COMMUNITY HEALTH PROGRAMS

ARCHWAY PARTNERSHIP & COLLEGE OF PUBLIC HEALTH: 2007-2012
PREFACE

The University of Georgia Archway Partnership, initiated in 2005 as a two-year pilot in Colquitt County, now serves eight diverse, geographically dispersed communities simultaneously. On campus, the Archway Partnership is networked with all 17 Colleges and other academic units that provide expertise to address specific community needs. The Archway Partnership was structured to benefit both community partners and the participating academic partners. Institutional benefits occur primarily through enhancement of the teaching, research, and outreach functions of the academic colleges.

Improved health care has been identified as a priority by all current and alumni communities. Archway’s emergence and subsequent identification of improved health as a common need across Georgia communities coincided with the formation of UGA’s College of Public Health (2005). As a state funded College of Public Health at the Land Grant institution in Georgia, the college has a mandate to reach out to all Georgia communities. The two units, Archway Partnership and the College of Public Health, began discussions in 2007 regarding a strategic partnership that could serve the needs of Georgia communities and of the College of Public Health. Mel Garber, Director of the Archway Partnership, and Bob Galen, Senior Associate Dean of the College of Public Health, sought to create a seamless mechanism for UGA to engage communities around the improved health care priority.

The collaboration between the College of Public Health (CPH) and the Archway Partnership led to establishment of the first outreach position for the College of Public Health. The position was jointly funded, housed programmatically in the College of Public Health, staffed by Laura Bland Gillman (UGA MPH graduate) and located in the Archway community of Washington County. Subsequently, the CPH established the Office of Outreach and Engagement under the direction of Assistant Dean, Dr. Marsha Davis. As the partnership developed and other communities began to address improved health, Archway Public Health Professional positions were established in Colquitt County and Clayton County through joint funding by the community, CPH and the Archway Partnership.

The initial strategic partnership between the Archway Partnership and the College of Public Health and the extensive collaboration with UGA academic, Public Service and Outreach and Cooperative Extension units made possible the many valuable accomplishments highlighted within this publication. Moreover, these efforts were complemented by the contributions from several important University System of Georgia institutions.

Enhancing Community Health (pg. 2)

The Archway Partnership is a bottoms-up process where the community identifies needs and the Archway Professional connects the community to higher education resources. Consistent with that philosophy, the following projects/initiatives were identified by the community, represented one of the top community priorities, and were approved by the Archway Executive Committee.

Enhancing Teaching & Learning (pg. 10)

The Archway Partnership endeavors to enhance the student learning experience as it addresses priority community needs. The Archway Partnership ensures that (a) all student projects are important to the community as established by Archway Executive Committee, (b) students have a local facilitator (UGA Archway Professional) to assist during the project, (c) a motivated community client is clearly identified and works with the student, (d) students are held accountable for delivery of a implementable work product and (e) students have the opportunity to present their work to key community leaders and discuss next steps for implementation. Many students comment that their Archway projects and experiences are the focus of interviewers during a job search.

Enhancing Research (pg. 15)

Increasingly, funding agencies/foundations give preference or require researchers to have a committed community partner. This is primarily to help ensure that the research is well grounded and there is a good likelihood of implementation (i.e. ability to make a difference). The Archway Partnership structure as established in the community helps the researcher meet all these criteria and as such creates a competitive advantage for UGA researchers. The existing partnerships developed through the Archway process also saves the researcher much time on the front end (identifying key community partners and securing their participation) and back end (documenting impact and sustainability).

Enhancing Outreach (pg. 17)

The on-going relationships developed by the Archway Partnership can be of benefit for outreach programs in academic units. The student housing piece (p. 14) is a good example of long-term dialogue with communities on the limiting factors to student participation in communities (i.e. cost of housing). Since the Archway Partnership does not have dedicated program areas that it develops and delivers, it can be a neutral facilitator for outreach of other academic units.

