Glynn County Monthly Key Accomplishments – October 2011

1. **Draft Altama Community Transformation (ACT) Redevelopment Plan, Phase I Presentation – September 21-22**
   
   Public Service and Outreach faculty traveled to Glynn County to present a first draft of the Altama Community Transformation (ACT) Redevelopment Plan, Phase I to the ACT Design Steering Committee on September 21; as well as to members of the Brunswick-Glynn County Archway Executive Committee and the Archway Growth Task Force on September 22. Advance copies of the draft plan were distributed to community members for their review and comment.

   Faculty from the Fanning Institute, Small Business Development Center, Carl Vinson Institute of Government, Housing and Demographics Research Center, as well as the Associate Vice President for Public Service and Outreach were in attendance. Each faculty presented their respective sections of research and analysis, providing an overview of the planning process and overall findings. Community members engaged in discussion, sharing concerns related to data analysis and some recommendations. PSO team members agreed to address community comments in a subsequent draft. Members of the ACT Design Steering Committee, Growth Task Force, and Executive Committee were given the opportunity to submit comments, edits, and concerns in the weeks following the presentation.

   A follow-up draft of the ACT Redevelopment Plan, Phase I is anticipated in mid-November.

2. **UGA Internal Partners Meeting – September 28**

   Internal partners from the University of Georgia’s Public Service and Outreach and Cooperative Extension units based out of Glynn County met in September. Hosted at the Small Business Development Center (SBDC) office in Brunswick, faculty from Marine Extension, Sea Grant, Cooperative Extension (4-H and FACS), the Jekyll Island 4-H Center, SBDC, and Archway Partnership attended the meeting.

   Following the May Internal Partners meeting, Sea Grant hosted a Georgia Climate Community of Practice Group meeting in July in which several issues regarding the need for enhanced communication and coordination among coastal research initiatives was raised—a similar concern that had been previously shared at the May meeting. As such, faculty utilized the majority of their time together in September to discuss these issues further. Primary among concerns were questions surrounding: 1) How can UGA faculty communicate better among ourselves regarding our respective work on the coast and in Glynn County; and 2) As University of Georgia faculty, we frequently request data, support, resources, information, etc. from the same group of local stakeholders. How can we better coordinate this interaction at the local level so as to minimize burn-out and frustration?

   Several ideas were discussed; including developing an online clearinghouse similar to the Georgia GIS Clearinghouse currently housing at ITOS, as well as possibly reaching out to the Vice President’s Office for Research for guidance. Another suggestion was for UGA faculty to
participate in a colloquium similar to the one hosted by the Georgia Coastal Research Counsel. Other challenges aired by the group included the need to include state agencies, such as the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Coastal Research Division. Discussion concluded with recognition that it would be beneficial to develop some type of mechanism to mitigate these concerns; however, it would likely be a difficult process.

The Glynn County units will meet again in December at the Jekyll Island 4-H Center.

3. **Community Revitalization Tools Training – October 3**
   The Brunswick-Glynn County Archway Executive Committee partnered with the Carl Vinson Institute of Government to deliver a Community Revitalization Tools Training to key elected officials, staff, and community stakeholders on Monday, October 3. The 3.5 hour training session was led by Rob Gordon; and was designed to educate the necessary elected bodies about the benefits of activating their redevelopment powers to encourage economic development, growth and revitalization.

   Hosted by the College of Coastal Georgia, the event was well attended by members of the Glynn County Board of Commissioners, the City of Brunswick Board of Commissioners, the Glynn County Board of Education, the Brunswick and Glynn County Development Authority, the Archway Executive Committee, and Senator William Ligon. In addition, other key community and business leaders also attended the training session. Topics included: development authority financing, tax increment financing, tax allocation districts, community improvement district financing, opportunity zones, enterprise zones, and tax abatement bond transactions.