute
   (b) Low cost of living

(4) Location!

(5) Diverse religious opportunities here.

(6) Good infrastructure (“Good Bones”) --- great layout for downtown, etc
(7) Green initiative
   (a) Great landfill
   (b) Curbside recycling

(8) Good community pride (but not through all sectors of the community)

Things That We Would Like To See in Dalton’s Future:

(1) A more accepting culture where we can have a drink after work and go out with friends in the evening without jeopardizing our career

(2) A social network for singles and couples

(3) More public awareness about fun activities in Dalton (so we all know what activities are available, where the trails are, etc.)

(4) More housing options, including:
   (a) Nice, cool temporary housing with amenities
   (b) Affordable housing for young professionals and families with young children.
   (c) An apartment guide so that we can find housing when we need it

(5) Shopping options:
   (a) High-end retail
   (b) Stores with character downtown that are open when working professionals have time to shop!
   (c) Shopping in areas other than Walnut
   (d) Macy’s

(6) Entertainment options:
   (a) Sports bars!
   (b) Restaurants with character
   (c) Places to have birthday parties for kids
(d) Places to “hang out” with friends and clients  
(e) A pool hall  
(f) Options without smoking  
(g) Trivia  

(7) Public transportation  
(a) To Chattanooga (affordable)  
(b) To downtown/Depot  
(c) To take DSC students without cars to stores, entertainment options  
(d) How can we make use of the CVB’s Trolley?

(8) More beautiful streetscapes – particularly on Walnut  
(9) More education advancement opportunities  
(10) A regional approach that analyzes what we should duplicate in surrounding communities and what we should compliment

What Can We Do To Achieve our Dreams?

(1) Advertise community calendar  
(2) Publicize events in Sunday paper  
(3) Portray our community in a positive light  
(4) We need a group of young professionals that believes in Dalton  
(5) We should host Welcome Parties for new young professionals – work with HR departments and have young professional ambassadors mentor/meet new young professionals  
(6) Meet Up  
(7) Create Foyer Groups/Supper Clubs/Happy Hour Groups