



## Student Spotlight: Kerrigan Cash, Barrow

Kerrigan Cash is a student at our Barrow Foothills site. She is currently dual enrolled with Foothills and Lanier Technical College, where she is in the Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) Program. In her own words, Kerrigan shares the difference that Foothills has made in her high school career and in her plans to continue her education.

*I used to be a student at Winder-Barrow High School, and I was struggling in the environment I was in . . . After I heard about Foothills, I looked into it and decided that it was a better option for me. I can learn at my own pace with no judgement, and I finally have teachers that support me in my academics. The staff is polite, and it feels safer than other academic environments. Ever since my enrollment at Foothills, I've been a lot happier.*

*After enrolling, it was the first time I had counselors who made time to speak with me about planning my future, and introduced me to the idea of post-secondary school. My counselors provided me with all the resources needed for dual enrollment, and if it weren't for them, I wouldn't have the opportunity to achieve my current goal of completing the CNA program. The encouragement and support I've received from teachers definitely plays a role in my motivation to graduate as well. No accomplishment made by a student [at Foothills] goes unrecognized!*

*After graduation, I plan on continuing my education in the healthcare field. My current dual enrollment class has made this extremely accessible. I'd definitely recommend Foothills for students who are struggling with attending traditional school hours, and students who struggle at schools with an unsupportive environment. Foothills has really encouraged my self-drive and shaped my work ethic to help me grow.*

*Kerrigan's advice to her fellow Foothills students: Remember that you are never alone. There are always people there to support you, and help you when you are struggling. Don't be scared to ask for help.*



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### Message from the Superintendent

We are on "cloud 9" at Foothills these days! In addition to celebrating a successful charter renewal process (pg. 2), we recently celebrated 129 Youth Challenge Program graduates at the Ft. Gordon YCA Site—18 of these were also Foothills graduates, which doubles the number from last year! We also never cease to be inspired and humbled by our students, like this month's spotlight Kerrigan Cash. Kerrigan's words of advice for her fellow students perfectly sum up what drives us at Foothills. *You are never alone.* We are always here to support you as you strive to become all you were meant to be. We are thankful to be a small part of Kerrigan's story, and we are eager to begin the next three years of our Foothills story!

Cheers,

*Sherrie*

# Compete to Complete

Our Foothills sites are competing in three categories:

- Average Credits Earned Per Student
- Average Attendance
- End-of-Course Tests with Scores of 2+

Our regular sites compete and our corrections sites compete in their own category. Our monthly winners for January were recently announced!

- Average Credits per Student: Jackson and Arrendale
- Average Attendance: Greene and Burruss
- EOCs with Scores of 2+:  
*We will report on the highest EOCs-Combined 2+ in our February report for the months of November, December, January, and February*

We plan to announce the monthly winners and will share the overall winner in May of 2020. The overall winners will receive \$500 to use for a student celebration.

## Sharing and Continuing the Foothills Story: Successful Charter Renewal Process

During a recent charter renewal interview at the State Charter Schools Commission of Georgia, Foothills staff and board members were excited to share some of the countless stories of success that occurred during the school's first four and a half years. As a charter school, Foothills must meet certain performance expectations to continue to serve students under the terms of a new charter contract. Part of the renewal process is an interview with members and staff of the Commission. Foothills was joined by Allyson Deaton, an alumna of the Barrow Site, who did an excellent job telling her story!

We have previously featured Allyson in our August 2019 and October 2019 newsletters. Allyson participated on a panel for Foothills at the University of Georgia's State of Education Conference last October, and she continues to speak out about her positive experience as a Foothills student. Since graduating, Allyson has joined the staff of Winder-Barrow High School as a Special Education Paraprofessional, and she serves as a mentor to other Foothills students.

On Wednesday, February 12th, Foothills received official word that the State Charter Schools Commission would be recommending Foothills for a new three-year charter at its meeting on February 26th. Dr. Gibney-Sherman, Foothills Superintendent, praised Foothills staff when commenting on the recommendation for renewal: "This is great news as a new charter term will allow us to build upon the excellent work we've started to better serve our students and communities . . . Foothills' performance and ability to earn a recommendation for three years is testament to the dedication and commitment that the entire Foothills family exhibits to serve its students. Foothills is a success and we owe it all to you! We are excited for the next phase of Foothills! "



Pictured: Foothills alumna Allyson Deaton (center), with SCSC Executive Director Lauren Holcomb (right), and SCSC Board Member Brian Hall (left)



Foothills Education Charter  
High School  
[www.foothillscharter.org](http://www.foothillscharter.org)  
706-795-2191 x 1476

### *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.***