



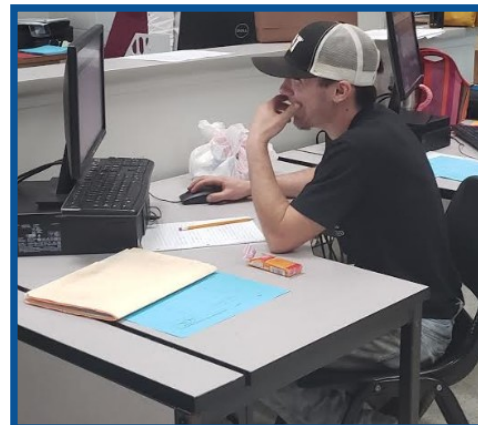
Student Spotlight: Chad Almand, Social Circle

Submitted by: Serrita Carr, Social Circle Site

Social Circle Foothills student Chad Almand chose to attend Foothills when working became a necessity. Obtaining an education was still a priority for Chad, but because of his work schedule, he needed flexible hours for school. Foothills gave him just that. Chad is the perfect example of hard work and dedication. If there is a “right way” to do Foothills, Chad is the blue print.

It is safe to say that Chad’s mentor, his teachers, and all of the support staff at Social Circle have grown to love this hardworking young man. When Chad arrives at Foothills, he often comes in dirty from head-to-toe. During the day, he works a full-time job in a welding shop, but once he enters the classroom, he is all business as a Foothills student. Chad has exhibited nothing but hard work and a willingness to strive for his best.

Earlier this year, Chad knew he would need surgery, but he wanted to stick to his original plan to graduate in 2019. So, he scheduled his surgery around his End-of-Course exams (EOCs) to ensure that he could still test. It is this dedication to achieving his goals that has impressed his teachers and allowed Chad to close in on his goal of graduation.



Message from the Superintendent

We could not be more thrilled that the National Dropout Prevention Center has approved the Foothills program as an evidence-based dropout prevention model (see story on page 2)! This is a national recognition of our goal to provide a flexible high school program that is responsive to the needs of our students. Students dropout, or are at risk for dropping out, for a variety of reasons. At Foothills, we strive to meet each student who walks through the door where he/she is on the path to graduation. The recognition from the National Dropout Prevention Center is a recognition of the tireless work of our Foothills staff as they support and mentor each student in a unique way that honors the student’s journey.

It is ironic that in the same month that we received this recognition, a student who was recommended for our newsletter’s “student spotlight” for next month turned us down. Essentially, she felt like she wasn’t worthy for the story because she has experienced new personal barriers since enrolling and has gotten off-track from her original goal. It’s ironic because **she** is our mission. **It is for this type of student that Foothills exists.** It is for this type of student that the Foothills model works.

So, as we move through the end of this year and prepare for a new one, know that Foothills is committed to the mission and we are committed to all of the young (and older) students who have found themselves off-track. We are committed to those facing barriers, and those needing a second chance. At Foothills, you belong in the spotlight, and we want to celebrate and support your chance to “become what you might have been.”

Sherrie

In This Issue:

- Student Spotlight, Social Circle
- Message from the Superintendent
- The Foothills Model: National Dropout Prevention Center
- Compete to Complete

The Foothills Model: National Dropout Prevention Center Model Program Database

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 November were recently announced, including our first month reporting End of Course Test scores of 2+!

- Average Credits per Student: Jackson and TIE—Arrendale and Burruss
- Average Attendance: Greene and Burruss
- EOCs with Scores of 2+: Jackson and Arrendale

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.

In November, Foothills was notified by the National Dropout Prevention Center that our program had been reviewed and approved for their [Model Programs Database](#).

The [National Dropout Prevention Center](#) focuses on increasing graduation rates through research and evidence-based programs. The Model Programs Database is the result of their efforts to house current information on effective dropout prevention programs in one place.

Foothills Regional Team Coordinator Deborah Moore submitted information on our model at Foothills for review by the national organization. The result was approval of [Foothills Charter High School](#) as a program with a track record of dropout prevention.

The research on dropout prevention focuses on “risk factors” for dropping out, as well as “protective factors” that prevent students from dropping out. The Foothills program addresses many risk factors and is built on key protective factors. Some of the risk factors addressed by Foothills include high number of work hours, parenthood, retention or over-age status, poor attendance, and lack of family support or low expectations. The Foothills program is built on many protective factors. Our model focuses on relationships through the presence of caring, supportive adults through the mentor program. We also focus on flexibility and problem-solving, as well as building competency and self-determination skills. Ten of our Foothills sites are also working to implement the web-based Check and Connect system.

The evidence for the effectiveness of the Foothills model is found in our graduates. As of mid-October, Foothills had graduated over 1,000 students, many of whom were at-risk for dropping out, or who had already dropped out and were returning to school.

Recognition on a national level for our work to prevent students from dropping out by providing a flexible, responsive high school option is the result of the hard work and commitment of our Foothills staff. Since our inception, we have continued to review data, think about how we are serving students, and modify our program in an effort to serve students better. The evidence is clear—the Foothills model works and is “North-Middle Georgia’s answer to the dropout problem.”



NATIONAL
DROPOUT
PREVENTION
CENTER



Foothills Education Charter
High School
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.