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THANKS TO YOU and the support of our many partners across Georgia and the University of Georgia, the Archway Partnership has had another great year. In the following pages, you will see how the direct connection to higher education resources through the Archway Partnership helps the communities we serve address critical issues and needs. In addition, you will see how the Archway Partnership is enhancing instruction and research at UGA by providing real-world learning opportunities for students and directly linking faculty to research opportunities on high-priority and challenging community needs.

In 2018, the Archway Partnership received a national Award of Excellence from the University Economic Development Association for our work with Taylor Regional Hospital in Pulaski County. Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the entire Archway team, and the UGA College of Public Health, the hospital was able to complete its Community Health Needs Assessment, retain its nonprofit status and remain open to serving the area. The hospital took the results from the assessment and opened a walk-in clinic, which drove down traffic in the emergency room by 10 percent, saving the hospital critical dollars.

There are many more examples of success, and I am continually impressed by the impact our unit has on the communities we serve. I am also honored to lead such a dedicated team of faculty, staff, and students working to make a positive difference. With your continued support, I am confident that we will be able to keep meeting and exceeding our goals and improving the lives of Georgians.

Thank you, and GO DAWGS!

ROB GORDON | Director, Archway Partnership
The Archway Partnership was honored to receive the Award of Excellence from the University Economic Developers Association (UEDA) for its work in Pulaski County to save Taylor Regional Hospital from closing and to improve medical services. Sam Perren and Michelle Elliott traveled to Wisconsin for the conference and to receive the award. The spirit and dedication of all those involved in UEDA is truly contagious and the experience will help to improve our work both in the community and at the University.

Congratulations to Archway Professionals Kristen Miller, Sam Perren and Anna Strickland who graduated from the UGA Public Service and Outreach Facilitation Academy. Archway Partnership Operations Coordinator Angel Jackson served as a faculty mentor for this year’s cohort, which ran from January through October. The Facilitation Academy is a professional development program that provides a select number of diverse faculty and staff the opportunity to cultivate effective facilitation, leadership and presentation skills.

Operations Coordinator Sharon Liggett was named as interim co-director for the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing (GICH) in June. GICH helps communities improve quality of life and economic growth through the development of local housing and revitalization strategies. Sharon has been a community facilitator for GICH since 2014 and became a statewide planning committee member in 2016.

Program Coordinator Rosanna Cruz-Bibb was selected as mentor of the year for the Legacy Youth Mentoring organization in Jackson County. Each school in the county selects a mentor of the year, then from that group, an overall mentor is chosen. It was her second year in a row being chosen as mentor of the year for the school in which she serves. There are over 200 mentors in the organization, and Rosanna said she was honored to be chosen.
### Alumni Updates

**Mario Cambardella | Landscape Architecture & Environmental Planning and Design**

After graduating from UGA, Mario was the co-founder and CEO of Urban Agriculture, a firm that specialized in planning, design, and construction management of farms for commercial, municipal, and residential clients.

Mario was named as the City of Atlanta’s first urban agriculture director in 2015. Cambardella sees the value of urban agriculture as part of a bigger picture. “It’s about more than just lettuce. It’s the kids coming to play and learn; it’s all these forces for good that create growth and cultural understanding. What’s coming out of the ground has so much value.”

**Carter Burns | Historic Preservation**

Following graduation, Carter became the Executive Director of the Historic Natchez Foundation in Mississippi. Carter enjoys the job because every day brings new challenges. “No two days are ever the same,” said Burns. “All of our work contributes to improving the quality of life in Natchez.”

For Carter, one of the highlights of his work at Archway was exploring parts of Georgia beyond Athens and applying lessons from the classroom in the real world. His favorite assignments involved helping communities find new uses for historic buildings. “Retaining and using its historic assets is an advantage to any community.”

**Caroline Davis | Public Administration**

Caroline works as an Economic Development Specialist in the City of Sandy Springs providing support to the local business community. Working with Archway set her up for success in her career by providing opportunities to work on various types of research, as well as giving her a platform to present her work in the communities.