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In 2009, the Archway Partnership: Health Committee in Washington County listed “increased access to health care professionals” as a top priority within their community. To address this priority, a discussion began about increasing awareness among Georgia’s medical students of career opportunities available in the Washington County area. Medical students are required to complete clinical rotations in medical school where they shadow and get hands on experience with licensed practicing physicians. Those involved in the health committee sought to use these rotations as a way to interact with students on a professional and social basis. In a collaborative effort, the Archway Partnership: Health Committee joined with the Georgia Area Health Education Centers (AHEC) Statewide Network to establish the Georgia Rural Medical Scholar Program (GRMSP). The premise of GRMSP is that medical students with a strong interest in rural primary care are accepted into the program and complete some of their required clinical rotations with local primary care physicians and Washington County Regional Medical Center (WCRMC). A critical aspect of the program is that students return to the community several times during their medical school career in order to make lasting professional and social connections within the Washington and Johnson County area. Each rotation is structured in 2-6 week periods and falls within their first, third and fourth years of medical school.

To ensure that GRMSP students fully experience an enriching professional and social life in rural Georgia, housing is provided free of charge. Orienting the students to the community is a key component of the GRMSP; local volunteers invite the students to social and civic activities, including dinner parties, community events and recreational activities. Creating a bridge between local physicians, hospitals and various medical schools in Georgia was another key element of the GRMSP. To this end, Mercer University School of Medicine (MUSM) administrators modified their internal format to allow students to complete clinical rotations in both community practice and medical campus settings. The Department of Internal Medicine in the School of Medicine was the first department to adopt this new format and offer their students the opportunity to complete community core rotations. The program was officially launched in July 2010 and maintains cohorts with an average of four medical students who each complete two to three clinical rotations per year. The program has maintained a strong partnership with MUSM’s Macon and Savannah campuses and is now exploring opportunities for medical students attending Georgia Regents University (formerly Medical College of Georgia) — Southeast Georgia Clinical Campus.

To date, the program has expanded the number of clinical rotation sites offered in the area to include Washington, Johnson and Wilkinson counties. First, third and fourth year medical students complete core and elective rotations related to community medicine, internal medicine, pediatrics, family medicine, surgery and other special electives. One of these special electives is a Practice Management elective developed by John Maynard, of the University of Georgia’s Small Business Development Center. The elective was developed in partnership with the GRMSP and is now offered in the community and on medical school campuses. Financially, community members and local organizations have shown their support for the program through the 2011 Lock, Stock and Barrel fundraising event. Over 200 people attended the event and raised enough funds to sustain the program for at least two years. To further ensure program sustainability, the GRMSP Board of Directors was established in February 2011. Board membership is comprised of individuals who are passionate about the program including physicians, community members and representatives from AHEC.

The GRMSP is a great example of how key challenges in a community can be addressed through collaboration, planning and visioning. The Archway Partnership: Health Committee and everyone involved in the program have exhibited outstanding leadership skills and serve as an example to other rural communities.

With the 2007 establishment of the Archway Partnership in Washington County, the community identified increased access to healthcare professionals, such as Registered Nurses (RNs), as a top priority. The Archway Executive Committee set a general strategy of developing their own RN pool rather than recruiting RNs from other areas of the state. Archway facilitated a series of meetings between officials from the Washington County Regional Medical Center (WCRMC), Oconee Fall Line Technical College (OFTC, formerly known as Sandersville Technical College), potential health care employers and community leaders to assess the level of interest in a health care professional to RN Bridge program. Survey results indicated that the Bridge program was strongly supported and would be a great asset to the community. As a next step, WCRMC and OFTC created a partnership to establish an Emergency Medical Technician (EMT)/Licensed Practical Nurse (LPN) to RN Bridge program at the college. OFTC administration agreed to upgrade their technological equipment to better serve the needs of the program. Additional meetings were held with Darton College (content provider), which agreed to establish a Bridge program branch at the OFTC campus. Funding for the creation and ongoing implementation of the program was provided by the University System of Georgia.

