BOE Seeks Charter System Input from Archway Group
The June meeting of the Candler County Executive Board was devoted to a single subject – Charter Systems. Dr. Tom Bigwood and Dr. Bubba Longgrear educated the group on the benefits of seeing Charter designation. Their presentation was followed by a question and answer period hosted by Jerry Bell, Superintendent, Hart County Schools, and Hart County Archway Professional Ilka McConnell. McConnell and Bell discussed how the Charter System process happened in Hart County and stressed the importance of community input to the process. The meeting closed with a charge from Dr. Bigwood to all Executive Committee members to serve on one of two committees (Educational Innovations or College and Career Pathway Development) and make recommendations to be presented at the August meeting.

UGA Grady College of Journalism student builds bylaw for Candler County Recreation Advisory Board
On July 1st, the Metter-Candler Recreation Department began a new era; as part of a new intergovernmental agreement, Candler County assumed the Department. County Manager Bill Lindsey tapped Archway graduate assistant Rosanna Cruz, from UGA’s School of Public and International Affairs and the Grady College of Journalism, to draft by-laws for the to-be-formed Recreation Advisory Board. Draft by-laws were submitted to the Board of Commissioners for their consideration at their meeting on July 7th.

Community Web Portal Recommendations Presented in Candler
Dr. Elizabeth Davis presented a report on recommendations for a revitalized online present at the July 8th Candler County Executive Committee meeting. The report was compiled by Dr. Davis’ Writing for the Web and Technical Writing classes during Spring Semester 2014. The classes were tasked with developing recommendations for a community web portal that would replace the aging and non-functional City of Metter website at metter-candler.com. Students were asked to consider the theme “Everything’s Better in Metter” and to structure their recommendations to maximize use of the well-known slogan. Additionally they made recommendations on tweaks to the Candler County Industrial Authority website that would help it tie in with the community portal. They also gave a strategic plan for social media presence. The report was well received by the community and will be used to guide a professional web developer in development of everythingsbetterinmetter.com.

CED Summer Interns Present Design Concepts
On July 8th, members of the were presented with the final designs for a trio of summer projects – Jaycee Park Design, Welcome Center Candler Beautification and Branding Issue Work Group, along with several members of the Executive Committee Frontage Design, and MetterMoves Walking Trail Maps. The redesign of the Welcome Center frontage will incorporate the gateway signage suggested by Emily Hunt’s Spring 2014 project and suggests additional picnic seating, native plantings, and redesigned parking and walking areas. The design implementation will be addressed through a GDEcD Tourism Product Development Grant, which will be applied for in July 2014. The MetterMoves project mapped three currently used walking routes through downtown Metter. It also included suggestions for information kiosks, beautification efforts to consider along the current routes and set the stage for Phase II of the project which proposes an historic walking tour.