



## Student Spotlight: Our December Graduates

Foothills students progress through their courses at a personalized rate, so only having graduation ceremonies in May and August doesn't fit the needs of all of our students. So, true to our Foothills nature of being flexible and responsive to students' needs, we recently held a December graduation ceremony to honor our students who have met the requirements to earn their high school diplomas during the first few months of our 2016-17 school year.

The ceremony, held on December 9th at Clarke Foothills, had all of the pomp and circumstance of our previous graduation ceremonies. Our December graduates proudly donned their caps and gowns, ready to turn their tassels and begin the next phase of life's journey. We also had a very special guest speaker for the graduation, Foothills graduate Curtavious Gaine. You may remember Curtavious, a graduate of our Burruss Foothills site, from our December Student Spotlight. Curtavious inspired our graduates, and the audience, with his personal story of the difference education can make in the direction of a life.

We wish our December graduates the very best as they begin the next phase of their lives. We are honored to have been a part of their journey, and we hope that they will all continue to persevere as they move forward toward their dreams.

### Foothills Education Charter High School December 2016 Graduates

#### Barrow

Brianna Nicole Barber  
Madison Marie Coffey  
Sarah Renee Engle  
Hannah Lee Gunter  
Gracie Lynn Howard  
Timothy Lamar Johnson  
Tu Bee Lor  
Sabrina Nancy Morgan  
Benjamin Elta Newmes  
Vishwa Shah  
Cody Lee Skelton  
Ryan Leonard Smith

#### Clarke

Antonio Breon Davis  
Kenya Nicole Ellison  
Shelby LeeAnn Hampton

#### Madison

Audrey Caroline Adamson  
Alejandro Ruiz Correa  
Nicholas Thomas Hull  
Brianna Madison Kittle



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## Message from the Superintendent

We hope all of our Foothills staff, students, and community had a restful holiday season! As we enter 2017, Foothills will welcome two new sites in Morgan County and Glynn County. We will also welcome new students from a wide variety of backgrounds. Many of our new students come to Foothills after losing their way and getting off-track in the traditional high school setting. We strive to help our students see that Foothills, like the new year, represents a new beginning, where there is hope and graduation is a definite possibility, as our 2016 graduates will tell you. At Foothills, we believe in the power of hope and possibility.

May you see the possibilities,

*Dr. Sherrie Gibney-Sherman, Foothills Superintendent*

# Welcome Morgan and Glynn!

Our new sites in Morgan and Glynn Counties are opening to students in January 2017!

As you may remember from our November newsletter, Morgan County is the newest Foothills site in North-east Georgia, while the Glynn County site will transition to become part of Coastal Plains Education Charter High School in July 2017.

Information for both of our new sites, including open house dates and times, registration forms, and employment opportunities, can be found on our website at <http://www.foothillscharter.org/sites>

## Foothills Mentors, A Vital Point of Contact

The Foothills Mentoring Program is at the heart of our Student Services Division. Every Foothills student is paired with a mentor, who is responsible for contacting the student weekly, and the parent (or significant adult) monthly. In meeting with students, mentors review student progress from the prior week, help the student set goals for the coming week, and discuss any significant life events or concerns that the student may have. This vital point of contact between students and mentors allows mentors to refer students to other Student Services staff as needed. Referrals to additional services might include academic or employment-related activities such as preparing college applications and resumes. Mentors can also help with referrals for professional counseling services or community resources in the event of homelessness or other life struggles.

Foothills mentors manage small caseloads of 10 students each, which allows them to build a strong relationship with their mentees.

Foothills mentors work approximately 5 hours per week. Mentors come from a wide variety of backgrounds. While some are current or retired educators, others have backgrounds in business and industry. Our current list of mentors includes a human resources director of a large private business, a university maintenance supervisor, and a retired automotive sales manager. Through a diverse array of backgrounds, Foothills mentors are able to maintain contacts in the community and bring a wellspring of experience to the lives of our students.



*Student and mentor take time out from a chat to smile for the camera at our Barrow site.*

### ***The Foothills Vision***

***Foothills Education Charter High School strives to be an accessible, high-quality high school option that is flexible and responsive to the needs of the People of Georgia and its communities.***



Foothills Education Charter  
High School  
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