The University of Georgia’s Clayton Archway Partnership is a broad community platform where needs of the community can be connected to higher education resources through the University of Georgia. All facets of the community participate in the Partnership including representatives from healthcare, business, civic, education, and government entities.

Since its inception in 2008, Education has been identified as a top community priority of Clayton Archway Partnership, and an Education Issue Work Group was established to address the Education priority. The following are among the ongoing activities and special projects undertaken to address the Education priority through Clayton Archway Partnership. The overall value of this work to the community is immeasurable; however, a sum of the value of faculty/staff/student time and other associated costs equates to an approximate $200,000 return on investment to the community.

**Clayton County Teen Summit**
Clayton Archway Partnership partnered with Clayton County Collaborative, Clayton County Cooperative Extension, Clayton County PTA, Clayton County Parks and Recreation and Clayton County Public Schools to host the Annual “Clayton County Teen Summit.” The purpose of the Summit is to expose students to a variety of leadership skills that will ultimately result in academic success. More than 150 students have attended the summits that have included keynote speakers such as Dr. Daryl Bailey, a UGA College of Education Professor specializing in youth mentoring. The Teen Summit is implemented entirely by volunteers representing community organizations whose missions are to develop young people in the community.

**School Grounds Beautification Projects**
Through Clayton Archway Partnership, Clayton County Public Schools has benefited from more than 30 landscape designs for various school grounds beautification projects. These projects include playground makeovers, wayfinding and signage design, and general landscaping for schools and the CCPS administrative offices building.

**Workforce/College Readiness**
Clayton Archway’s Education Issue Work Group has submitted an application for the “Youth Build” grant to provide training for local youths to learn trades such as plumbing and carpentry. The program offers students an opportunity to learn a trade, gain practical experience, and contribute to the skilled workforce in Clayton County.

Another area of workforce/college readiness Clayton Archway Partnership has been working on is certification as a Georgia Work Ready community. Work Ready is a state certification process geared at improving job training and marketability of Georgia’s workforce. Free job skills assessments are conducted as part of the process. To date, more than 600 Clayton County Public Schools high school students have completed the “Work Ready Skills Assessment.”
**Parent Engagement**
The University of Georgia’s College of Education has worked closely with Clayton Archway Partnership, particularly in the area of parent engagement. As a result of recent discussions, Dr. JoBeth Allen has been named a Public Service and Outreach Fellow for the 2012 fall semester. The Public Service and Outreach Fellowship program is sponsored by the Office of the Vice President for Public Service and Outreach and allows a faculty member in an academic unit to spend a semester working with one of the service units of the university. Dr. Allen is an internationally renowned scholar whose work is focused on literacy and family engagement. As a Public Service and Outreach Fellow she will spend time in several Archway communities, including Clayton County, talking with the Education Issue Work Group, meeting with school and community leaders, and developing relationships with teachers and families. Dr. Allen will help Clayton County identify effective current practices and establish goals for family-school-community partnerships, and ultimately facilitate the development of a plan for partnerships that support student learning.

In addition, a “CCPS Attendance Brochure” has been developed to inform and educate parents on the CCPS Attendance Policy.

**Technology as a Learning Tool**
Clayton Archway Partnership has connected Clayton County Public Schools to faculty at UGA’s College of Veterinary Medicine who have developed an innovative, technology-based curriculum for teaching science. Based on utilization of 3-D video gaming technology, the curriculum is being piloted in high school biology and anatomy classes in Clayton County Public Schools. Free to CCPS through the pilot program, the anticipated value of the software and technical support of the curriculum is approximately $35,000.

In addition to the regular, ongoing activities, Clayton Archway Partnership has also undertaken the following special projects as a result of requests from Clayton County Public Schools seeking to address specific issues within the Education priority.

**“Writing Matters” Workshop**
Clayton County Public Schools (CCPS) and Clayton State University (CSU) partnered with Clayton Archway Partnership to host two writing workshops focused on writing styles and the proper usage of grammar and punctuation. Attendees included CCPS middle and high school students. CSU professors developed the curriculum for the workshops based on CCPS core curriculum, and facilitated the workshops. Ninety percent of the students evaluated the workshops as “excellent” on the post-workshop evaluations.

**Youth Entrepreneur Workshop**
Clayton Archway Partnership partnered with Clayton County Cooperative Extension, Clayton County Parks and Recreation, Clayton County Public Schools, and Clayton State University to host two Clayton County Youth Entrepreneur Workshops. The workshops taught students free-enterprise fundamentals through hands-on learning activities. Students attended sessions on dressing for success, marketing your business through social media, and business finance.

**Arts Clayton Workshop**
Arts Clayton partnered with the University of Georgia’s Georgia Museum of Art to provide Clayton County Public School students with an opportunity to attend a Printmaking and Ink Printing
workshop taught by Athens artist Jackie Slayton Methe. The workshop provided invaluable experiences for students to enhance their artistic abilities and self-confidence.

**Middle School Girls’ Program**
Clayton County Public Schools requested assistance from Clayton Archway Partnership to support CCPS’s Middle School Girls’ Program. Clayton Archway has been instrumental in recruiting women community leaders as speakers for the programs that focus on offering opportunities for middle school-aged girls to enhance skills in critical thinking, economic literacy, peer leadership, and self-esteem.

*For more information, please contact Gail Webb, UGA Clayton Archway Professional, at gwebb01@uga.edu, or 770-603-4876.*