

## FOOTHILL COLLEGE



Division of Language Arts & Ethnic Studies

## Award Ceremony 2025

## FOOTHILL COLLEGE Land Acknowledgment

MUWEKMA OHLONE TRIBAL LAND ACKNOWLEDGMENT FOR FOOTHILL COLLEGE LOCATED IN LOS ALTOS HILLS, CA WITHIN THE PUICHON THÁMIEN ANCESTRAL MUWEKMA OHLONE TERRITORY

Horše túuxi! (Hor-sheh troo-hee) Foothill College recognizes that it is located on the ethnohistoric territory of the ancestral and traditional land of the Puichon Thámien Ohlone-speaking People, and the successors of the historic sovereign Verona Band of Alameda County, presently identified as the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe of the San Francisco Bay Area. This land was and continues to be of great importance to the Muwekma Ohlone Tribe and other familial descendants of the Verona Band. We recognize that every member of the greater Foothill College/Los Altos Hills community has, and continues to benefit from, the use and occupation of this land, since the institution's founding in 1957. Consistent with our values of community, inclusion, and diversity, we have a responsibility to acknowledge and make known through various enterprises Foothill College's relationship to Native peoples. As members of the Foothill College/Los Altos Hills community, it is vitally important that we not only recognize the history of the land on which we live, work, and learn, but also, we recognize that the previously federally recognized Muwekma Ohlone Tribal People are alive and flourishing members of the Foothill College/Los Altos Hills and broader Bay Area communities today. Aho!

## **FOOTHILL COLLEGE** | LANGUAGE ARTS & ETHNIC STUDIES



## **Opening Remarks** by our Division Dean

The Language Arts and Ethnic Studies Division is one that believes in the powerful relationship between language and identity; between language and belonging; and between language and justice. We believe that to fully discover and develop these relationships, the most successful students bring their courage - courage to think critically, to question, to collaborate, to take risks, to care for others, to use their true voice, and to be agents of their own learning.



For this reason, our awards are not based solely on grades or tests. Our awards honor students for their words, their wisdom, and their actions. Many have persevered through enormous obstacles; many have gone out of their way to help and inspire others. All who receive an award today can feel proud that their professor selected them for praise and acknowledgment. And they should know that the extra effort and care they gave to their classes is an inspiration to all of us.



## Department Recognition Awards

- Ethnic Studies
- Japanese
- Spanish
- ESLL/NCEL
- English



## Acknowledging Students From

## Ethnic Studies



Outstanding Students

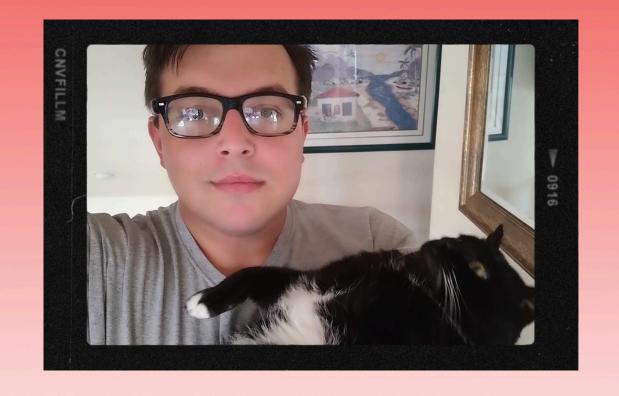
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Janarese.





## Randy Clark



## **Blake Miles**

"to Kuko Tomota-sensee (冨田育子 (とみたいくこ) I wish I could be there to accept the award"