“This allowed me to grow as a public speaker and feel more comfortable bringing bold ideas to the table. The long–lasting gift Archway provided me is the confidence to know that I am capable of any task.”

**Daniel Easley | Graphic Design**

Easley’s first job after his time at UGA was as a Graphic Designer at Hodges-Mace in Sandy Springs, but he has recently started a new job with the Atlanta Braves as a Creative Department Trainee. With the Braves, he’s enjoying making designs for Braves fans and working for an organization he’s passionate about.

Easley said what he learned at Archway has definitely helped him in his career so far. The two years of working on real world projects was beneficial for growing his portfolio and showcasing thoughtful projects.

He hopes to work on more branding and illustration work and hopefully one day become a full–time freelancer.

**Kristen Hill Gorham | Public Administration**

After graduation, Kristen worked as a Strategic Planner in Gainesville, Florida and also as a Grant Compliance Officer in Jacksonville. She is now back in Georgia as the Senior Management Analyst for the City of Chamblee. She is responsible for special projects, including capital programs and strategic initiatives.

Kristen said her time at Archway helped prepare her for her career and noted the diversity of projects. “Historical preservation, water resource management, branding, social media, and workforce development initiatives were all different areas in which I had the opportunity to gain useful experience. That has really made an impact on my ability to handle diverse issues in my career,” said Gorham.

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**Joe Fretwell | Public Administration and Policy**

Following graduation, Fretwell started a job with the Georgia Department of Community Affairs in Atlanta. At DCA, he serves as a Policy Analyst for the Deputy Commissioner for Housing who oversees funding programs for affordable housing development and financial assistance. He also manages DCA’s involvement in the Georgia Initiative for Community Housing.

“The Archway model taught me that the ability to listen is perhaps the most important tenant of public service, and I hope my career will allow for engagement with people and places we often forget.”
WHO WE ARE

Rob Gordon
Director

Rob is the director of the University of Georgia’s Archway Partnership. As director, Rob leads a public service and outreach unit dedicated to helping communities across the state address a wide range of locally-identified community and economic development priorities. Through its work, the Archway Partnership directly serves communities, supports faculty research on important community-based issues and provides students with real-world learning opportunities.

Prior to his appointment to UGA faculty, Rob practiced law at King & Spalding LLP in Atlanta and then at Troutman Sanders LLP in Richmond, Virginia, where he served as bond and underwriter’s counsel for nearly $4 billion in tax-exempt and taxable financings.

Rob holds affiliated faculty status in the UGA School of Public and International Affairs where he teaches courses on public finance and economic development in the Masters of Public Administration program.

Rob earned his juris doctorate with honors from The George Washington University Law School and his bachelor’s degree in finance from the University of Georgia. Prior to attending law school, Rob served the U.S. Department of State as a special agent with the Diplomatic Security Service. His assignments included the San Francisco field office, the U.S. Embassy in Tirana, Albania, and the protective detail for Secretaries of State Madeline K. Albright and Colin L. Powell. Rob is a graduate of the Leadership Georgia class of 2013.

Michelle Elliott
Operations Coordinator

Michelle joined the Archway Partnership in 2011 and currently serves as the Operations Coordinator for Colquitt, McDuffie, Pulaski and Washington counties. In this role, she works with the Archway Professional in each community, connecting them to the resources of the University, to address issues local leaders have identified.

Angel Jackson
Operations Coordinator

Angel joined the Archway Partnership in January of 2010. She currently serves as an Operations Coordinator and oversees Archway operations in Hart and Spalding (and previously in Candler and Whitfield) Counties, working closely with public service units, colleges and schools at UGA and other higher education institutions.

Sharon Liggett
Operations Coordinator

Sharon joined the Archway Partnership in January 2012. As an Operations Coordinator, she oversees Archway operations in Grady (and previously Sumter) County, working closely with public service units, colleges, and schools at UGA and other higher education institutions.
Sarah Adams
Archway Professional
Colquitt County
Sarah serves as the Archway Professional for Colquitt County, the Archway Partnership’s very first community. Sarah joined Archway in February of 2018 after working for UGA’s College of Public Health as part of the Workplace Health Group both in Athens and in Moultrie, Georgia for three years.

