



Student Spotlights: Youth Challenge Academy

For over a year now, Foothills has partnered with the Georgia National Guard's Youth Challenge Academy (YCA). With sites at Fort Gordon, Fort Stewart, and Milledgeville; the YCA sites are residential, and focus on building social and life skills as well as academic skills. Two inspiring stories about cadets at the Fort Gordon YCA site were submitted by teacher Michele Roy.

Xavier Rudolph

Xavier Rudolph is an 18 year-old from Woodbine, Georgia. He volunteered to come to YCA because he wanted to become more disciplined, to achieve his goal of earning his high school diploma, and to enter the Job Corps. He wants to learn not one, but two trades – HVAC and plumbing. Xavier has great family support – his parents and grandparents all wanted him to come here and work towards his high school diploma.

In almost five months, Xavier has earned 10.5 credits and will be graduating from Foothills with his high school diploma. While at Foothills, Xavier's progress was so impressive, that his goal was increased from earning 7 credits to 10.5 credits – a 150% increase from his original goal – a great accomplishment indeed!

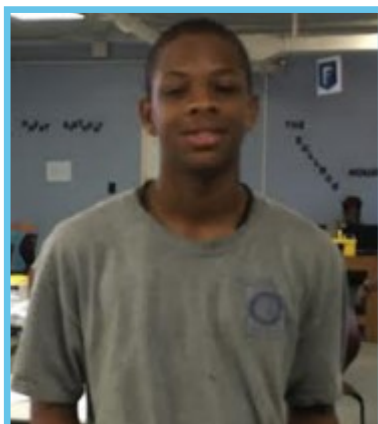
One of Xavier's Foothills teachers, reflected on her journey with him: "I am amazed how focused, determined, and academically mature Xavier was throughout the program. He was always very intentional about setting new short-term goals in hopes of targeting his high school diploma. Even during times of anxiety, he would redirect himself, dig his heels deep, and persevere. I am proud to see how far he has come in such a short amount of time, but I am even more delighted to see how far he will go."



Darius Wilson

With great ambition, Darius Wilson, a 16 year-old from Dacula, Georgia, volunteered to attend Youth Challenge Academy to earn credits and get ahead. His plan is to finish his high school career, earn his high school diploma, and join the Navy as a Logistics Specialist. His family has been very supportive – his father, mother, and extended family, including 10 brothers, sisters, step-brothers, and step-sisters.

In almost 5 months, Darius has gone from a beginning Freshman, to a rising Senior. He began with only 2.5 credits and an initial goal of earning 6 credits. But he set his mind to staying focused, with his eye on the prize of completing even more. His progress was so impressive, that his goal was increased from 6 credits to 13 credits – a 217% increase from his original goal. He will be leaving Foothills and returning to high school with a total of 15.5 credits – a great accomplishment indeed!



A Foothills teacher shared her journey with Darius: "I saw Darius come in with great determination and drive. And while he had some days that got him down, he never stopped working hard to achieve his goals and finish as many courses as possible. He is a wonderful student and I have thoroughly enjoyed working with him. I look forward to seeing his successful journey post-YCA."

In This Issue:

- Student Spotlight, YCA
- Making Use of a New Space, Regional Office
- Snapshots: Graduation
- Superintendent's Message

Snapshots: Graduation

Our Regional Commencement Ceremony for summer graduates was held on August 29th.



Making Use of a New Space: Regional Office



We are continuing to enjoy our new regional office space off of Jefferson Road in Athens! In August, we celebrated the official opening of our new space with a ribbon-cutting ceremony.

One of the most exciting things about our new, larger space is that we have a dedicated workspace for staff from our sites to collaborate and work with regional personnel. Modern office modules allow staff to collaborate while having technology at their fingertips. Curriculum and data teams from our sites are already making productive use of this new space.



Superintendent's Message

As we enter the fall months, it feels like “back-to-school” time. But, at Foothills, school is a year-round process. Many of our students do take a break in the summer months, but many more continue with their studies, and with their progress toward graduation. We recently celebrated some of these students in our summer commencement ceremony.

Fall at Foothills is not a time to go “back” to school, but a time when our students “recommit” to school. Regardless of any time off that they did or did not take, fall is a signal that it’s time to reflect on the journey and recommit to the goal of graduation. And our Foothills staff stands ready and willing to ensure that students are able to achieve their goals.

Every day, Foothills students achieve what they once thought was impossible—like Xavier and Darius, our spotlight students this month. What impossible dreams await you? What might you do if you stopped focusing on barriers and started focusing on possibilities? Foothills was a dream built on possibilities, and the reality of that dream is 17 sites strong.

It’s a great day at Foothills; it’s a great day to become what you might have been!

Sherrie



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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.