In October 2009, the Sandersville Health Care Professional to RN Bridge program officially began with 27 students enrolled. Upon graduation in December 2010, 26 of the 27 students passed state boards on their first attempt. The second cohort graduated in December 2011 with 29 students. In 2011, Darton College decided to expand its operations to meet the growing interest in the program. The cohort size was increased to 64 students for the October 2011 class. Upon graduation of the third cohort, 120 RNs will have graduated from the program.

The Dalton-Whitfield Archway Partnership created an issue work group that focused on prenatal to pre-K needs. A key need was education of low income families with small children on nutrition and healthy lifestyles as a means to enhance early learning. During the summer of 2011, the work group collaborated with Dalton State College, local health department, Women Infants and Children (WIC) program and the Northwest Georgia Health Care Partnership to bolster the community nutrition and wellness camp. They also provided healthy lifestyles publications throughout the community at events targeting young children. The Prenatal to Pre-K work group of the Whitfield Archway Partnership met with representatives from the UGA Cooperative Extension to explore the possibility of becoming a site for the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP). EFNEP is a federally funded program delivered by Family and Consumer Sciences Extension agents and paraprofessionals that provides nutrition education to limited income families with young children. Among other topics, it teaches families how to purchase, store and cook quick, inexpensive and nutritious meals on a budget. As a result of the work group’s efforts, the Whitfield County Extension office and Whitfield County WIC Program have established a formal partnership to bring the program to the community. The Whitfield WIC and EFNEP program partnered to fund both professional and paraprofessional educator positions in the community.
Through the Archway Partnership: Health Committee, Medicare patients and healthcare providers in Washington County expressed concern about the difficulties of choosing the proper health care plan. In an effort to offer unbiased information and easier access to Medicare health options, a partnership was formed between the Central Savannah River Area (CSRA), Area Agency on Aging and Georgia Care, local organizations and local volunteers to organize the inaugural Medicare Made Easy event for 2009. Held at Oconee Fall Line Technical College (OFTC), the event attracted more than 70 Medicare patients and their caregivers, and was facilitated by 30 trained volunteers from the community. Attendees were provided with individualized and unbiased counsel on how to successfully choose a Medicare supplemental plan to best fit their needs.

The Medicare Made Easy events have been scheduled during the Medicare Open Enrollment period. Attendees were asked to bring any current prescription medications and their Medicare red, white and blue card to aid in accurate advice and information dispersal. Volunteers utilized the Medicare.gov website to identify and compare health plans to better meet individual needs. Participants were able to determine if their current coverage was the best option. Each client received 15-30 minutes of counsel from the trained volunteers and several participants signed up for new plans. In addition to local volunteers, undergraduate and graduate students representing UGA’s College of Public Health and College of Pharmacy have contributed their time and talents through best practice research, local marketing efforts and counseling clients.

In 2011, the community officially took ownership of the program as the Washington County Regional Medical Center (WCRMC), OFTC, Source Care Management and the CSRA Area Agency on Aging collaborated and sponsored the event. The fourth annual Medicare Made Easy was held at OFTC in November 2011 with undergraduate students from the UGA College of Public Health and Department of Health Promotion and Behavior volunteering for the event.

For program sustainability, WCRMC has adopted the Medicare Made Easy events to be held during the annual WCRMC Health Fair. This agreement offers more notoriety for the events, accessibility to a larger population, fits well within the WCRMC mission and allows Archway to address other pressing issues.

Health indicator reports were compiled for Grady, Pulaski, Sumter and Washington Counties by the UGA College of Public Health at the request of the Archway Partnership. The reports provided state, local health district and surrounding county maps of the mortality and morbidity rates of HIV/AIDS, cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, drug overdoses, alcoholic liver disease, pregnancy/child birthing complications, fetal and infant conditions, birth defects, sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS) and external causes such as accidents and injuries. Infant mortality rates, youth pregnancy rates, the number of emergency room visits and the rates of sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) were also reported. The data was obtained from the OASIS mapping tool that is provided by the Georgia Department of Public Health, Office of Health Indicators for Planning. Also included in each of the reports was a “Snapshot” of the county that provided a ranking system of where the county fell in certain key indicators of health compared to the rest of Georgia. The “Snapshot” was obtained from the 2010 Georgia Public Health Report and the PARTNER UP! for Public Health campaign. The health indicator reports were compiled to provide community leaders in each of the counties with empirical evidence of the current state of health in their respective counties. Public health committees in each of the counties used the reports to create plans to address the health issues that were most relevant to each community. In addition to these reports, first person interviews and research were also conducted in each of these counties.