Sam Perren
Archway Professional
McDuffie County
Sam joined the Archway Partnership in 2017 and currently serves as the Archway Professional in McDuffie County. Prior to joining Archway, Sam worked with the Middle Georgia Regional Commission, where he focused on a variety of local government assistance projects.

Conni Fennell-Burley
Archway Professional
Washington County
Conni joined the Archway Partnership in January 2016 and serves as the Archway Professional for Washington County. Conni is a graduate of the J.W. Fanning Institute’s “Leadership Georgia” program, the Georgia Academy of Economic Development and UGA’s Public Service and Outreach Facilitation Academy. She is currently pursuing a Master’s in Public Administration.

Baker Owens
Public Relations Coordinator
Baker serves as Archway’s Public Relations Coordinator, helping to spread awareness of the work of the Archway Partnership across the state. He joined Archway in October of 2018.

Rosanna Cruz-Bibb
Program Coordinator
Rosanna is the Archway Partnership’s Program Coordinator. She is also a fifth year Ph.D. candidate in the Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication. Her diverse background in public relations and nonprofit work has allowed her to serve Georgia communities with the Archway Partnership for the last six years specializing in community based public relations initiatives.

Anna Strickland
Archway Professional
Hart County
Anna joined the Archway team in January of 2017 as the Archway Professional in Hart County. She graduated in May of 2017 with an MAL (Agricultural Leadership) from UGA’s College of Agriculture and Environmental Sciences. Prior to joining Archway, Anna worked for the Georgia Agribusiness Council and as a 4-H agent in Crisp County.

Kristen Miller
Archway Professional
Spalding County
Kristen joined the Archway Partnership in 2015 and serves as the Archway Professional in Griffin-Spalding County. Prior to joining Archway, Kristen solely directed the development, implementation, and maintenance of a comprehensive internal and external resource development plan for Southern Crescent Technical College, located in Griffin.
Community Resource Guide

In 2016, Metter-Candler County identified Poverty and Crime as a new priority area for their Archway Partnership work plan. The result was a focus on identifying local resources in the community that could be of assistance to people in need. Work sessions were organized by the Archway Partnership to bring together local non-profits, service providers, law enforcement, health care provider, and the school system to identify resources to be included in the final resource guide. After three meetings, a comprehensive list of local resources was created and organized into sections, including medical services, child and youth services, food security and churches. The Candler County Resource Guide was printed and shared among organizations in the community and published to an online platform.

“Over the five years that Candler County was an Archway community, we saw our community come together in ways we never thought possible. The impact of the Archway Partnership will be felt in Candler County for many years to come. What is immeasurable, however, is the impact our community may have had on the vast amount of students that came here to either stop for a visit or to work on a project. We can only hope that our community helped them as much as they did us.”

DUSTIN DURDEN
CANDLER COUNTY ARCHWAY PARTNERSHIP CO-CHAIR

Fine Arts Partnership

The Fine Arts Partnership was an idea that stemmed from administrators and faculty within the Metter-Candler County School System to revitalize the arts community in Candler County. The Archway Partnership facilitated initial conversations with representatives from across the community, within Metter-Candler County, and the Averitt Center for the Arts in Statesboro. The result was the creation of the Candler County Arts Council that continues to meet monthly. This group has hosted local performances, concerts in the park, and an innovative Agriculture Arts Festival.
Candler Graduates from the Archway Partnership

The Metter–Candler Archway Partnership began in July 2013 and successfully continued through June 2018. Over those five years, 75 projects were completed using resources from 10 different schools and colleges at UGA plus additional connections from three public service units from within the university. More than 150 student connections and 81 faculty collaborations completed a range of projects and addressed many priority areas. In addition, approximately 200 students visited Metter–Candler County to learn more about rural Georgia and see a community which they may not have otherwise visited. Local funding partners for the Candler Archway Executive Committee included the City of Metter, Candler County, Metter–Candler Chamber of Commerce, Candler County Board of Education and the Metter–Candler Industrial Development Authority. Throughout the five years, Steven Snell and Dustin Durden co-chaired the Executive Committee.
Colquitt County Strong Interest Inventory Survey

