COMMUNIT-E³
ECONOMY - EDUCATION - ENVIRONMENT
A VISION FOR THE FUTURE OF DALTON-WHITFIELD COUNTY

OUR VISION: Dalton-Whitfield County will be the economic engine of Northwest Georgia, internationally recognized for its innovative business environment, its commitment to high-quality educational opportunities, and its stewardship of the abundant natural resources with which our community has been entrusted.
In August 2009, more than 300 Dalton-Whitfield County residents met in a town hall meeting to talk about our community and the region. We’ve joined with the University of Georgia to form the Dalton-Whitfield Archway Partnership to find ways to BUILD ON, not duplicate, the good work the community has done to date. We have created a vision and goals to shape our future and will achieve our goals by working together as one community.

Like many communities around the country, the economic downturn has had an impact – 13.1% unemployment in January 2010.

Rapid growth—a 30% population increase since 1990

Education

Our Community Wants:

- Dalton State College to be a premier, four-year higher education institution;
- A model environment for technical education and learning; and
- Community engagement and understanding across the birth to work continuum.

In 2010-2011, We Will:

- Understand and support the needs of a growing Dalton State College;
- Increase community awareness of existing technical programs and job opportunities;
- Work to integrate high school career education with higher education; and
- Partner with our education entities to identify the top strengths and weaknesses of each segment of local education.
Almost 6,000 students attend Dalton State College, which offers $108 million in economic impact in northwest Georgia.

Our community wants:
- Fulfill sustainable industries;
- Be a forward thinking economy; and
- Become a hub for knowledge-based innovation.

In 2010-2011, we will:
- Mine the future needs of existing industries and companies and educational content on tomorrow’s high-need areas;
- Promote and advertise our “green” culture by identifying and using our environmental initiatives; and
- Support our innovators and entrepreneurs and nurture their success.

The future of Dalton-Whitfield County

Our labor force is drawn from 12 counties.

More than 20,000 students attend public & private schools in the Greater Dalton area daily.

Our community wants:
- A vibrant downtown that provides entertainment and shopping options for all ages;
- A progressive transportation infrastructure that meets the economic and personal needs of residents;
- Expanded greenways, parks, and trails;
- Transformational arts and cultural opportunities; and
- To become an inviting interstate destination and to enhance Market Street.

In 2010-2011, we will:
- Partner with the Downtown Dalton Development Authority to develop downtown along North Hamilton Street;
- Partner with City Council to implement streetscape improvements;
- Work with impacted citizens to determine specific transportation needs;
- Support local government in efforts to obtain grant money for greenways; and
- Inventory and assess financial impact of local arts and cultural opportunities.

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The Archway Partnership, a University of Georgia Public Service and Outreach unit, has been the vehicle to bring all of the community stakeholders together in one room to identify and solve community problems; the mechanism that brings higher education resources to bear on those problems; and the platform embraced by the entire campus to bring the full complement of university resources to local issues.