Candler County Hosts Public Service & Outreach Leadership Academy
On March 13th, the Candler County Archway Partnership Executive Committee hosted the 2014 PSO Leadership Academy delegates for lunch and an in-depth look at how the Archway Partnership functions at the community level. Guests were welcomed by Metter Mayor Billy Trapnell and Candler County Commission Chair Glyn Thrift who voiced the value of Archway in providing a forum for community leaders to develop and implement strategic vision for advancement. Archway Executive Committee Co-Chairs Dustin Durden and Steven Snell shared with the group the origins of how the community began to consider Archway and the impact of the community listening sessions on work priorities in Candler County.

Candler Archway Professional Attends Economic Development Academy
Candler County Archway Professional Betsy McGriff was nominated by the Candler Industrial Authority to attend the Region 9 class of the Georgia Academy for Economic Development. The Academy, which meets in four sessions, focuses on the fundamentals of community, leadership, and economic development. The 2014 session for Region 9 began on February 19th and runs through May.

Candler Archway Partnership Joins Regional Resource Team
On March 11th, the inaugural meeting of the PSO Coastal Regional Resource Team was held at the Skidaway Institute of Oceanography near Savannah. The stated purpose of the group is to pilot a more structured, coordinated approach to UGA’s various outreach initiatives in Southeast Georgia. Group members, which represent SBDC, CVIOG, Archway, Marine Extension, and Cooperative Extension will meet monthly to share community challenges and opportunities and develop strategies for cross-disciplinary efforts to address them.

Candler County Industrial Authority Explores GRAD Certification for I-16 Industrial Park
As surrounding communities begin to grow industrial parks along the Interstate 16 corridor, Candler County Industrial Authority is exploring avenues to enhance the value of its existing site. With the assistance of Archway Professional Betsy McGriff, the Authority is in the process of determining whether pursuing GRAD certification is feasible. McGriff has engaged resources from Georgia Southern University’s Department of Geology, as well as the Department of Archeology to assist with the identification of potential cultural, historical, and endangered species on the site.

Archway Facilitates Conversation on Vacant School Facilities
On February 27th, Candler County Archway Professional Betsy McGriff facilitated a meeting with representatives from the City of Metter, Candler County Board of Education, Candler County 21st Century After School Program, Georgia Department of Community Affairs, and The Gymnastics Place to explore potential repurposing of the soon to be vacated Metter Middle School site. The Gymnastics Place expressed interest in forming a public-private partnership in order to secure gymnasium space in Metter to provide private gymnastic programming as well as develop recreation-style programming.