



Student Spotlight: Allyson Deaton, Barrow



This picture of Allyson Deaton with her daughter captured our hearts in the May newsletter. So, we tracked down a little more about Allyson's journey to graduation.

In the fall of 2015, Allyson Deaton enrolled at the newly opened Barrow Foothills site. At the age of 18, with only 6 high school credits, Allyson began her Foothills journey. "At times," says Barrow co-site director Deigh Martin, "she's been our best attending student, and at other times, she's had to focus on things other than school, like her daughter or making ends meet." But one thing never changed: "Barrow Foothills was focused on her!"

With the support of the Barrow Foothills staff, and their help to connect her with resources for her and her daughter, Allyson slowly made her way through high school at Barrow Foothills. She rededicated herself this past year, and it paid off. Allyson graduated in May with her family—especially her daughter—by her side.

Since graduating, Allyson has begun work at Winder-Barrow High School as a Special Education Paraprofessional. She has also applied at Barrow Foothills to mentor other students toward graduation. Ms. Martin shared how much Allyson's story has touched her heart as a member of the Barrow Foothills staff: "I've personally watched her come in during the day, work with tutors, spend hours working on school to get finished. I'm proud to say, Allyson is now my colleague! I couldn't be prouder to call her my former student, colleague, and now friend. Allyson Deaton IS foothills! Allyson Deaton is perseverance. She is amazing! I'm so proud to be a very small part of her journey."

Superintendent's Message

As we move into the fall, we are still riding a summer high at Foothills! This summer, we held graduation ceremonies at all of our sites, graduating over 300 students in the class of 2019. Our regional office staff completed a move to a larger, state-of-the-art facility in Athens. In mid-July, leaders from the regional office and from all Foothills sites met for a strategic planning retreat on Jekyll Island. While most schools around the state were on vacation this summer, our Foothills students continued their journey toward graduation.

Since our inception, the work has not stopped. We continue to add sites, welcoming our newest one in Greene County this school year! We continue to grow our graduating class. We continue to refine the work—learning as we go how we can flexibly meet the needs of our students and communities.

As we grow and as we continue to serve students, Foothills is strong. We are strong because of our staff. We are strong because of our students. We are strong because of the communities that we serve. As we enter our 4th year of operation, we feel the high of our past successes, and we commit to seeing that success continue. Every Foothills student has a story that is in progress, and we are committed to helping them write the next chapter of their journey!

Regards,

Sherrie

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Snapshots: Graduation

Some more of our favorite scenes from the Class of 2019!



Moving on Up: New Regional Office



The Foothills Regional Office has recently moved into a new space on Jefferson Road in Athens. When Foothills began, with seven sites, we benefitted from the willingness of the Madison County School System to share office space. However, as we have grown, more than doubling the number of sites, we have also outgrown our regional office space.

Our regional office staff moved to the new location this summer. Not only is the new location large enough to accommodate our staff, but it is a little more centrally located to the many Foothills sites that we serve.

A Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony and Open House is planned for Sunday, August 18th, from 2pm to 4pm. We look forward to showcasing our new space to our Foothills family!



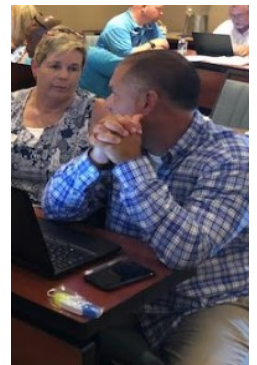
Summer Strategic Planning Retreat

In July, Foothills regional staff and site leaders descended on Jekyll Island for a strategic planning retreat.



In addition to reviewing the Foothills Strategic plan, participants worked to review site level plans and next steps at each site. The strategic planning retreat was also an opportunity for regional staff to discuss items that affect all sites, such as safety and security, so that consistency across sites is maintained.

The work done by Foothills leaders at the strategic planning retreat is essential as we maintain focus on our goals moving into a new school year.



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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.