

Charlotte Lindsay

STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Middle College – Understanding Cohort

January 2022



Senior

We are happy to present Charlotte Lindsay as the MVLA Student of the Month for the Middle College Understanding Cohort.

Charlotte applied to the Middle College program because she was looking for a fresh start. Charlotte shared that before Middle College, her “love for education had completely gone away, and [she] did not look forward to coming to school...[She] needed something fresh, where [her] ability to be self-driven, independent, and responsible would be appreciated and utilized.”

We are so glad that this desire for change led Charlotte to Middle College. At Foothill College, Charlotte has thrived in a range of courses, including anthropology, creative writing, photography, psychology, statistics, and a variety of art classes. In our own classrooms, Charlotte has been an absolute rock star. Out of a genuine desire to know more about the world, Charlotte is highly engaged in our discussion-based classes. She can often be found bravely voicing the authentic, open-ended questions that drive real learning, and she frequently uncovers interesting relationships between texts, units, and disciplines. For instance, when our class studied *The Great Gatsby*, Charlotte drew upon her experience with art and color to analyze characters and symbols. Her insightful connections often help our class reach sophisticated levels of understanding, and while these habits have led to her earning some of the highest marks in our program, Charlotte never fixates on grades, focusing instead on learning and growth for its own sake.

We draw our students from four different high schools, so it is vital for our students to build a strong sense of connection, collaboration, and trust. In this vein, we will always be thankful to Charlotte, who has really enhanced our community these past two years through her genuine and refreshing regard for others. The artist in Charlotte enjoys finding beauty in the diverse others around her, and she has often expressed how thankful she is for the chance to learn with her classmates (even using the word “love”). In discussion, she demonstrates this love by making space for their voices, listening to them carefully, earnestly reflecting on their ideas, and engaging intellectually but with great care. This care also can be seen outside the classroom: Charlotte often goes out of her way to interact with students across grade levels and in different circles, and we have witnessed many times when Charlotte will leave her group of friends to sit with a lone student or invite them to sit with her. It is for these reasons that Charlotte has become a unifying force in our student body and seems to be extremely well-liked, trusted, and respected by all.

Considering her Middle College experience, Charlotte reflects: “I don’t think I really had a trajectory before Middle College. I had no idea what I could do...I have begun to see my capabilities so much more because of Foothill classes and Middle College classes. I have learned that there is so much out there to explore and that my options are pretty much limitless just as long as I keep my passion alive.”

We are so appreciative of Charlotte and are proud to acknowledge her as our Student of the Month.