## Spanis I



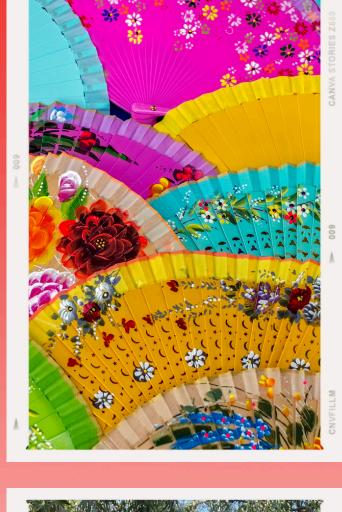
## Heidi Jacobsen

# Julio Rivera-Montanez

## Louella Tsai

**Recognized for excellence in Language Arts** 

### Pamela McCulloh



Outstanding Students

From



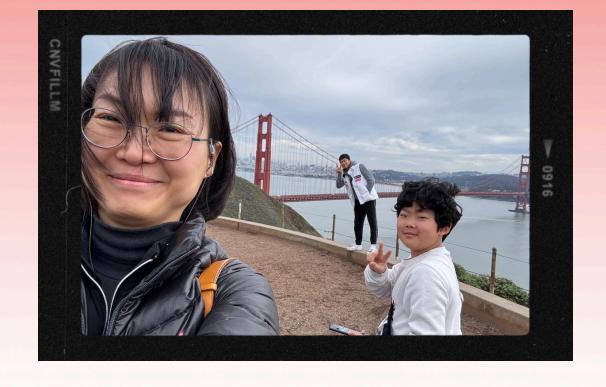
## ESIL/NCEL English as Second Language





### Chinatsu Yamada

Recognized for excellence in Language Arts

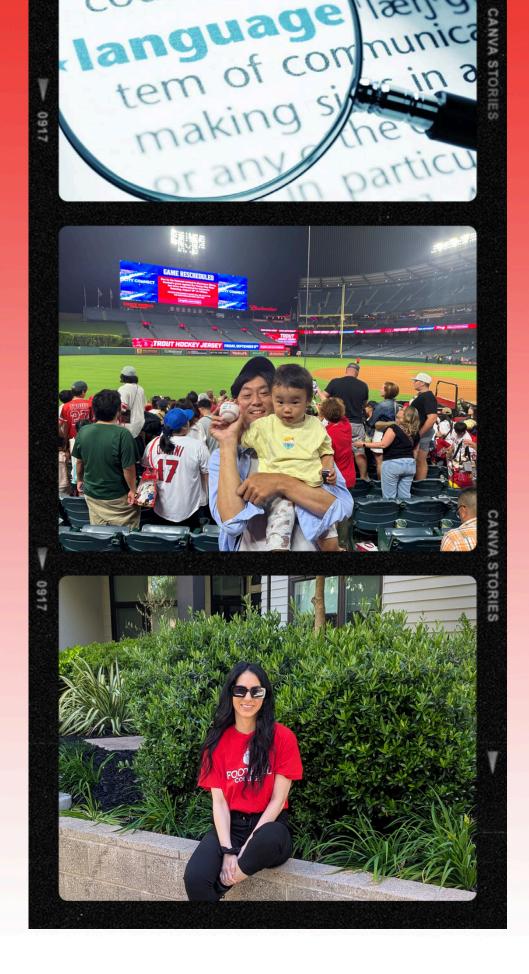


### Jae Shin Lee

"Through my ESL learning journey, I have learned not only about the language, but also about the culture of the country and the world."

## Maria Barragan Rodriguez





## Naoya Miura

"I am very honored to receive this award. I am truly grateful to Curry for choosing me for this award. I am also very grateful to my professors, Foothill College, and my family for giving me this opportunity."

## Katerina Soumelidou

"I am grateful to be part of the Foothill College community. It's been a great experience so far. I'd like to sincerely thank my teacher curry Sarver for her guidance, encouragement and for nominating me for this award."

