



## Welded to His Goals for the Future: David Walls

This past July, David Walls, a senior at Walton Foothills, enrolled needing eight credits to graduate. He came from the Morgan County Career Academy where he had completed two technical certificates, one in Basic Shielded Arc Welding and one in Light Engine Repair. With two different Technical Certificates of Credit (TCC), David was well-equipped to function in his day job as a professional welder. He also was well-positioned to pursue the Georgia Alternative High School Postsecondary Graduation Opportunity, which was originally known as Senate Bill 2. This graduation rule allowed David to trim off five of his eight required courses, by earning one more welding TCC. This graduation opportunity has allowed David to feasibly set his sights on graduating this May!



Upon enrollment at Foothills, David was able to also start as a dual enrollment student at Athens Tech, where he is finishing his TCC in Basic Shielded Arc Welding. David's work week is packed. His work day starts at 7 am each day. After work, David comes to Foothills three nights a week and goes to Athens Tech one night a week. His work ethic not only brings him to each of these places each day, it also fuels his constant determination to finish what he has started. Almost every night, David is covered in the day's grit and grime that he hasn't had time to clean off. This furious-paced lifestyle he is living has opened up doors for him. Site director Rusty Linder has this to say about David: "He is the very student that Foothills and technical colleges were invented to serve. He is going to be truly successful because of his work ethic."

David is intelligent and dependable, and he is someone that the Walton Foothills staff admire and are proud to serve.

## Message from the Superintendent

When we began this Foothills journey, it was students like David Walls who were in our minds. These students are talented, hard-working, and driven. But, they needed something a little different from the traditional high school track. David has excelled because he has had the opportunity to put his learning to use in a real-world setting while continuing his education. Without the flexibility of being able to attend classes in the evenings, David might have traded the goal of graduation for the profits of full-time employment. Because of Foothills, he doesn't have to choose—he can have both!

In this issue, we are also highlighting an exciting time as our central office prepares to move to a new space. Since our beginning in 2015, we have appreciated a partnership with the Madison County School System and the use of space in their central office building. We will never forget the role that Dr. Allen McCannon (former superintendent), Mr. Michael Williams (current superintendent), and the Madison County Board of Education played in helping the seed of Foothills to grow and thrive. But, as Foothills has grown, we have also outgrown our space. So, "here we grow again" means that we will move into a new space in the coming months.

As always, Foothills is ready to continue to provide a flexible alternative to the students and communities of Georgia, and we look forward to what the future holds!

Regards,  
**Sherrie**

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## A New Home! Foothills Central

Since 2015, the Foothills Central Office has been located in the Madison County Board of Education building. As a new school, we benefited from the shared space, and the working relationships we built with the Madison County team.

In the past 4 years, we have grown from 7 sites to 15 sites, which includes 2 satellite sites and 3 Youth Challenge Sites. This exponential growth means that we have outgrown our space.

The Foothills central office location will be moving to Athens-Clarke County on July 1, 2019. The new location will be a little more centrally located to our multiple sites, but will also give us additional room for staff to provide support to sites.

Dr. Gibney-Sherman has signed a lease and we are in the process of establishing Internet service and the infrastructure needed to move! Below is a drawing of what part of our new space will look like! We hope to share more pictures in the coming months!



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

## Committing to the Future: Foothills Scholarship and Award Programs

At Foothills, we celebrate each time a student reaches the graduation stage. For many of our students, graduation results after they have overcome seemingly insurmountable odds. Their success at Foothills, and the recognition that they *can* change the trajectory of their lives, motivates many of our students to go on to postsecondary studies or join the military.

Yet, for many, paying for additional education is another barrier to overcome. At Foothills, we are committed to helping our graduates as they step out into the world. The Foothills Scholarship program provides some amount of financial support for **every** Foothills graduate who enters a postsecondary institution or who joins the military.

Each year, the Valedictorian at Foothills receives \$1,500, and the Salutatorian receives \$1,000. For our spring, fall, and winter graduation ceremonies, the student with the highest GPA **at each site** receives \$500, while the student with the second highest GPA receives \$300. But, we didn't stop there. The Foothills Scholarship Program allocates \$200 for **any graduate enrolled in a college or technical school, as well as graduates who join the military**. It's not much, but it's our way of saying, "We believe in you and in the potential of your dreams."

In addition to the Foothills Scholarship Program, our graduates can also apply for the Pearson Award and Jackson EMC Award. Both of these scholarships are \$1,500, and include a merit-based and/or community-based component.

If you are interested in supporting the Foothills Scholarship Program, please contact us to find out how you can send a message to our students that you believe in their potential.

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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.***