Thanks to the generosity of a local donor, the Archway Partnership worked with the UGA Career Center to provide 30 current students and recent graduates of Colquitt County High School an opportunity to take the Strong Interest Inventory, a survey designed to help students understand how their interests align with potential career fields. The UGA Career Center provided each student with a personalized interpretation of their results. Feedback was very positive; 100 percent of students reported that they would recommend the Strong Interest Inventory to their peers. The top actions that students planned to take after receiving the results of their assessment and attending the interpretation session were: 1) pursue one of the suggested majors at a university or college; 2) talk to their parents or guardians; and 3) research other majors and careers.

Annual Archway Leadership Summit Celebrates HPL Graduates

The annual Archway Leadership Summit honored this year’s graduating class of High Potential Leaders (HPL). The event is held each spring and highlights the connection between the Archway Partnership and Colquitt County. The summit also serves as a platform for local leaders to meet, share ideas and become invested in the current and future events happening in
their community. Archway initiated the HPL program to provide mentoring opportunities between existing and upcoming leaders in Colquitt County. The HPL board honored eight graduates this year.

**PCOM Housing Study**

As Colquitt County prepares for the arrival of the Philadelphia College of Osteopathic Medicine (PCOM) campus, housing information was gathered from a comparable medical school community to help guide community planners. The survey data was condensed and presented in a flyer so that it was readily available to provide information that may benefit those preparing for PCOM. Visual graphics represented crucial data such as the number of roommates, housing types, rent and utility prices, amenities and student expectations.

**New Archway Professional**

Sarah Adams began her role as the Archway Professional for Colquitt County in February. Sarah is an Athens native and completed both her Bachelor’s degree in Health Promotion and Behavior (2009) and a Masters in Public Health (2012) at UGA. Sarah has many fond memories as a student, including playing the trumpet in the Redcoat Marching Band all four years as an undergraduate. She is eager to serve her new home and alma mater in her role.

“"The PCOM housing study is a perfect example of how Archway works behind the scenes to produce a much needed study to project the housing needs for the PCOM faculty, staff, and students. This study will be used by local officials, realtors, developers, and contractors as a guideline to match existing housing inventory to future needs, including both the kinds of housing and the proximity of the housing to the PCOM campus.""

CHIP BLALOCK
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
SUNBELT AGRICULTURAL EXPOSITION
Cairo High School Athletic Complex and South Campus Makeover

The Grady County School System requested a multi-faceted improvement project for the high school. This request included relocation of the existing track to comply with state competition standards, renovation of softball and baseball fields, a Jackie Robinson commemorative mural and garden, the design of a new bell tower, improved campus signage, a makeover for parking areas and a vehicle circulation plan on campus. A 20-page plan to meet these needs was created by UGA students from the College of Environment and Design and the geography department in the Franklin College of Arts and Sciences and presented to the Board of Education.

Intergovernmental Retreats: A new day for collaboration

Representatives from Grady County, the cities of Cairo and Whigham, Grady County School Board, Tired Creek Lake Authority, Joint Development Authority and the Cairo-Grady County Chamber of Commerce began meeting quarterly for conversations facilitated by the UGA Carl Vinson Institute of Government (CVIOG). What started as a conversation on development possibilities at Tired Creek Lake soon evolved into discussions of broader issues. Participants noted that this was the first time where all parties came together to share concerns and seek common ground for the whole community.

New Tourism Tools for Economic Development

The Cairo–Grady County Chamber of Commerce wanted to promote local visitor amenities and requested students and faculty to develop a tourism survey. However, some sites required assistance to become tourist-ready. UGA students and faculty from numerous disciplines – historic preservation, landscape architecture, public administration, interior design,
botany, art, and geography - participated in these many projects. Work done at the Pope Store included garden restoration design, museum preservation and National Historic Trust designation. Interior design and historic preservation assessment work were done at the Birdsong Plantation Barn.

