Orientation for New Archway Executive Committee

On Monday, July 8, Dalton-Whitfield Archway Partnership hosted an orientation for fourteen new Executive Committee members. New members represent elected officials for the city, county, and both school systems; large and small local businesses; the arts community; the Chamber of Commerce board; Dalton State College’s athletics department; Dalton Utilities; the Northwest Georgia Healthcare Partnership; and local community members. New members joined incoming Chairman Lynn Laughter and Co-Chair Don Cope and outgoing Chair Rick Hooper and Co-Chair John Schwenn to learn about Archway, ask questions, and think about their role in the upcoming year.

Grow Greater Dalton Investment Council Chairman John Neal (Left) and Greater Dalton Chamber of Commerce Chair-Elect Robert Smalley (Right) look on as Dalton Public Schools Board Chairman Danny Crutchfield participates in an orientation activity

Readers to Leaders Presents to Kiwanis Club

On Monday, July 1, members of the Readers to Leaders (R2L) Workforce Development Team spoke to the Kiwanis Club of Dalton about evolving community literacy efforts. Merry Boggs, Director of Elementary Curriculum for Whitfield County Schools, spoke of the inception of the R2L movement in 2012, highlighting the Commitment to Literacy Press Conference and the First Annual Literacy Celebration in summer 2012. Pam Partain, Readers to Leaders Chair and Dalton State College Director of Marketing and Communications, passionately described the public schools’ commitment to literacy and the need for community-wide support for literacy.
Lisa Hackney, Dalton Public Schools Gifted Program Coordinator, spoke about how much of a child’s success begins in the home and the steps R2L is taking to provide parents and children with access to educational resources. She spoke about local trainings provided by University of Georgia faculty to help teachers build better home-school partnerships with parents, this year’s community-wide Pre-K registration emphasizing school readiness and literacy, increased participation in summer reading programs, and the Second Annual Literacy Celebration scheduled for July 18, 2013. Marlen Rodriguez, Readers to Leaders AmeriCorps Vista, spoke about R2L’s partnership with the library and the library’s involvement in community outreach activities. She shared that over 500 children have participated in summer reading programs to date.

Melissa Lu, Dalton-Whitfield Archway Professional, discussed the community’s desire to prepare young children for school success before they reach kindergarten. As a result of the community’s commitment to this area, Archway Education Professional Katy Green was hired to pilot new initiatives and explore new collaborations to support Dalton-Whitfield’s prenatal to Pre-K population. Karey Williams, Assistant Superintendent for Whitfield County Schools, concluded the presentation to Kiwanis by stating the important role partnerships play in improving literacy in the Dalton-Whitfield community.

To review Dalton Daily Citizen coverage of the presentation, please click on the following link: http://daltondailycitizen.com/local/x1614269505/Volunteers-spreading-benefits-of-literacy.

**Faith Community Gets Involved With Readers to Leaders**

On Thursday, June 20, representatives from area churches met at the Mack Gaston Community Center to hear Dalton-Whitfield Public Library Board of Trustees Member and Northwest Georgia Regional Library Board System Chair Elizabeth Chadwick, Readers to Leaders Chair Pam Partain, and AmeriCorps Vista Marlen Rodriguez share information about the Reach Out and Read (ROR) program and ways the faith based community can get involved. ROR is an evidence-based nonprofit organization that promotes early literacy and school readiness in pediatric exam rooms nationwide by giving new books to children and advice to parents about the importance of reading. R2L and the Dalton-Whitfield County
Library Board are working in partnership with White’s Pediatrics of Dalton and Rockbridge Community Church and interested members of the faith community to pilot this program this fall at White’s Pediatrics. If your church would like to get involved with ROR please email Marlen Rodriguez marlen.rodriguez@ngrl.org.

To learn more about ROAR, please go to the following link:
http://daltondailycitizen.com/local/x182743450/Leaders-look-to-feed-reader-program