In 2008, a new survey tool and approximately 65 key informant interviews were used as the basis for the Washington County Archway Partnership Community Health Needs Assessment. This assessment provided qualitative data to the Washington County Archway Health Committee, which was compiled and analyzed for use by the committee to determine the priorities and work plan for the first phase of Archway Health in Washington County including: a) improving access to health care professionals, b) community health education, and c) leadership development among health care professionals. The results of the Washington County Health Needs Assessment were also utilized by entities throughout the community for needs statements in grant proposals.

In Pulaski County in 2011, a community health needs assessment was initiated, followed by the establishment of the Pulaski County Archway Community Health Issue Work Group. Appropriate stakeholders for the key informant interviews and focus groups were identified, survey tools were developed, and interviews and focus groups were conducted in the community. A UGA College of Public Health (CPH) graduate assistant compiled health indicator data for Pulaski County to provide both quantitative and qualitative data. The results of that data were then reported to the Pulaski County Archway Executive Committee and Taylor Regional Hospital administration.

A similar process started in Sumter County in 2012 to facilitate their focus on public health. The previously described assessment tool was modified to fit Sumter County and the community is collecting data (key informant interviews and focus groups). The health indicator data showed that Sumter County has the highest rate of STDs in Georgia. As a result, the Sumter County Board of Health has expressed an immediate need for best practice and evidence based curriculum research for STD prevention and intervention among adolescents.

In 2012 the Grady County Archway Partnership also identified community health and wellness as a top priority and chose to establish their work plan through group facilitation. During the Archway Community Health and Wellness Kick-Off Meeting, the Grady County Health Indicator Report, compiled by a UGA CPH graduate student, was presented to the group. Following the report, a group of key informants from Grady County Community Health and Wellness, participated in a facilitated session to identify local issues within public health.
HEALTH CARE WORKFORCE LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The Washington County Archway Partnership: Health Committee identified enhanced leadership skills as critical to the overall quality of care to the public. In 2009, Washington County’s Chamber of Commerce applied for a United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEQ) to enhance leadership development in the county, with a portion of the funds allocated to focusing on health care professionals. The Chamber was awarded $67,000 and half of the participants in the 2010-2011 Leadership Program.

Washington represented the health care industry. These professionals, along with representatives from other industries in the county, were exposed to issues facing the overall community, gained a better understanding of their own industries and were engaged in planning for the future of their community. Graduates from the program proposed ideas and strategies for advancing Washington County and many of these ideas were adapted for future community and economic development endeavors.

PUBLIC HEALTH DISASTER PLANNING

In May 2009, a group of leaders representing medicine, pharmacy and public health in the state of Georgia were called together by the Georgia Composite Medical Board to discuss a potential partnership to advance emergency response to the H1N1 virus in Georgia. The goal was to develop a protocol, as a part of Georgia’s Public Health Disaster Planning, to increase the utilization of pharmacists in the education and distribution of influenza antivirals in a declared state of emergency.

Archway Partnership: Health was approached to facilitate the meetings and to connect higher education resources to the goals of the initiative. One goal of the partnership was to provide disaster preparedness training for every pharmacist in Georgia. The University of Georgia’s College of Pharmacy was able to meet this need by providing their expertise in developing training curriculum and adapting their continuing education infrastructure to reach Georgia’s pharmacists.

Several key factors occurred to make this outcome a reality:

1. The development of legislation for the 2010 Georgia Legislative Session provided pharmacists direction from the District Public Health Director while operating under protocol.

2. The Georgia Board of Pharmacy approved a change mandating every licensed pharmacist in the state of Georgia receive three hours of approved disaster preparedness training from a board approved program by December 2010.