**An Analysis of Grady County’s Solid Waste Management Plan**

Illegal dumping and unsightly waste collection areas in 42 locations across the county have long been a concern of residents and commissioners. Additionally, the landfill was about to close as it had reached maximum capacity. Six faculty from Archway and CVIOG, five Master of Public Administration students (who were government officials from South Korea), and one geography student prepared a comprehensive study of solid waste disposal options for the county commission. The analysis reviewed options, including building a new landfill, contracting with a neighboring landfill, reducing tonnage through recycling and education, reducing the number of collection sites, staffing collection sites and curbside pickup.

**Grady General Hospital Expansion Engineering Site Plan**

For their year-long capstone projects, seniors from the College of Engineering developed a plan for a long-term care facility adjacent to the medical center. The project included designing a proposed 108-bed facility as well as engineering plans for the site. It laid the groundwork for the hospital to apply to the Georgia Department of Community Health, Healthcare Facility Regulation Division which is responsible for administering the Certificate of Need Program that evaluates proposals for new or expanded health care services or facilities under Georgia’s Health Planning Statute.
ACTIVE COMMUNITIES

Hart
Poverty Task Force Takes Action

In the fall of 2017, a Poverty Task Force was initiated to rekindle collaboration among nonprofit agencies addressing the needs of citizens. It was kicked off with a Reflective Structured Dialogue in October 2017. The task force continued to meet at least every other month with 20–30 individuals representing a variety of agencies. Each subgroup (education; health and wellness; housing and utilities; financial literacy; and food insecurity) operates independently with a strategic work plan. Local partners have taken ownership of the process.

Partnership for Public Art

Businesses and organizations around downtown Hartwell are displaying the first sailboats from the public art project by the Leadership Hart Class of 2015. Each sailboat is entirely locally sourced and local artists designed and painted the boats. Fabritex, Inc. produced the stands, and Atlantic South Plastics manufactured the boats. Proceeds benefit the Leadership Hart program and The Art Center.

Promoting Shop Local Initiatives

Students from UGA’s Grady College of Journalism and Mass Communication, Lamar Dodd School of Art, and the College of Environment and Design partnered with the City of Hartwell to create the Hartwell Retail and Restaurant Downtown Walking Tour brochure. This publication promotes “shop local” initiatives among both community members and visitors to Hartwell.

Students Aid Community in Rural Placemaking Project

One of the ways the Archway Partnership helps rural communities is by equipping them with tools to make informed decisions. As part of a larger rural placemaking project for the town of Bowersville, UGA’s College of Environment and Design students Mary Mathis, Keely McDonald and Ian Rossiter presented a comprehensive proposal for the community to consider as they make plans to develop a park in downtown Bowersville.

“The Hart County Industrial Building Authority’s reason for being is to create jobs, investment, and wealth for the citizens of Hart County and [the] surrounding area. Our mission extends further by helping promote financial wellness and education, which will help all local area citizens rise above poverty and benefit from long-term prosperity.”

DWAYNE DYE
DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AT HART COUNTY INDUSTRIAL BUSINESS AUTHORITY AND POVERTY TASK FORCE MEMBER
McDuffie

“The Archway Partnership and their well-tested model of strategic problem solving has great potential for Thomson-McDuffie. This process essentially puts the best and brightest of the entire UGA system to work as needed, right here in our community..., with a well trained professional in the middle, keeping the ball rolling. Big things are ahead for us as an Archway partner. ”

DON POWERS
CITY MANAGER OF THOMSON
Thomson–McDuffie Archway Partnership Holds Listening Sessions

On October 19, 2017, nearly 200 community leaders and interested residents from Thomson, Dearing and McDuffie County participated in listening sessions to discuss the issues and priorities important to their community and economic development. Participants discussed trends, forces and factors facing the county, while UGA facilitators documented the feedback. The listening session is the first step in the Archway Partnership process, providing a forum for the community to set its initial priorities. Archway faculty and student workers partnered with the J.W. Fanning Institute for Leadership Development to develop a listening session report. The Executive Committee used the report to create the initial work plan for the Thomson–McDuffie Archway Partnership.

