**Metter Middle School Integrated STEM Projects**

T. J. Kopcha, assistant professor of Learning Design and Technology (PSO Faculty Fellow) and Archway Doctoral Assistant Lenie George met with teachers from Metter Middle School during their Professional Learning Community sessions. In a session facilitated by MMS Assistant Principal Monicca Bohannon, Kopcha and George helped teachers to think about how to apply STEM principals to service learning projects they were already doing. The session resulted in technology-integrated lesson plans for each grade level. Sixth graders will create an on-site a recycling program, seventh graders will research social issues related to the local elderly population, and eighth graders will develop a plan to address gaps left by the loss of the 21st Century afterschool program. While the sixth grade project clearly falls within the STEM framework, the others contain strong math components including statistical analysis, budgeting and the scientific method.

**Metter Moves Seeks Public Input**

On Sept. 30, Archway Graduate Students Emily Hunt (MLA/MEPD) and Katherine Wargo (MPH) met with members of a ladies dance class in Metter in an attempt to determine what they perceived as motivators and barriers to exercise. Participants were asked to identify all barriers and motivators then rank them in order of impact. They were also given links to an online survey that helped them identify and rank the attractiveness of exercise opportunities and how they prefer to learn about available programs and classes. These results will serve a two-fold purpose in the community – guiding the promotion channels of fitness opportunities and providing a gap-analysis of missing but desired programs – both of which will be incorporated into the Candler County Recreation Strategic Plan.

**Archway & CVIOG Partner to Train Local School Councils**

As the Candler County School District transitions to a Charter System, they will appoint School Governance Councils, which will take on increasing levels of responsibility. The responsibilities of the council members will require that they receive extensive training. CVIOG will equip them to handle issues proactively and mitigate the potential threats and challenges facing a school system. Training topics will include budgeting process, effective decision making, hiring practices and human resources protocols, and others.

**Candler Completes Target Industry Analysis**

In an effort to target its economic development efforts, the Candler County Archway Partnership engaged The University of Georgia Director of Economic Development Sean McMillan. McMillan provided a logistics industry snapshot of the county for review by the Development Authority. Additionally, he connected the community with Page Siplon, Executive Director for the Georgia Centers of Innovation, who will be able to provide further guidance for maximizing marketing to this sector.