



## Student Spotlight: Leena Chrispin, Walton

Persistence and perseverance are common themes among the students we spotlight. This month's spotlight from our recently opened Walton campus is no different. Walton Foothills is the fourth high school that senior Leena Chrispin has attended since beginning 9th grade. When some students might have given up, Leena has continued to push toward graduation. Since enrolling at Walton Foothills, she has completed Economics and passed the Milestones End-of-Course test. She has a goal of graduating in December, and graduation coach Michael Kulp says that she will easily meet her goal. She is also scheduled to take the Accuplacer in November, a placement test for technical colleges and other postsecondary training programs. By December, Leena will possess a high school diploma and a qualifying placement test score so that she can continue her education at the postsecondary level.



When Leena earns her high school diploma in December, it will also be just in time to welcome her child to the world in January. Mr. Kulp recognizes how Leena's persistence will influence the next generation of her family: "Based upon the work ethic and level of character shown by Leena, we have the highest confidence that she will attack every goal and position herself to provide for her family and to share with them a life story of how persistence always pays off."

Congratulations, Leena! We are proud to be a part of your journey!

## Message from the Superintendent



As we move into the holiday season, we at Foothills are extremely thankful. Since our opening in Fall 2015, we have watched Foothills grow to ten sites, and we have seen the beginning of Coastal Plains Charter High School. Our work has impacted hundreds, and really thousands, of students across Georgia who might have otherwise dropped out of high school without giving themselves a second chance at success.

We are thankful for the communities that we serve and our partnerships with local school systems. We are thankful for our staff, many of whom come to teach and mentor at Foothills after giving a full day's work to students during the regular school day. We are thankful for our students, who often persevere in spite of life's circumstances. Our spotlight this month is testimony that persistence pays off!

Most of all, we are thankful for the opportunity to serve the students of Georgia, who are our constant reminder that the work we do is important and essential.

With thanksgiving,

*Dr. Sherrie Gibney-Sherman, Foothills Superintendent*

## In This Issue

- Student Spotlight: Walton
- Message from the Superintendent
- Gearing Up for Accreditation Visit
- Foothills Receives Grant

## Gearing Up for Accreditation Visit

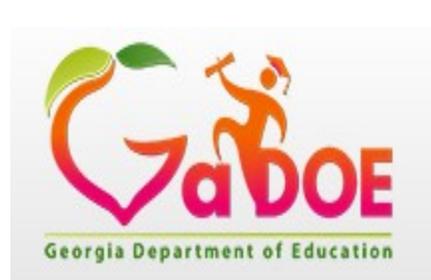
In late February, Foothills will host a team from AdvancED, who will conduct an accreditation review. AdvancED is a non-partisan, non-profit organization that conducts rigorous reviews of a variety of educational institutions around the world. The team from AdvancED will review artifacts, survey data, and will conduct interviews of Foothills staff, students, and other stakeholders. They will be using this data to make a recommendation for our accreditation, but also to provide recommendations for how we can continually improve our work.

This month, a small team of leaders from Foothills will attend the Georgia AdvancED conference to ensure that we are prepared to meet the requirements of AdvancED as we go through the review process.

If you would like to read more about AdvancED and the review process, please visit: <http://www.advanced.org/services>

## Foothills Receives Planning and Implementation Grant

Foothills Education Charter High School was recently awarded a Georgia Charter School Program Planning and Implementation Grant in the amount of \$775,000 from the Georgia Department of Education. Foothills will use these grant funds to meet a goal of increasing student performance on Milestones End of Course assessments by 3% annually.



Currently, Foothills students lag behind the state in performance on Milestones End of Course assessments. We will seek to address the gap in performance in two main ways: through customization of the GradPoint curriculum and through the implementation of a robust system of formative assessments.

Students at Foothills complete their courses by using GradPoint, which is an online course delivery system. GradPoint allows students to progress through curriculum at their own pace. Foothills has always had a plan to customize the GradPoint course material to strongly align with Georgia Standards of Excellence; however, we have not had time or funds to complete this task. The newly awarded grant funds will allow us to customize the GradPoint curriculum.

We will also seek to impact performance on the Milestones End of Course assessments through implementing a robust system of formative assessment. Research supports the use of formative assessments to gauge student progress. Foothills will purchase a learning management system that will allow us to administer formative assessments and drill down to the standards level when looking at student performance data. Foothills staff will, then, have leading data to determine student readiness for the end of course assessments.

We are thrilled to have been awarded these grant funds, and we have already begun to implement the beginning phases of what we are calling the "Foothills Achievement Focus Project." We look forward to sharing more about our journey as it moves forward!

### *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](http://www.foothillscharter.org)  
706-795-2191 x 1476