3. The University of Georgia College of Pharmacy worked to develop disaster preparedness training modules, launched in February 2010, to meet the training needs of pharmacists.

This proposal created the infrastructure for trained Georgia pharmacists in a declared emergency to dispense the necessary medications, by an approved protocol, under the direction of Public Health.

EXPANSION OF FEDERALLY QUALIFIED HEALTH CENTER (FQHC)

The Clayton County Archway Partnership was established in 2008. One of the first critical priorities identified by the Executive Committee was “Community Health.” The top health priority was establishment of an additional Federally Qualified Health Center (FQHC) in Clayton County.

The Clayton County Board of Health (CCBHO) and Southern Regional Medical Center (SRMC) were strong advocates for the community need. A white paper presented to the Archway Executive Committee stated that “FQHC’s are needed to ease the burden on current health care delivery systems in the county and proactively improve the health outcomes of the region.” Poor economic conditions and rising numbers of uninsured and underinsured residents in the region presented a strong case for the establishment of a cohesive FQHC system. A key quote from the white paper summarized the incentive:

“There are numerous benefits from being a Primary Health Service Act (PHSA) Section 330e) FQHC. The biggest is grant funding, which is contingent on various factors, including the requirement to serve Medically Underserved Areas or Populations (MUA/MUPs) and other Health Professional Shortage Areas (HPSAs). Other benefits include enhanced Medicare and Medicaid reimbursement, medical malpractice coverage through the Federal Tort Claims Act and eligibility for various other federal grants and programs.”

In 2009, the Clayton Archway Partnership Executive Committee approved the establishment of a “FQHC Project Team” tasked with completing an application for a HPSA as the first step in establishing a FQHC. The project team included Dr. Alpha Bryan, District Director CCBHO; Jennell Charles, Professor, Clayton State University (CSU) School of Nursing; Jim Crissey, CEO, SRMC; Laura Bland Gillman, Public Health Archway Professional, Washington County; Barlon Lundgren, Director Corporate Affairs, Southside Medical Center (SMC); and Gail Webb, Clayton County Archway Professional, Clayton County. SRMC, as a local, well established and successful FQHC, was recruited to lead the team.

SRMC had experience in providing primary care services to all ages, including dental services, mental care, obstetrics/gynecology (OB/GYN) and pediatric care. Faculty from the CSU College of Health/School of Nursing and the UGA College of Public Health (CPH), along with CPH students, a graduate student from CSU and additional students from UGA’s Master of Public Health (MPH) program, were all actively recruited to assist with the project, which had lasted for more than two years.

Lauren Culp, a graduate assistant with the Archway Partnership and student in the College of Public Health, was instrumental throughout this process. She was responsible for primary research, survey creation and implementation of local medical professionals, and data collection and analysis, which was a critical component of the application process.

Barlon Lundgren, on behalf of the FQHC team, submitted three applications, Primary Care, Dental Services and Mental Care to the State Office of Rural Health (SORH). The success lead to the opening of a FQHC in Lovejoy, Georgia. Lovejoy was selected as a location because of its high population of low-income residents, lack of access to affordable health care and a move-in-ready building, which made for a seamless transition to a state-of-the-art FQHC.
The Archway Public Health Committee in Colquitt County identified the need for mental health resources for the community. The Archway Public Health Professional facilitated a process that identified partners and brought a wide range of community leaders together to discuss existing challenges. The community efforts led to the reopening of mental health services in Colquitt County on August 1, 2012 (after a two year hiatus). This was a great success for the city of Moultrie and the county. A mental health subcommittee continues to meet monthly to work on key issues.

From the Community Health Needs Assessment, the Washington County Area Health Resource Directory (WCHRD) was developed as a tool to assess the strengths and weaknesses in the local health system and to educate the public on local health resources. In 2009, the template for the WCHRD was used by the East Georgia Health Cooperative in four of the surrounding counties to achieve the same goals. The Washington County Chamber of Commerce also expressed interest in linking the WCHRD to their website when completed. UGA Terry College of Business Management of Information Systems students designed a user-friendly database and online interface for the WCHRD. This enables the information to be easily updated and reports easily produced. An updated online interface allows for easier and greater public access and was developed by graduate students from the UGA Institute for Non-Profit Organizations.

