I. **Pulaski Tomorrow Graduation – October 19**
   Twenty local community members graduated from the five-month long adult leadership program, facilitated by some of Pulaski County’s own. Based on the University of Georgia’s Fanning Institute Community Leadership Program, Pulaski Tomorrow is the manifestation of a community-identified concern over a seemingly lack of new and emerging leaders.

   Graduating on October 19 were the following: Sarah Anderson, Travis Bentley, Maggie Bloodworth, Darrell Brown, Greg Brown, Chris Burch, Drew Cravey, John Cravey, Brandy Gordon, Jeff Hair, Lorraine Holmes, Tyler Jenkins, Brent Lowe, Brittney NeSmith, Jill Niblett, Rachel Pitts, J.D. Rhodes, Allen Sampson, Patrick Simmons and Eric Vickers. Members from the graduating class are already being placed in leadership positions throughout the community, including the Board of Directors for the Hawkinsville Better Hometown program and the Hawkinsville-Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce, respectively.

   Dr. Ivan Allen, President of Middle Georgia Technical College was the keynote speaker at graduation. Dr. Allen challenged the graduates to address the high poverty rate that is persistent in Pulaski County through the promotion of education—both at the K-12 level as well as through technical education and workforce development.

   Pulaski Tomorrow will continue as an ongoing leadership initiative of the Hawkinsville-Pulaski County Chamber of Commerce, with the second round of classes to begin in early summer 2011. In the meantime, members of the leadership organization will partner with the Ocmulgee Order to support fundraising efforts to purchase body armor for the newly consolidated Pulaski County Sheriff’s Department. The initial meeting of the Pulaski “Adopt-A-Cop” program was held on October 27.

II. **Launch of Communities of Opportunity – Two Community Goals Identified**
   The Archway Steering Committee met with DCA Development Specialist Cherie Bennett on October 7 and 26 to identify community goals to address persistent poverty rates in Pulaski County through DCA’s Communities of Opportunity program. Two goals were identified: 1) Reduce teen pregnancy rates; and 2) Enhance Economic Development Activities and Job Creation by Promoting the Web Presence of Hawkinsville and Pulaski County.

   Next steps include submitting a pre-phase application to DCA, with support required from the City of Hawkinsville and Pulaski County; as well as the identification of related Community Improvement Strategies. Submission of the pre-phase application is due by November 16.

III. **Public Authorities Training/Community Background Visit – October 14**
   Through the work of the Hawkinsville-Pulaski Economic Development (HPED) Committee, the need for a localized public authorities training was identified—both for existing authority
members, as well as for those with an interest in economic development in Hawkinsville and Pulaski County. As such, Fanning Institute faculty members have developed a localized, one-day training specific to the needs, challenges, and opportunities faced in this community.

Part of implementing this program, included an initial visit to the community by lead facilitator, Skip Teaster and MPA graduate student, Katie Codey. This visit was facilitated by the Archway Professional, allowing Fanning faculty to see firsthand growth challenges and opportunities specific to Hawkinsville and Pulaski County. In addition, local community members were able to share their perspective of economic development efforts over the years. Local community members included: Taylor Regional Hospital Administrator, Dan Maddock; Taylor Regional Hospital Board members, Royce Conner, Dick Coley, and Chairman Wendell Dunaway; Downtown Development Authority Chairman, Manse Jennings; United Pulaski Economic Development President and CEO, Lee Slade; and Pulaski County Sole Commissioner and member of the Pulaski County-Hawkinsville Development Authority, Brooks Bailey.

The Public Authorities Training for Hawkinsville and Pulaski County will be held on November 9; and is available to existing Development Authority members, graduates of Pulaski Tomorrow, members of Ocmulgee Order, participants on the HPED committee, and other community leaders.