Senior Design Project submitted through College of Engineering this November

RG Lamar, owner of Lamar Pecan, is requesting assistance from the UGA School of Engineering. In October, Mr. Lamar travelled to campus for meetings with the Archway Partnership and faculty in the College of Engineering. The purpose of his request is to modify an existing pecan cracker (preferable) or design a new device that will consistently crack pecans in such a manner that the pecan meat remains intact, and the shell of each nut is cracked to the same degree. Currently, the best available technology results in an inconsistent product that requires hand-culling. It is wasteful and expensive process. The goal of the project would be to produce a paper shell nut that, when cracked, is as easy as a pistachio or peanut to open by hand. This would allow the producer to brine, roast and package the nut product for the Chinese market. This project could have significant economic impact on the state. Currently, Georgia is the nation’s largest pecan producer generating over 88 million pounds. This is a third of the nation’s total and equivalent to about $486.9 million in 2012 (georgiainfo.galileo.uga.usg and agmrc.org). Lamar Pecan is one of Georgia’s largest producers and currently exports about 90% of its product to China for this purpose. In November, College of Engineering faculty member Tom Lawrence officially submitted this request for a spring senior design project.

Pulaski Tomorrow Adult and Youth Leadership Classes Begin in January

Facilitator training for 23 new Leadership class facilitators was completed in Hawkinsville in November and December. The Fanning Institute for Leadership Development prepared new facilitators to serve as community leaders by delivering updated training for two successful programs, Pulaski Tomorrow and Youth Leadership Academy. Potential facilitators were identified at a regional level as the successful programs seek to expand its participation to neighboring communities. Pulaski Tomorrow is entering its fifth year, and has prepared many participants for leadership roles in the community.

UGA English Class completes first phase of website redesign

University of Georgia faculty member Dr. Elizabeth Davis’ fall semester Technical Writing class is in the process of completing the first phase of a project to redesign four key community websites. This fall, students researched the existing sites for Pulaski County, Hawkinsville, United Pulaski (economic development) and the Chamber of Commerce. They created a cohesive look and feel for the new websites and organized a new framework that will be used in the design. Their organizational work and research will be used by Dr. Davis’ spring semester Writing for the Web class to create new content for the community that can be given directly to the site’s designers.