Outstanding Students

from English

Composition,
Literature,
Creative Writing &
Journalism



## **Abigail Fox-Diallo**

**Recognized for excellence in Language Arts** 



## **Ved Valmiki**

## Photographed by Julian Caballero



## **Matthew Tran**

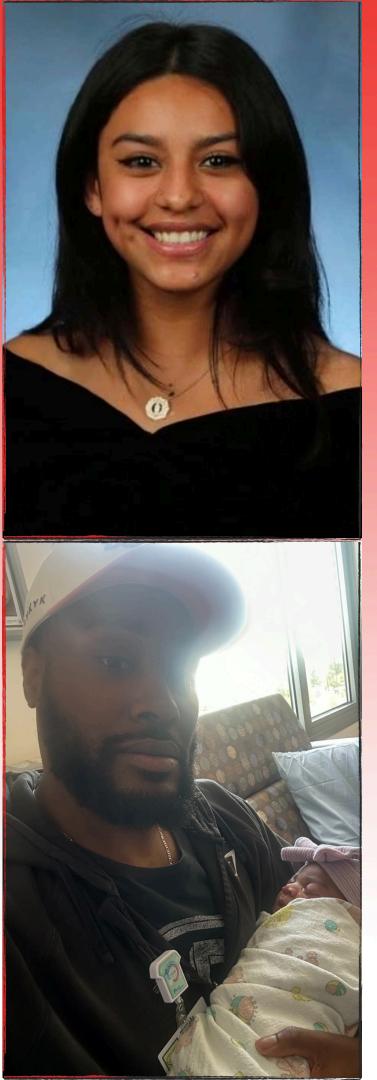
Recognized for excellence in Language Arts

## Mimi Okada



## Neil Yuen

"Thank you so much for thinking of me for this award! It is an honor."



## Evelyn Perez Solorzano

**Recognized for excellence in Language Arts** 

## **Alexander Rector-Ricks**

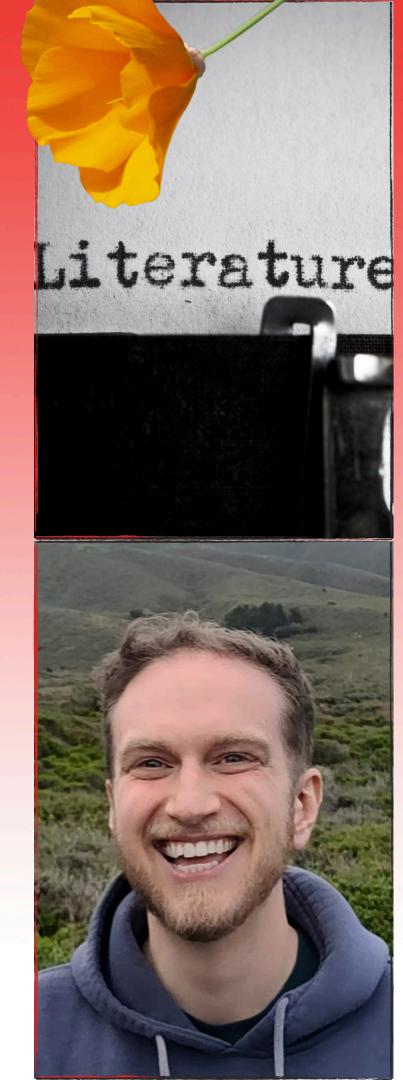
"This picture I selected is my biggest reason for coming back to school."

