Advancing Sumter
Advancing Sumter, a community leadership development program, initiated through the local Sumter Archway Partnership with The University of Georgia Fanning Institute for Leadership, recently completed its second successful recruitment for the program resulting in a class of 19 individuals that will begin in January of 2015. Recruitment and selection was geared toward ensuring a diverse group of citizens participate without restrictions placed on age, gender, or educational attainment. The overall goal of the organization is to educate citizens who plan to remain in this community and provide leadership training that can be used in their jobs, civic clubs, churches, and volunteer or elected capacities. Of the 18 graduates of the 2014 program, six individuals furthered their education in leadership, accepted an appointment to a board, obtained a promotion or secured a new job.

Public Health Leadership Academy
Sumter County has assembled a team of four individuals collectively representing the public school system, private business, the justice system, mental health, higher education and non-profits to foster a culture of health in the community. Public Health and Leadership Development are two of the four priority focuses of the Sumter County Archway Partnership. Admission into the Public Health Leadership Academy is a competitive process. The Academy’s mission is to improve the health of Georgians by increasing the capacity of their leaders to transcend boundaries, work collaboratively and transform their communities. Sumter County ranks 142 out of a possible 159 counties in Health Factors.