Library Opens Learning and Technology Training Center
In 2013, the Northwest Georgia Regional Library asked the Dalton-Whitfield Archway Partnership for assistance in creating a Workforce Development Center in the ground level of the Dalton library. With an eye towards a promising grant opportunity, the library specifically asked for help developing a functional design plan for the space that would utilize existing resources and amenities but create a bright new space for learning.

In response to that request, Associate Director and Interior Design Chair of the Lamar Dodd School of Art, Thom Houser, volunteered for the task. Dr. Houser traveled to Dalton in December to meet with library staff and tour the area contemplated for the redesign. He then returned to Athens, where he and Linda Floyd, Northwest Georgia Regional Library Director, continued their work long-distance. In February, Professor Houser returned to Dalton to share the final plans with Linda Floyd and Library Board Chair, Tangela Johnson.

“The plans far exceeded our expectations, including every element we had requested while allowing the space to flow seamlessly,” said Linda Floyd. “The Library Board is very appreciative of everything Archway and Professor Houser have done to help facilitate this project!” Dr. Hauser’s plans were presented to an anonymous, generous donor who matched a state legislative approved allocation. Construction on the library began in summer 2014. On Sept. 30, 2014, the library held a ribbon cutting ceremony for the new facility. Dr. Houser, Archway Operations Coordinator Sue Chapman, and Archway Professional Melissa Lu represented the University of Georgia at the event.