



SERVICE LEARNING AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT THROUGH HIGHER EDUCATION

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## **ADULTING DAY: COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS THAT PREPARE YOUTH FOR LIFE**

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### **ABSTRACT:**

Adulting Day in Newton County Schools equips high school seniors with essential life skills through strong community collaboration. Born from listening sessions identifying post-graduation preparedness gaps, the program connects students with local experts teaching financial management, home maintenance, personal safety, and civic engagement. Evaluation data show significant gains in student confidence and competence. This poster highlights program design, partnerships, outcomes, and strategies for replicating this volunteer-driven model to strengthen youth development and community engagement.

### **THEMATIC FOCUS:**

**Floods and Droughts: Too much of one thing, not enough of another. How complimentary partnership can fill the gaps.**

### **BIO:**

Jeffrey holds a BA in Political Science and an MPA, both from Valdosta State University, and is currently pursuing a Doctor of Public Administration degree from the same institution. He works with the Archway Partnership as the Archway Professional in Newton County. His passion for public service began during his college years in São Paulo, Brazil, where he participated in a student outreach program and witnessed the positive effects of grassroots initiatives. This experience inspired him to make a similar impact in his home state of Georgia, fostering in him a deep appreciation for its diverse communities and industries. Prior to his current role, Jeffrey spent twelve years with UGA Extension and Georgia 4-H.

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