



A Way to Meet Flexible Goals: Wyatt Poe

Wyatt Poe, a student at our Jackson Foothills site will graduate this May. While he will be one of many students to don a cap and gown this May, his graduation from high school will be somewhat unique.

Wyatt will graduate a full year ahead of schedule.

For Wyatt, Foothills has provided an opportunity for him to work at his own pace to complete his high school studies. The Foothills staff have helped Wyatt along the way by “providing an education plan that allowed [him] to . . . have flexible goals.”

Angela Gary, the mentor coordinator at the Jackson site, notes Wyatt’s perseverance in his studies. He is “present every night,” and he “finishes his classes quickly”. Wyatt has also challenged himself while at Foothills by taking advanced classes, including Pre-Calculus. Wyatt is a role model and “sets an example” for other Foothills students.

We are proud of Wyatt, and he is an excellent example of how Foothills continues to meet the diverse needs of Georgia’s students who need a flexible path toward graduation.



Message from the Superintendent

It is difficult to believe that it is February! Before we know it, we will be celebrating May graduates across our Foothills sites!

Every day at Foothills, we continue to work to meet the needs of Georgia’s students and to improve our program. We are working with a broad range of stakeholders to focus on outcomes for our students, including graduation rates and assessment scores. To improve outcomes, we also continue our work to align curriculum, instruction, and assessment—work that began as part of a grant more than a year ago.

Our strategic plan was recently updated, as we reflected on our goals and the progress we have made over the past few years. See more information about our strategic plan on page 2 of the newsletter.

There are also exciting days ahead for Foothills, as we discuss moving our central office into a larger space and as we continue to add sites—most recently in Social Circle (page 2)! As we continue to expand our services to new students and new communities, we remain committed to providing students, like Wyatt (above), with a flexible path to graduation.

Regards,
Sherrie

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Working a Plan: Foothills Strategic Plan

The Foothills Strategic Plan was recently updated based on feedback from stakeholders, including our governing board.

The Foothills strategic plan has six goals:

- I. Ensure all students are college and career ready.
- II. Provide support services that enable students to assess academic and career needs to achieve success.
- III. Provide a safe, healthy, and caring environment that is conducive to teaching and learning.
- IV. Effective stewardship of all resources ensures optimal financial performance.
- V. Maintain highly qualified leadership, governance board, faculty, and support staff who foster a professional and supportive teaching and learning environment.
- VI. Provide effective outreach to promote statewide awareness and utilization of Foothills Education Charter High School programs.

Each of these goal areas has defined strategies and action steps. For more information about our strategic plan and to see reports of our progress so far, please visit our [Simbli site](#).

Opening with a Bang: Social Circle

Foothills Social Circle, our newest satellite site under the direction of dynamic co-site directors, opened its doors with a bang in January 2019. Dr. Allison Echols-Woodard is an assistant principal at Morgan Middle School in Madison, Georgia. Mr. Justin Drew is the Teacher of The Year at Social Circle High School in Social Circle, as well as Special Educational department head. This team has embraced collaboration and the Foothills vision and mission.



In just a short amount of time, Mr. Drew and Dr. Woodard put together a team of teachers and support staff to serve students. Enrollment numbers have jumped since their Open House on January 15th, taking total enrollment to 43 students. In the first week of February, the site has celebrated at least four students who have completed courses, and are now conducting more interviews to increase the staff. The staff is excited about the process and the successful future they see ahead for Foothills Social Circle. The excitement of the staff was captured when teachers were asked to comment about the opening:

"Together we can achieve anything!" ~ Mr. Spell (SWD Teacher)

"Everyone at Foothills Social Circle cares about students. Their success is our only goal. Students sense this; they achieve great things in this climate." ~ Mr. Meadors (ELA/ Writing Teacher)

"It is heartwarming to see students, who were previously struggling and disrupting my classes, to be succeeding, and to hear them say sincerely, 'Thank you.' for tutoring them." ~ Mr. Hames (Science Teachers)

"In just one month, I have already seen students have numerous successes within the Foothills program! How wonderful it is to be a part of this life changing school!" ~ Ms. Bailey (ELA Teacher)

"SC- Foothills is growing daily. Our students are engaged and working hard. Our faculty and staff embrace the differences and individual personalities as we help and encourage all our students. This school gives and provides the opportunity for the students to learn at their own pace. We provide support and they are given the opportunity to become successful and they are given that second chance." ~ Ms. Brown (Student Support Manager)

FOOTHILLS—Finding Outstanding Opportunities to Teach High school Individuals Life Learning Skills ~ Ms. Bryant (Social Studies Teacher)



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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.