



## The Top of the Hill: Graduation 2016

Here at Foothills Education Charter High School, we could not be more proud! We have spent the latter part of May and all of June celebrating our 2016 graduates—all 112 of them! Each Foothills site held its own graduation ceremony, complete with all of the pomp and circumstance and a little local flavor. While Foothills Education Charter High School had one valedictorian and salutatorian, each site chose a speaker, an honor graduate. Our students have inspired us with their reflections on the journey that brought them to Foothills and their plans to continue the journey as they take their next steps in the world.

The common thread in all of the graduation speeches is that our students have truly been climbing hills in their lives to reach this day. Foothills met a unique need in their lives, and now they are celebrating their accomplishments.

Regardless of how they found us, we know that each child who walked across our stage was a child who might not have otherwise graduated. We are honored and humbled to have helped you all reach this day.

*Congratulations, Foothills Class of 2016!*



*I know we all came to Foothills for different reasons, but for me it was a last resort . . . High school had beaten me down . . . I simply did not fit into that system any longer . . . Foothills was everything I desired . . . It was flexible . . . There was beauty in the fact that it was my choice . . . Thank you for believing in this program and for believing in all of us."*

*Mary Merritt, Clarke*



*The struggle was worth it, and so is my future. So, I am here to say, don't give up. You have made it this far, so why not go a little further.*

*Christian Crowe, Barrow  
Foothills Valedictorian 2016*



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## Graduation Videos: Want to see more?

We have captured the inspiring speeches of our graduates on video, and they are available for viewing on the Foothills Education Charter High School website.

Please visit our site specific pages to view each speech in its entirety.

[http://  
www.foothillscharter.org/  
sites](http://www.foothillscharter.org/sites)

*Although it may not be easily recognized, every accomplishment you achieve is added to the world's expansion. Your individual success benefits society as a whole because when you succeed, you lighten the burden on your fellow man. When you succeed, you are in a position to give rather than take.*

**Martice, Burruss**



We all arrived at Foothills for different reasons, but one way or another, a traditional high school setting just was not cutting it. But thanks to Foothills, we were all able to persevere and make it to the end to receive our high school diploma.

**Jacob Conley,  
Madison**

***All of us came to Foothills from various places . . . for some of us, it was a last chance . . . for others . . . it was a way to start over . . . Whether you got here by chance or by circumstances beyond your control . . . Whatever brought you here or wherever you are going . . . think about what you have accomplished.***

**Andrea Marie Sanchez, Jackson**



*Education is very important to me. I wanted to acquire my high school diploma, but . . . I was only 17 with no legal guardian . . . Foothills took me in . . . Thank you, teachers, for having such big hearts!*

**Jordyn Woodard, Baldwin**



***I am living proof that you can do whatever you set your minds to . . . My fellow students, when times get difficult and you get discouraged, never give up. Failures never succeed.***

**Ladrona, Arrendale**



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