



Student Spotlight: Ci'Erica Mack

My name is Ci'Erica Mack. I am a 12th grade student at Foothills Education Charter High School. I would like to share my experience here at Foothills. I grew up in Athens attending Clarke County Schools (changing once to Madison County High School). I am 20 years old. I didn't finish high school "on schedule" for a few reasons. One was because I needed to work to support myself because I have been living on my own since I was 17. Once I had to keep a regular work schedule, the job requirements didn't allow me the time and space I needed to attend school.

I have been diagnosed with Sickle Cell Anemia disease for as long as I can remember. I have missed a lot of school over the years due to complications of this disease. I have also lost a lot of jobs due to hospitalizations and sickle cell crisis. Through all of this, I have always wanted to earn my high school diploma. I found out about Foothills from a sign outside of Classic City High School. I enrolled in August 2015 needing only a few credits--4 classes + tools for college. A year and a half later my experience has been awesome. I have teachers here who really care about me personally and academically; it is not just a job to them. I have one person who has been very reliable in my life.

I had hoped to be graduated by now, but life got in the way. Seems like everything got in the way at once--work, trying to keep a car and an apartment, and more frequent sickle cell episodes and hospitalizations. I have gotten discouraged. I have stopped coming at times, but I keep returning--mainly because I continue to receive phone calls asking how I am and when I am coming back!

So far I have earned 1.5 credits and have a plan to finish the last 3 credits with the help of the Hospital/Homebound Program if needed. I have a great doctor in Farris Johnson and hope to have insurance coverage soon, which will make taking care of myself--getting needed medicine--much easier. When I graduate, it will mean that I no longer have to be embarrassed to say that I don't have a high school diploma when interviewing for jobs. I will have more possibilities in my life. Foothills is the 2nd chance. It is not a GED. You can actually get a high school diploma here and that is something that a lot of other school don't offer. I will be proud to be a Foothills graduate!



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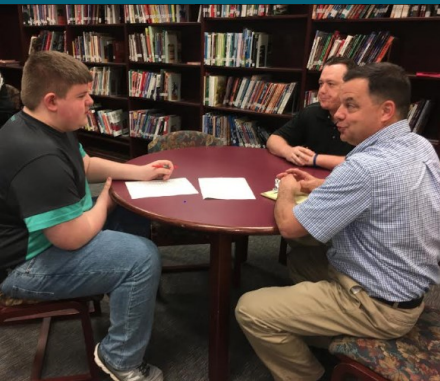
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Leadership Jackson: Life Skills for Foot- hills Students

Leadership Jackson members present information on life skills to students at Foothills Education Charter High School once a month. The most recent presentation included the Leadership Jackson team conducting mock job interviews with the students and then providing tips on making improvements.

Leadership Jackson members visit the Jackson Foothills site on the third Tuesday of each month from 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. They present programs related to life and job skills and provide free food and drinks to the students.

Topics for this school year include cell usage, social media, physical appearance, eye contact/body language/handshake, introductions, how to speak to a police officer and engaging



Leadership Jackson members Keith Anderson and Dan Torbett interview student Griffin Haynie.

Student Shout Out: Marky Chan Chan, Clarke



Foothills attracts many amazing students for various reasons. A reason that some of our students choose Foothills over a traditional high school path is the need to care for their own families.

Marky Chan Chan is a student at Clarke Foothills, and staff member Belle Rucker has the following to say about this remarkable young lady:

She is an exceptional student who is determined to obtain her high school diploma. Marky is a fulltime Foothills student, married, mother to a 6 month old son, and she works part-time. Marky is a respectful, self-motivated student. When she was pregnant, she came to class Monday thru Thursday and was here until 9pm each night. She worked diligently and proved that nothing will deter her from obtaining her diploma. Marky is a model student.

Hats off to Marky at Clarke Foothills!

Message from the Superintendent:

April is the month! Site directors and staff at each of our 9 sites are working hard to help seniors stay focused so that they can make it to the finish line and earn a high school diploma. There are so many potential distractions that can keep students from graduating. Family matters, work obligations, course content, and the lack of will to continue efforts to complete course work can all be barriers in this final stretch.

Site directors are working with their staff to identify potential barriers to student success, finding solutions to each barrier, then working to monitor the efforts of individual students.

Our sites have done many things to help students overcome barriers. Students are invited to attend Foothills during alternate hours. We have found childcare for students needing help so they could complete their course work. We set up a computer check-out program at each site so students can work on their studies at home. Reduced cost internet access has been made available for qualifying families. Gas cards have been distributed to those who need help with travel. Tutors are available for students who must take the state's end of course tests. True to our vision, the Foothills sites are working to be flexible and responsive to students' needs.

Foothills is making a difference one student at a time,
Sherrie Gibney-Sherman, Superintendent

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
www.foothillscharter.org
706-795-2191 x 1476