Washington County provides a unique opportunity for students to learn about and be immersed in the healthcare community. The Archway Partnership facilitates the chance for graduate students from the University of Georgia College of Public Health (CPH) to learn about community and public health at work in the field. Beginning in 2009, the tours took place in two other Archway Communities, Hart and Clayton, with approximately 40 students participating.

The students are able to meet local leaders who educate them on the needs and concerns of each community. They also meet with health professionals representing many aspects of the healthcare system to discuss their careers and share real-world insights about their field. Not only are students able to learn about the realities of these fields, but they are also able to gain an understanding of the intersection between public health and the healthcare sector in improving the quality of life in Georgia’s communities.

Establishing these tours was an important priority for the Archway Partnership because the issue of public health does not lie within the walls of a classroom; it exists in the community. Students are exposed to counties across the state that give them the knowledge of how public health exists in differing real-world environments. The tours are structured to enlighten students on available careers in their field while opening doors for internships, research opportunities, and networking with professionals.

**Advancing Community Priorities:** Exposing graduate students to communities in Georgia, but outside their hometown and college campus, has helped them understand the healthcare needs in the state, the value of their profession, and potential career opportunities. These tours took place between 2009 and 2011, but there are plans to resume the program in the coming years.