Accomplishments

K-12 Model Workforce Training Program Update
For the last six months, the Sumter County Executive Committee has familiarized itself with workforce development models such as Southwire-12 for Life and the Great Promise Partnership. The Archway Partnership coordinated a presentation by the staff of the Georgia College and Career Academy program within the Technical College System of Georgia. Approximately 20 community stakeholders attended the two hour presentation hosted by the Americus - Sumter Payroll Development Authority.

Ongoing Efforts

Public Health Leadership Academy
Sumter County was selected as one of six communities to participate in the first Public Health Leadership Academy, a partnership between the UGA J.W. Fanning Institute for Leadership Development and the UGA College of Public Health. Sumter’s three person team, collectively representing the public school system, new charter school, Georgia Southwestern State University, and Southwest Georgia Children’s Alliance, started the program in March 2015 and will conclude after five on-campus sessions at UGA in November 2015. The Public Health Leadership Academy aims to create a collaborative approach to public health issues by expanding beyond the community organizations and individuals typically tasked with tackling these issues.

Sumter: Education Destination
The Sumter County Executive Committee requested information on best practices of marketing educational assets in Sumter County. Archway Partnership is utilizing a master’s and doctoral student from the Grady College of Journalism specializing in public relations for this project. Brittney Cain is a master’s student and Archway graduate assistant who is collecting press kits from Sumter schools and colleges as well as other institutions. She is in the process of making a list of commonly used educational promotional words, images that convey academic mission/vision and values and other background research. A graduate student from the Grady College is collecting “best practices” by comparing press kits from Sumter schools and colleges as well as other kits from other educational institutions from around the state. The student is in the process of making a list of commonly used educational promotional words, images that convey academic mission/vision and values, and other background research. Rosanna Cruz is the doctoral student and Archway graduate assistant who has created a 100-mile media list for future use in distributing press releases, media advisories, special articles, editorials, letters to the editor, and calendar announcements.

Airport Passenger Transportation Services Survey
Sumter Archway has been asked to research transportation services to connect Sumter County with the Columbus Airport, Albany Regional Airport, and Atlanta Hartsfield Airport as the need develops. UGA students working on this project may survey the community to determine if there is enough demand from citizens for leisure and professional travel. They may ask CEOs and managers what their business
travel requires. This study may also explore how other communities have responded in order to
determine how Sumter can feasibly meet this transportation need. Students could also query private
transportation companies to see if Sumter could be added to an established route.

Two students from the Terry College of Business are preparing a report in air transportation options for
residents and businesses in Sumter County. This study is building upon the prior student project of
collecting basic airport data.

**CHNA Assistance for Phoebe Sumter Medical Center**

Phoebe Sumter Medical Center, in preparation for the 2016 Community Health Needs Assessment, is
seeking interview assistance, data analysis, and implementation plan development. Archway graduate
assistant Sabrina Cherry from the UGA College of Public Health is assisting with this project. She is in the
process of analyzing personal interviews to identify health and wellness trends and themes.

**Mulcoa Mill Dust Engineering Project**

The Americus - Sumter Payroll Development Authority has requested assistance for the Mulcoa / CE
Mineral plant in Andersonville. Mulcoa has a waste product called "TA dust" or thermal airway dust that
is generated during the calcining phase of their bauxite mining process. Approximately 5,000 tons per
year of TA dust is generated at the entrance of each kiln. They currently stockpile the material and use
only a fraction of it in various applications. TA dust holds value in that it has high aluminum
concentrations and it has been through the entire mining and milling process. It potentially could be
used as a thermal refractory in some capacity with these unique qualities. The UGA College of
Engineering has a student team working to research possible uses for the TA dust that could be
profitable for the company. Any application identified must be economical with potential for profitable
return. If a new use or a purpose for the TA dust can be identified it will diversify Mulcoa’s operation
and result in job creation.

**Looking forward**

**Wayfinding Education**

The Sumter County Archway Partnership is facilitating with the City of Americus, Sumter County, and the
Georgia DOT to adopt and implement a new community-wide “Way-Finding Signage Plan.” The goal is to
assist tourists in finding prominent sites in the county once they arrive, from Andersonville in the east to
Plains in the west. There are many ideas, ranging from roadside signage to sidewalk signage for
pedestrians. The group wants signage that is cohesive and uses consistent coloring and format so there
is always subtle recognition. Once a plan is established, both the city and county would help with
implementation by requiring others to follow – as much as law allows. They want signage that is
recognizable, clean, and fresh in design. Due to staffing vacancies at the Chamber and Downtown
Development/Tourism Sumter stakeholders asked if this project could be postponed until spring 2016.
Archway Partnership Operations Coordinator Sharon Liggett will facilitate this program.

**Wayfinding Plan**

A Wayfinding Plan is desired to promote the establishment of historic markers and a beautification plan
for the nine major ingress / egress points in Sumter County and the city of Americus. This plan would
include cohesive signage, such as the major viaduct signage; it would account for historic topics as
appropriate; and it would direct visitors to stop in Sumter County. The idea came from that fact that one
could drive down U.S. Highway 19 headed south and never be informed to stop and visit the
community. Signs at the viaduct have been installed, but more consistent signs are needed around the county. The group wants to use the concepts developed by the former Downtown Development Director, and remain consistent with materials and such if it makes sense. That is more of a city entrance sign than a county one, but they need them to be cohesive. Due to staffing vacancies at the Chamber and Downtown Development/Tourism Sumter stakeholders asked if this project could be postponed until spring 2016. The College of Environment and Design has agreed to this project.

**Sumter Leadership Program Graduates Dashboard**

Building on the work of Mark Huber’s MIS 2014-2015 class for the Sumter County SOWEGA CASA Community Resource Guide, the fall 2015 MIS class will use the same infrastructure to build a searchable database of Sumter County Leadership Program Graduates. This database can be used for a variety of purposes including: tracking leadership activities and engagement post-training, recruiting graduates for local nonprofit boards, promoting leadership development training, and fostering civic engagement. Huber has assigned one student team to this project and will begin in October.