Work Plan Retreat

The Thomson–McDuffie Archway Executive Committee held its first Work Plan Retreat on December 8, 2017. Participants included representatives from government, education, businesses and community service organizations. The group worked with Archway faculty to analyze demographic information about their community, study the listening session report and discuss potential priority areas for the group to work on together in the years to come.

Selection of Initial Priority Areas

After the Work Plan Retreat, the Executive Committee used the listening session report and demographic information about the community to refine its list of priorities to four areas: Community Image and Communication, Education and Workforce Development, Health and Wellness, and Leadership. The Archway Professional will work with local work groups organized around each of these priority areas. Issue work groups will serve as champions for community projects and provide recommendations for projects to the Executive Committee. On March 22, 2018, Archway faculty held update meetings to share the priority areas with the community, provide residents with an overview of the listening session report and begin recruiting members for issue work groups.

Asset Photography

Stemming from the Community Image and Communication priority area, one of the first projects identified by the Executive Committee was the need to have up-to-date, high-quality photographs of significant assets in the community. Archway graduate students and staff traveled to McDuffie County to photograph essential structures in the area, tourism assets and community events. Community organizations can now use these photographs in marketing and public relations materials.
Young Pulaski County Leaders Visit State Capitol and UGA campus

Pulaski Tomorrow youth leadership students visited UGA in March. Students toured campus and learned about the college admissions process. The tour capped off another successful year of youth leadership facilitated by LIFE League. The Pulaski Tomorrow leadership programs were some of the first initiatives of the Pulaski County Archway Partnership. The Hawkinsville and Pulaski County communities leveraged Pulaski Tomorrow to develop a new generation of student and adult leaders and encourage people to become more involved in shaping their community.

Animal Shelter Best Practices

Archway graduate assistant Caroline Davis, from UGA’s School of Public and International Affairs, researched animal shelter best practices for the City of Hawkinsville in the spring of 2018. The community has been working on upgrading its animal shelter and has renewed its focus on finding homes for dogs and cats. The guide details operations and management practices and provides recommendations for fundraising and adoption campaigns. Volunteers and city staffers have been working together to refurbish the local shelter and implement ideas from the guide.

Four for the Future

This year, Hawkinsville-Pulaski County was selected as a Four for the Future award recipient for accomplishments facilitated through the Archway Partnership. Each year, Georgia Trend magazine, in cooperation with UGA Public Service and Outreach, recognizes four communities from around the state with this award. Recipients are selected for demonstrating collaboration, leadership and strategic planning. The selection committee highlighted the community’s efforts in leadership development, youth outreach, and healthcare in the article published in Georgia Trend.
**Literacy Guide**

As part of efforts to prepare kids for school and avoid the summer loss of knowledge, Archway Partnership students worked with the local Family Connections office to create and distribute a literacy guide. This colorful guide was designed to assist parents by providing suggested books, websites and tips for the many stages of childhood development.

“Reading with your child is important, both before they start school and throughout their time in school. The Literacy Guide developed by Archway helps parents find age-appropriate ways to support their child’s learning.”

STACI VICKERS
ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT
PULASKI COUNTY SCHOOLS
City and County Address
State of Local Housing

The City of Griffin, Spalding County and the Griffin Housing Authority held a town hall event in July 2018 to provide updates on the current state of housing in their areas, an overview of the nuisance abatement program and a synopsis of the 2017 housing study. This event was a follow-up to the Griffin+Spalding Archway Partnership Intergovernmental Retreat held in February. Housing was a top priority community stakeholders wanted to take on in 2018.

Carver Road Park Project

Spalding County requested assistance in the development of site plans for a new park facility to meet the needs of the immediate neighborhoods within walking distance of the Carver Road area. They hope for community activity centers, a dog park, trails, soccer practice fields and a playground. UGA’s College of Engineering students provided site designs for the recreational area. Currently under construction, the park will be completed in the fall of 2019. Also, 2018 Leadership Griffin+Spalding class members took on the dog park as their impact project for the year and raised money for fencing and an agility course.