## Sadie Puicón

**Recognized for excellence in Language Arts** 

## **Matt Helms**

Recognized for excellence in Language Arts



## Prof. Fordana

## Prof. Allison Herman

## Li Zhuolang (Leon)

**Recognized for excellence in Language Arts** 

## Aiden Compean

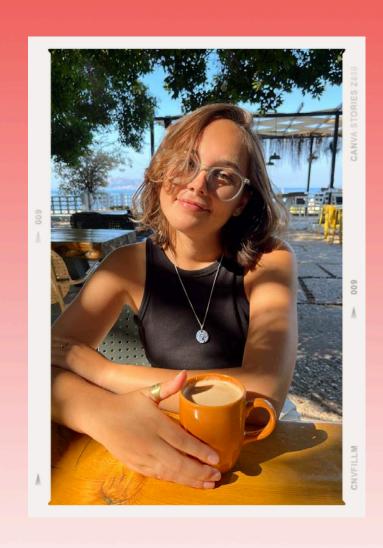




## **Thomas Raffa**

**Recognized for excellence in Language Arts** 

## Mimi Okada



## Valeriia Skatova

## Demetrius Jernigan

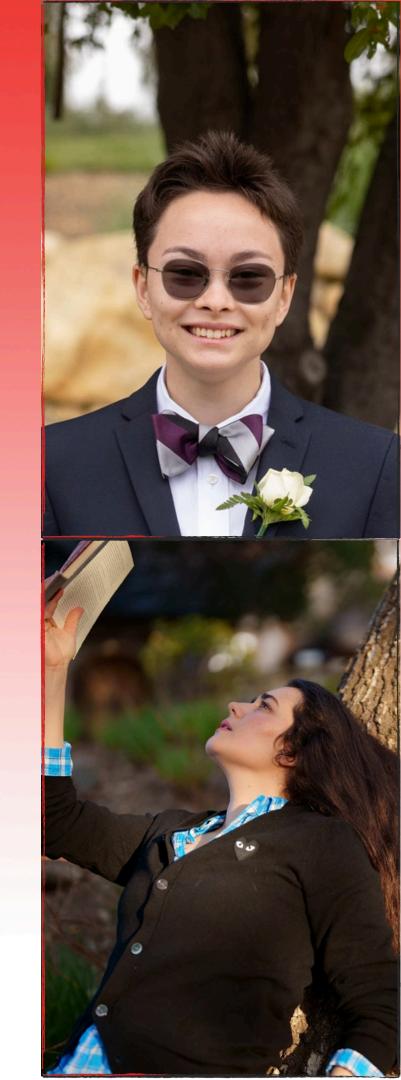


## Selena Chambers

**Recognized for excellence in Language Arts** 

## Felix Chen



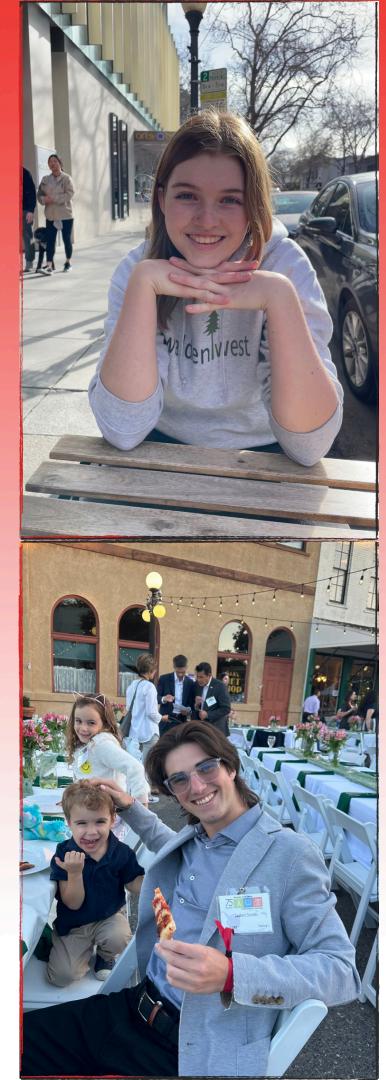


## **Tristan Hui**

Recognized for excellence in Language Arts

## **Ambra Gargini**

"I never imagined this. Thank you so much to my incredible professors who encouraged and believed in me and guided me to this amazing moment!"



## **Aidan Claeys**

Recognized for excellence in Language Arts

## Jaden Smith

""Thank you for this wonderful recognition!"

Congratulations

## 2025 Recognition Award Recipients!



## Scholarship Awards

Language Arts & Ethnic Studies

Division



## Anne Paye Award

Over her long career as a Foothill College English faculty member, Anne Paye evinced a profound appreciation for the novel use of language. This scholarship award is given to a Language Arts student who has demonstrated a similar love of and facility for language. The student's writing may not be free from error, but it showcases sophisticated and unique style, linguistic rigor, and creativity. The student may have marshaled unexpected evidence in support of an argument, or they may have turned a phrase so exactly and elegantly that the reader was given pause to reflect. The Anne Paye Award recognizes such linguistic achievements and honors student voice, well expressed.



## Lan Nguyen

Special recognition for the Anne Paye Award in Language Arts & Ethnic Studies at Foothill College

Nominated by Amber LaPiana (absent) and Stephanie Chan



Language Arts & Ethnic Studies

Division

AMARO



## Nancy Schrier Award

Nancy G. Schrier was an enthusiastic teacher at Foothill College for 25 years and enjoyed sharing her passion for poetry and fiction with students. The purpose of this fund is to provide annual award(s) to Foothill student(s) nominated and chosen by Foothill Language Arts faculty. Specifically, the award is for a student who has taken at least one English class in the current academic year and has demonstrated a passion for creative writing and/or poetry. Special consideration is given to those students who have persevered in the face of challenges to pursue their education.