The next goal is to establish a Drug/Mental Health Accountability Court in Colquitt County. The Archway Public Health Professional continues to be an active part of this organization and assists in the facilitation of meetings and identification of state resources that could help in the quest to impact those suffering from mental illness. For example, the Georgia Public Health Training Center in the UGA College of Public Health provided a Mental Health First Aid course in Moultrie, the first time the class had been offered to mental health professionals outside of the metro-Atlanta area.

The Teen Maze is a life-sized interactive experience for teenagers to understand the real life consequences of risky behavior while in a safe environment. The first Teen Maze in Pulaski County was held at the Board of Education on March 22, 2012. It was hosted by Archway’s Community Health Issue Work Group, specifically the Teenage Pregnancy Reduction Committee, chaired by Vonnie Berryhill. Each teen had an individual path in the Maze and was confronted by real life situations such as pregnancy, Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) and even death. In Hawkinsville, Georgia, every publicly educated seventh through twelfth grade student attended the maze, as well as many local private school students.

Over 200 volunteers donated hundreds of hours to make the Teen Maze possible, including health care professionals, local colleges, emergency personnel and local businesses. The Teen Maze was the first step in Archway’s teen pregnancy reduction efforts through the Department of Community Affairs’ (DCA’s) Communities of Opportunity program. Funding for the Teen Maze came from the Communities of Opportunity grant, the Buchan Trust, ECP/Eldercare Pharmacy and other community donors. Through this experience, students recognized that the community cared about them and their choices. The Teen Maze created a positive learning and cooperative experience for students and the community. Long-time residents felt it was the largest volunteer effort ever in Pulaski County.

In the Spring of 2012, the Hart County Archway Partnership, Hartwell Chapter of AARP, Ty Cobb Health Care System, Hart County Senior Center, UGA School of Social Work and Medical College of Georgia School of Nursing teamed up to present a free community health fair. The event was planned to promote healthy living practices by sharing preventive care information with adults. Some of the health education topics included diabetes, fall prevention, cardiovascular health, information on advanced directives, sleep, driver’s safety and care giving. Blood pressure screenings, clinical massage therapy demonstrations and fasting blood work were also available to participants.

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In the spirit of the University of Georgia’s land grant mission and to address the health care disparities of residents of rural Georgia, the College of Public Health’s (CPH’s) internship program has made a concerted effort to place interns in areas that are rural or medically underserved. The Archway Partnership has accomplished this with two approaches: first, by introducing students to these various communities at the beginning of their program, and second, by encouraging internship placement in communities that are medically underserved.

In the first approach, the Archway Partnership and the CPH partner to coordinate tours of several different communities within Georgia. The tours are designed to give students a glimpse of public health practice in medically underserved rural and urban settings and have been a part of new student orientation for three years. Each fall, approximately 45 students visit either Hart, Washington or Clayton counties in groups of fifteen. They are oriented to local public health by several different agencies within the community including the county health department, businesses, hospital, medical practices and nonprofits.

In many instances, the students are given tours of these different agencies. In Hart County, Ty Cobb Regional Medical Center helps to facilitate the tour of Hartwell and provides a local panel of public and private health providers to discuss rural medicine.

The latest survey conducted for the Fall 2011 tours indicates that students view the tours as beneficial and would strongly recommend them to other students. Some of the student comments included: “It showed me real life situations of public health.” And “It provided insight to the issues that need to be addressed in rural communities. For one, attracting skilled professionals to those areas…” Over 135 students have been introduced to Georgia communities since the start of the program.

In 2011, Barbara Gaston, a UGA College of Public Health intern, worked on an Economic Evaluation and Cost Analysis of the clinic operations. This analysis involved pulling information from other clinics in the area and then showing the community the social and economic benefits provided by the Ellenton Health Clinic.

