**Readers to Leaders (R2L) Update**

On Wednesday, May 8, the members of the Readers to Leaders Workforce Development Team met to discuss announcements, updates, and action items going forward with R2L initiatives. Announcements included the “Four For The Future” award from UGA and Georgia Trend magazine; the generous grant provided by the Community Foundation; and the interest expressed by First Presbyterian Church in being involved in the R2L initiative.

The team also celebrated several updates of projects. The group was pleased to hear that Pre-K registration and the “Week of the Young Child” event were very successful. Library Board Member, Elizabeth Chadwick, shared with the team that an application has been submitted to begin the Reach Out and Read (ROR) program through White’s Pediatrics. The team also talked about the great summer programs across the county that will begin soon. These programs include:

- Big Red Reads
- Lunch and Learn
- NGRL Summer Reading Program

Other great news announced was that the 2nd Annual Literacy Celebration has officially been scheduled to occur on July 18th at the Mack Gaston Community Center from 4:00pm-6:00pm. Using funds donated to R2L, 3,600 keep books and 316 plastic containers were purchased to give to families at the literacy celebration. For more details from this meeting please go to the following link: [http://www.archwaypartnership.uga.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/R2L-Minutes-5-8-13.pdf](http://www.archwaypartnership.uga.edu/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/R2L-Minutes-5-8-13.pdf)
**Literacy Database Presentation: Yea or Nay?**

On Friday, April 12, 2013, members of the Literacy and Early Brain Development Database Workforce Development Team gathered together to hear a trial presentation of the database to potentially be presented around the Dalton-Whitfield community. Archway Partnership employee and Dalton State College student Jordan Manis began the presentation with a background and overview of the database and its uses for the community which included:

- Serving as a resource for the community to learn about programs and services available, where they are located, and how to participate
- Helping local nonprofits refer clients for additional services and collaborate with other organizations to ensure all of their clients’ needs are addressed
- Helping organizations identify possibilities for partnerships that could increase their potential to receive funding from federal and private grants
- Helping the local stakeholders and community members to determine service gaps and determine new ways to promote early brain development and literacy in Whitfield County

University of Georgia Masters in Nonprofit Administration student Leize Marie Davis then broke down the data that was gathered and exhibited different ways that the information could be used within the community. One of the examples Leize Marie displayed was an asset map displaying book distribution sites in the county. The map showed that the majority of the book distribution sites were located in the Dalton area and were not dispersed across Whitfield County as a whole. This could be helpful for site coordinators to see the gaps and help make provisions to fill those gaps. This map could also show individuals where they could locate a book distribution site to receive books and expand their learning.

Following the presentation the floor was open for discussion for any improvements that should be made. The team made some suggestions which will be implemented into the presentation over the next few weeks.