Dalton-Whitfield Welcomes New Archway Education Professional

On May 29, 2013 members of the newly developed Young Child Executive Committee welcomed Katy Green to the Dalton-Whitfield community as the new Archway Education Professional. Katy will be working with local stakeholders, local service providers and higher education resources to make sure that children aged birth to 5 are getting the best possible start in life. Katy’s position, made possible by the City of Dalton and Grow Greater Dalton, is the first of its kind.

69 Students Graduate from Design, Engineering & Manufacturing Camp

On Thursday, June 13, 2013, family members and local stakeholders gathered at the Career Academy to celebrate the graduation of 69 DEM Camp participants. DEM (Design, Engineer, and Manufacturing) Camp is hosted every summer by many sponsors in the community. It is an opportunity for middle school students to learn more about the carpet industry and allows them to begin to gain interest in a career path for the future. The graduation was hosted to congratulate the participants and exhibit all of their hard work. Throughout the week the students were able to do team building exercises, build their own race cars, design their own rugs, take a tour of a plant at Shaw Industries, and much more. A schedule for the DEM Camp participants is located at the following link: http://bit.ly/DEMCampSchedule2013

Literacy Database Finalized

In July 2012, Dalton State student and Archway Partnership employee Jordan Manis collected information from local stakeholders to create a database of programs that support literacy and early brain development in the Dalton-Whitfield community. In November 2012, Masters in Public Administration student Leize Marie Davis joined Jordan in the effort and began to compile and analyze the data. In early 2013, local stakeholders formed the Literacy and Early Brain Development Team to complete and refine the database.

On May 1, 2013, Jordan and Leize Marie presented the finalized literacy database to the Dalton-Whitfield Archway Executive Committee. In the fall, the presentation will be given around the community to inform the public of the literacy programs in the area and the gaps that we need to address as a community. To review this presentation, click on the following link: http://bit.ly/LiteracyDatabasePresentation.
What Does Dalton-Whitfield Think of Their Public Schools?

In late 2012 and early 2013, Dalton Public Schools and Whitfield County Schools circulated a survey to measure the public’s perceptions of the local school systems. UGA law student Matthew Wilson created the survey with input from UGA College of Education faculty. The results of the survey indicated that the majority of the public graded the public schools with a letter grade of “B”. These results are consistent with national surveys. In addition, the surveys indicated that parents, district personnel, and community members all valued the following four criteria as most important: high school graduation rate, individual student grades, interaction with district personnel, and number of students who enroll in a four year college or university. To review the report with the survey results please go to the following link: http://bit.ly/EducationSurveyResults

Whitfield Education Report

June 1, 2013 marked my first day on the Archway Partnership team at the University of Georgia. Prior to this start date, I was given the opportunity to meet with my Dalton-Whitfield Prenatal to Pre-K Issue Work Group. At this meeting, the committee discussed the history of the Archway Partnership in Dalton-Whitfield, as well as current efforts towards the Pre-natal to Pre-K issue work group, such as Reach Out and Read and Readers to Leaders. Through informal discussion, several community-wide issues were raised, such as lack of transportation means for many families in the community and the number of entering kindergartners who are English Language Learners. A future meeting date for this committee was set for August 13th at 2:00 pm.

Since the start date of June 1st, I have acquainted myself with the Archway team at UGA, as well as the College of Education. In Dalton, I have attended an Archway Executive Committee meeting and a Readers to Leaders meeting. I am currently coordinating meetings with leaders within the community and school districts.