Jackie Murtha completed an internship at the Ellenton Health Clinic during the summer of 2012. Her responsibilities included preparing background medical histories for the Hispanic workers and children who were patients of the Migrant Farmworker Health Program. She also assisted the with the daily operations of program and compiled valuable data after its completion. Jackie is fluent in Spanish and was very involved in conducting home visits to Hispanic families and other outreach activities at the Ellenton Health clinic. She has an interest in rural medicine and plans to attend Medical School after receiving her MPH. Her internship allowed her to see first-hand some of the challenges of practicing medicine in rural communities.

For more than 17 years the Farm Worker Family Health Program (FWFHP) has been a community partnership designed to increase the delivery of healthcare services for migrant farm worker families. The Ellenton Clinic in Colquitt County is a two-week experience which brings together more than 100 students and faculty members from five different schools and colleges; together they provide physical examinations, health screenings, physical therapy, health education, pharmacy services and dental care to some 1,000 migrant farm workers and their children at eight farm camps in the Colquitt County area.

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Chioma Kas-Osaka completed an internship at the Park Regency, an assisted living home in Moultrie. Working directly under the Director, Chioma focused on creating and facilitating activities for the residents who suffer from Dementia and Alzheimer’s disease. She had the opportunity to interact with all employees from all departments at the Park Regency as well as working one-on-one with the patients. This was Chioma’s first experience working with an elderly population and she now has an interest in pursuing a career that would allow her to continue this type of work. Chioma also lived at the DeLoach Intern House over the summer. Moultrie was very different from any community she lived in previously and she enjoyed the opportunity to experience life in a small-town.

Brittany Baumert completed an internship at Colquitt Regional Medical Center. She worked closely with hospital administrators and analyzed and compiled data on the number of patients treated for various conditions and their outcomes. This has been very helpful as the hospital plans for future growth and needs to evaluate which services and specialties are in demand in Colquitt County. Brittany is working on her undergraduate degree and has plans to come back to Moultrie before completing her education to continue some of the work she was involved in at the hospital. Brittany also lived in the DeLoach Intern House while working in Moultrie. In total, 16 students were able to use the DeLoach intern house over the course of the summer in 2012.
Health Promotion and Behavior students in UGA’s College of Public Health, Master of Public Health Program, researched and developed a social marketing campaign to reduce vulnerability to Medicare marketing fraud by enabling Washington County seniors to make good decisions regarding their health insurance plans when contacted by telemarketers.

Students in the UGA College of Pharmacy’s Community Outreach course chose the Washington County Medicare Made Easy event as the focus of their semester long service-learning course. The students created and implemented marketing materials, generated educational materials for attendees and volunteered at the event to provide individualized counsel to Medicare enrollees and their families.

Graduate students in the UGA College of Public Health’s Leadership Course worked to develop and conduct an assessment of Medicare and health literacy in Washington County. Health literacy is one’s ability to understand health information and, in this situation, one’s understanding of Medicare information. This was done in an effort to create a baseline measure of the target pop’s current understanding of choosing health plans and/or making the best decision to meet their needs. This baseline would help in determining if the Medicare Made Easy events made a difference in understanding/managing Medicare supplemental plans.

The Washington County Regional Medical Center sought to improve their main entrances by updating the landscape design. A major sub-project of the entire venture was the creation of a memorial/honorarium garden/brick area for former life-long staff members. Students from UGA College of Environment and Design created and presented their designs to the hospital administration and the plans were adopted for implementation in phases.

Additionally they identified the need for a walking trail on the hospital grounds. UGA Agricultural Engineering, Forestry and Environment and Design students worked on the design of the trail and CPH students analyzed it from a health perspective. The student work facilitated implementation of the trail and helped quantify potential benefits.
Students from the UGA College of Social Work’s Institute for Non-Profit Organizations built on previous work done by students who had developed the Washington County Health Resource Directory Database. The nonprofit students used the directory as a major source of information for health and social related assets in the Washington County area. The Asset Mapping and GIS Project is an overall database of assets in the community and serves as a resource for local governments, businesses and the general public. It also serves as an economic development and planning tool.

