



Mentor Spotlight: Sharon McCullough, Morgan Submitted by Heather Fuller, Morgan Site



At Foothills, all students are assigned a mentor. The mentor is responsible for meeting with students weekly to support them as they progress toward course completion and graduation. Often, mentors build strong relationships with students as they support them to overcome barriers and remain motivated in their journey.

Morgan Foothills graduate, Kenny Juarez, and his mentor, Sharon McCullough, were all smiles at the recent United States Army graduation ceremony held at Ft. Jackson in Columbia, SC. Sharon McCullough and her husband Jerry McCullough, a Science teacher at Morgan Foothills, braved the three-hour drive to cheer Kenny on and show him that the support doesn't stop with high school graduation.

Kenny has since returned home and is currently employed with the Morgan County Sheriff's Office. Sharon often receives calls with updates from Kenny, and he is even seen walking the halls of Morgan Foothills giving updates and seeking advice on life's obstacles. The trust and relationship that Kenny built with Sharon did not stop when he walked across the graduation stage. For him, their friendship and bond will last a lifetime.



Message from the Superintendent

As we enter this season of Thanksgiving, I am thankful for the students, staff, families, and communities that make the Foothills story possible. I am thankful for mentors like Sharon McCullough, who go beyond the requirements and build lasting relationships with young people who need a positive role model. I am thankful for students like Kenny, who realize that graduation is only the first stop on the lifelong journey of becoming who they were meant to be.

As we receive and digest the College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI) information, we do so against the backdrop of stories like Kenny's, and over 1,000 other Foothills graduates. The story of the Foothills impact on the lives of young people in this state cannot be fully measured in numbers on a page. I am thankful for that story. I am thankful for the work that the people of Foothills are doing each and every day.

Have a blessed Thanksgiving season!

Sherrie

In This Issue:

- **Student Spotlight, Morgan**
- **Message from the Superintendent**
- **The Incomplete Picture of Numbers**
- **Compete to Complete**

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 September were recently announced:

- Average Credits per Student: Jackson and Burruss
- Average Attendance: Greene and Burruss
- EOCs with Scores of 2+: *Not reported due to small numbers. Will report in November.*

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.

The Incomplete Picture of Numbers: The College and Career Ready Performance Index (CCRPI)

On October 25, the Georgia Department of Education released the 2019 [College and Career Ready Performance Index \(CCRPI\)](#). The CCRPI provides an overall score for the state, districts, and schools. The [Georgia Department of Education](#) considers the CCRPI to be “a comprehensive school improvement, accountability, and communication platform for all educational stakeholders that will promote college and career readiness for all Georgia public school students.”

Significant changes were made to the CCRPI calculation in 2018; therefore, the results from 2019 are only comparable to 2018 and not any other prior years. The new formula includes an increased weight on Georgia Milestones Assessment scores for all components. The calculation for high schools includes five components: Content Mastery, Progress, Closing Gaps, Readiness, and Graduation Rate.

The CCRPI score for Foothills is 55.7. While this is below average (the state average for high schools is 77), the overall score does not paint the full picture. As a non-traditional high school, where a majority of the students enter already behind in terms of content mastery and progress toward graduation, Foothills does not perform well on specific components of the CCRPI calculation (Content Mastery and Graduation Rate). Our sister programs Mountain Education Charter High School (51.6) and Coastal Plains Charter High School (57.6) have similar overall results.

A more complete picture of the success of our work at Foothills is found when we dig in to the various components of the CCRPI. Foothills received above average marks for Progress and Closing Gaps. Progress is measured based on the progress our Foothills students make compared to similarly-performing students around the state. Our overall score for Progress was 84 (the state average was 82.1). Closing Gaps is based on targets set depending on how our Foothills students have performed on the Milestones assessments in the past. Our Closing Gaps score was 91.7 (the state average was 80).

So, while our Foothills students perform below average when we look at Content Mastery, they are progressing when compared with similar students around the state. While we have a below average graduation rate (which is based on a 4-year or 5-year calculation), our students at Foothills continue to progress and close gaps.

We will dig into the CCRPI information and continue our work at Foothills to improve student achievement across all of these components. But, we recognize the incomplete picture that the numbers paint. Progress must come before mastery; graduation comes when we close gaps. The complete Foothills story, of over 1,000 graduates and over 1,000 lives changed, is not told in the CCRPI.



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.