## Marvin Hernandez Flores

Special recognition for the Nancy G. Shrier Award in Language Arts & Ethnic Studies at Foothill College

> Nominated by Professor Hilda Fernandez



Language Arts & Ethnic Studies

Division

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## The Jason Whitten Award

This award honors a student who has taken at least one English class in the current academic year, has persevered in the face of challenges to pursue their education, and who has become an outstanding student in English as demonstrated through their writing.



## Shama Wabha

Special recognition for the Jason Whitten Award in Language Arts & Ethnic Studies at Foothill College

Nominated by Professor Brian Lewis



Language Arts & Ethnic Studies Division FRED I. NCCLUR 



## Fred H. McClure Award

This award is for non-native English speakers who have distinguished themselves in an ESLL or English class. This recognition goes to exemplary students whose work and work ethic demonstrated a commitment to learning and excelling. The award recognizes the student's determination to learn and grow, highlighting their persistence, perseverance, and eagerness to reach beyond the standard outcomes of a course.



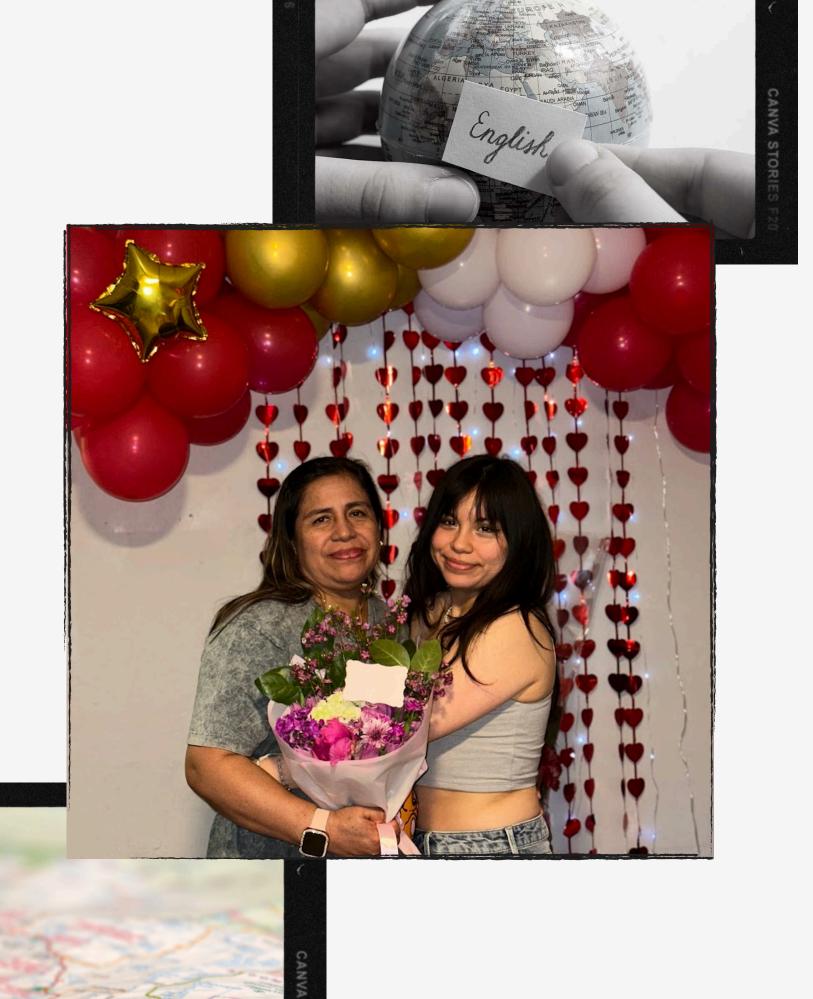
## Coco Castaneda

Special recognition for the Fred H. McClure Award in Language Arts & Ethnic Studies at Foothill College

Nominated by Amy Sarver

"My gratitude to Foothill College. To Valerie Fong, Dean of the Language Arts Division, for giving me the honor of receiving the Fred H.McClure Scholarship. I feel blessed to have been chosen for this recognition. Thank you!"