City of Griffin Trail Project

The City of Griffin asked the Archway Partnership to assist with a master trail plan that incorporates trails throughout the city, connecting to neighborhoods and parks within the city limits. The city wanted more interconnected walking, running and biking trails. Griffin also needed assistance with looking at easement connectivity, current easements it already owns and researching new easements required. UGA College of Environment and Design students designed a 12-mile linear parkway that encircles Griffin. On its completion,
the trail will connect neighborhoods, education centers, city parks, the historic downtown and forgotten stream corridors. Several parks are located along the path and will serve as trailheads, providing user amenities, parking and public restroom facilities. This project has been incorporated into the city’s future comprehensive plan and promotes Griffin as a city to live, work and play in.

Zero to Five Initiative Logo

The Griffin+Spalding County School System (GSCS)’s Zero to Five Initiative worked with Daniel Easley, a graduating senior from UGA’s Lamar Dodd School of Art, on its logo and branding. The GSCS Zero to Five Initiative identifies, prioritizes and addresses the needs of children from birth to age five, helping them enter school ready for kindergarten. One of the primary objectives is to partner with local daycares and preschools to align efforts of supporting children’s early development and preparation for success in school.
Recognized as an “incredible facility and a top asset in Washington County,” the Agricultural Center has also been identified as an underutilized asset for the Washington County community. A group of leaders from the Washington County Farm Bureau and the Washington County Extension office reached out to the Archway Partnership to assist with an analysis and plan for growing, renovating, and building the presence and utilization of the center. The most significant event of the 6,000 square feet facility has traditionally been the annual Washington County Agricultural and Youth Fair, but the group recognized the opportunity and need for additional events. MBA graduate assistants Drew Chaplain and Binh Dao met with leaders of the center and worked to draft a plan. Chaplain presented a 22-page report detailing opportunities for growth and improvement, along with multiple ideas and contacts for additional information. The group has since begun implementation.

City of Tennille Water and Wastewater Optimization Study

In an ongoing effort to analyze and improve water and wastewater systems, the City of Tennille partnered with the Archway Partnership and UGA’s College of Engineering to complete an optimization study on the city’s water and wastewater systems. Three students from the College of Engineering chose the project as their senior capstone project and made frequent on-site visits to meet with the mayor of Tennille and the manager of the treatment facility and to research the treatment facility’s utilization and configuration. Following a year of study and analysis, the student team presented a 71-page report featuring analysis, recommendations, and designs for the optimization of the wastewater treatment facility.
Workforce Development and Generational Differences

In a true collaboration, the Washington County School District and the business and industry leaders of Washington County have combined efforts to focus on Education and Workforce Development. Under the leadership of Dr. Donna Hinton, the Washington County Board of Education began an Industry Workforce Taskforce and has developed relationships, educational opportunities and interactions among the educational and industry leaders in the community. Embracing an opportunity to educate industry leaders on today’s workforce, the Archway Partnership partnered the Washington County Board of Education with UGA’s J.W. Fanning Institute for Leadership Development for a presentation on “Generational Differences.” Fanning’s Lauren Healey gave a timely and well-received presentation to industry leaders and task force members regarding the critical topic.

Traditions Highway magazine

Published and distributed in August, the Traditions Highway magazine featured Highway 15 Coalition communities along “Traditions Highway” (Georgia Highway 15). Coordinated by Archway Professional Conni Fennell-Burley in Washington County, the magazine included articles written by students in Professor Elizabeth Davis’ class, Writing and Community, as well as photographs taken by Archway Partnership students. There were 7,500 copies published. Spotlights on Washington County included pieces on Hamburg State Park, a quiet reserve of 741 acres 20 miles north of Sandersville, and Warthen, home of Georgia’s oldest jail dating back to 1784. That jail once hosted Aaron Burr, on his way back to Richmond, Virginia, to stand trial for his killing of Alexander Hamilton in a duel.