



Dearest Foothill Colleagues,

“Vạn sự khởi đầu nan.” A thousand-mile journey starts with the first step.

Some of you may have seen me tweet this from my brand-new Twitter account today (@FoothillPrez). Special thanks to **Andrea Hanstein** and her team for prepping me, including a radio interview this morning. Also thank you to **Justin Schultz** and **Bernata Slater** for getting me situated!

I had the opportunity to watch last week's graduation video. One could not help but be inspired by the number of students who are the first in their families to graduate. What a nice touch to announce that as they walk to receive their diplomas! At Peralta, CCLC, and Chancellor's Office, I participated and requested my staff to attend graduation each year; and I don't recall hearing such announcement.

A special, heartfelt thank-you goes to **Kimberlee Messina** for both a great graduation and for serving as Interim President this past year. Dr. Messina certainly carried a heavy load, with **Kurt Hueg**, **Teresa Ong**, and **San Lu** also stepping up to the plate. Together with the incredible faculty, classified professionals, and administrators, Foothill graduated 1,014 students last week. Phenomenal!



Saw this poster right as I was entering the President's Office this morning. It is nice to see that the college celebrates its dedicated employees, along with its students.



Please come by and introduce yourself. Would you also be so kind and fill out this short, confidential survey of what you hope I **will do**, what you hope I **will not do**, and what is the **most meaningful** work to you at Foothill College? <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VCX7GSX>. It should take 5-7 minutes, and would be for my edification only. A thousand-mile journey starts with the first step. Would you help me start off on the right foot?

Today also marks the new fiscal year, and we are fortunate that the current budget climate is advantageous for California community colleges. With national and state conversations around tuition-free community colleges and the large investment in workforce development, this is our opportunity to shine – our renaissance period.

I was glowing with pride when the staff at the State Chancellor’s Office told me that Foothill would receive the prestigious Rice Diversity & Equity Award this year. I look forward to returning to Sacramento for the awards ceremony later this month with **Chancellor Judy Miner**, our trustees, and **Denise Swett**.

Foothill has always been a leader in the state. During my time in Sacramento, I’ve seen some of our own stars in action: **Dolores Davison**, now Chair of the System Advisory Committee on Curriculum (SACC); **Andrew LaManque** on the IEPI Executive Committee; **Kimberlee Messina** on the IEPI Advisory Committee; **Judy Baker** with OEI; and our new student trustee **Courtney Cooper** at an IEPI meeting. The State Student Senate President last year, Foothill’s **Dahlia Salem**, had the ability to command an audience whenever she spoke, and she often mentioned Foothill at Consultation Council. Then there’s the Faculty Association’s **Rich Hanson** who has significantly shaped the course of the ACCJC discussion in Sacramento.

Thank you to all those who contacted me with warm wishes! I also received congratulatory emails from De Anza and the district office, and deeply appreciate **President Brian Murphy** reaching out to offer support.

Enjoy the July 4th festivities with family and friends. I look forward to connecting with each of you in the days to come.

Of Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thuy', written in a cursive style.

Thuy Thi Nguyen
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