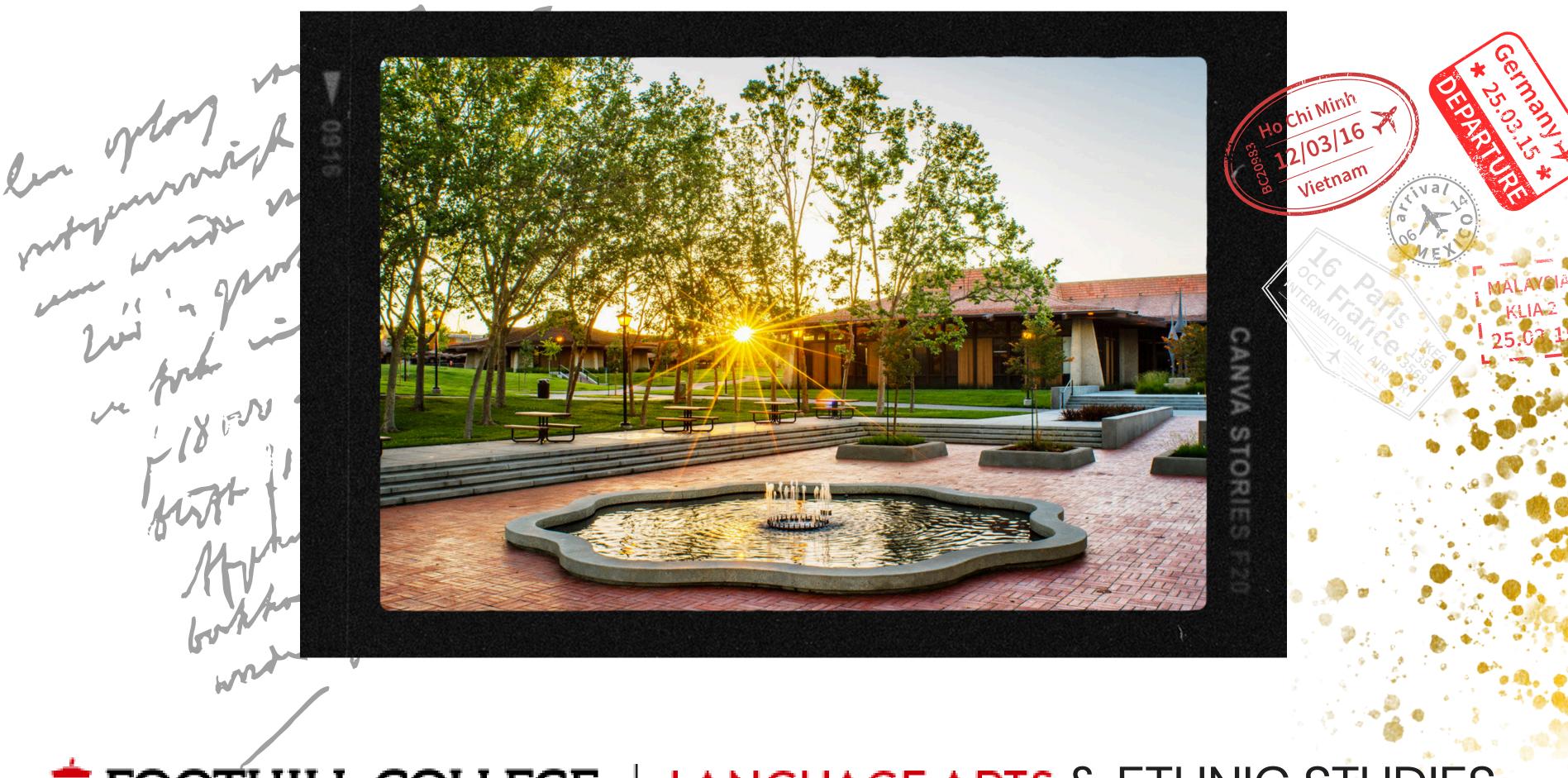
## Milene Alcaron Ayala

Special recognition for the Fred H. McClure Award in Language Arts & Ethnic Studies at Foothill College

**Nominated by Amy Sarver** 

## Congratulations

## 2025 Scholarship Award Recipients!



**FOOTHILL COLLEGE | LANGUAGE ARTS & ETHNIC STUDIES**