A Georgia Southern University, Masters of Public Health, student worked with the Director of Adult Literacy at Oconee Fall Line Technical College (OFTC) to develop a health education curriculum tailored to adults. This internship was to tailor the health education curriculum to the students enrolled in the OFTC program. This included researching content and activities, ensuring the appropriate literacy levels and piloting.

UGA Master of Public Health student, Lauren Culp, prepared a white paper entitled, “Archway Partnership: Potential Model for National Application” as part of Culp’s spring 2012 Capstone project in the Department of Health Policy and Promotion. The Archway model provided Culp with an opportunity to compare nationally accepted standards to local issues and real-world scenarios. Culp provided data that led to the establishment of a Federally Qualified Health Center in Clayton County.

The Colquitt County Archway Partnership partnered with UGA College of Public Health and Cooperative Extension in the preparation of a childhood obesity grant. The $2.5 million United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) grant was awarded to UGA CPH in the fall of 2012 and a family nutrition educator was hired to coordinate resources to all elementary school students in the county over a five year period. Faculty members from UGA’s College of Public Health and College of Family and Consumer Sciences are currently collaborating to develop a deliverable curriculum. An extensive evaluation tool is also included as part of the grant.

During the 2010-2012 school years, Archway funded an assistantship for Rich Christiana to conduct his PhD dissertation research entitled “A Mixed-Methods Study Investigating Factors Influencing Rural Youth’s Engagement and Experiences in Noncompetitive Physical Activity in the Outdoors” in Colquitt County. The Colquitt County school system is interested in how they can use his findings to impact the amount of children’s physical activity during and after school hours.
The UGA College of Public Health (CPH) received a $25,000 grant from the University System of Georgia to study dietary habits and physical activity habits of families in Colquitt County. This data was used to develop curriculum for family nights throughout the school year and CPH students delivered the curriculum to parents of children enrolled in a 21st Century Learning afterschool program. The interactive demonstrations were well received by the children and parents and additional programs have been requested by the 21st Century Learning staff. UGA students also drafted a "Get Healthy, Colquitt!" newsletter that was distributed monthly to parents. These newsletters included tips for locally available family-friendly activities as well as recipes and tips for improving the diets of their family members. Grant funds were also used in the purchase of a Railyard Fitness Center that is rotated among 10 elementary schools in Colquitt County. This system has allowed physical education teachers to incorporate challenging new activities into students' regular fitness routines.

The Clayton Archway Partnership Executive Committee established "Community Health" as a pressing issue to be addressed in Clayton County. With the support of the Clayton Archway Partnership Executive Committee and the establishment of a partnership between Archway Partnership, UGA College of Public Health, Clayton County Board of Health (CCBOH) and Southern Regional Medical Center (SRMC), a Public Health Archway Professional position was funded in Clayton County. The new Public Health Archway Professional will begin in September 2012 and will work with the Clayton Archway Public Health Issue Work Group to facilitate the development and coordination of appropriate responses to public health issues. This is the third outreach position established for the College of Public Health with the assistance of the Archway Partnership program.

One of the challenges identified in establishing intern opportunities in Colquitt County was finding short-term housing for students working in the community, given the distance from the Athens campus. In 2010, community leaders began discussing a permanent housing solution that would always be available to students. In 2012, Colquitt cut the ribbon on the DeLoache Intern House located in downtown Moultrie. Using a grant from the Waldo DeLoache Charitable Trust, managed by Southwest Georgia Bank, a five-bedroom home was purchased for the purpose of housing students. To date, 14 students have utilized the house while completing internships and other projects. The community believes that if students have a positive experience while interning in the community, they will consider working in Colquitt County upon graduation. Encouraging students to consider rural Georgia when they begin their careers is a long-term goal for Colquitt to rectify their shortage of medical and public health workers.

The Public Health Executive Committee, with assistance from the Archway Public Health Professional, secured a house in Sandersville, Georgia, for visiting students. The medical students from Mercer University School of Medicine participating in the Georgia Rural Medical Scholar Program have been the primary beneficiaries of this community-driven housing opportunity.