**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 has transcribed and compiled personal interviews to identify health and wellness trends and themes. This interview data has summarized onto an excel spread sheet. A power point presentation is also being created.

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.

Advancing Sumter Leadership Development Program
Mary Alice Applegate, the Sumter County Archway Professional, is providing facilitation and programmatic assistance for Advancing Sumter, a community-based leadership development program. The program is focused on equipping citizens with skills to enable them to be future leaders in our community through their churches, homes, jobs, civic organizations, appointed board positions, and more.

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.

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**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 the 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.