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To: foothill
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Subject: We're in a horse race....

For those of you who might have watched the Kentucky Derby, or the highlights after the race, you know that a remarkable race took place. A horse that just joined the field 24 hours before the race, with 80-1 odds, won. While I am a horse person, I am not into horse racing. However, once I saw the highlights of the race, I watched it over and over, both the ground view and the overhead view. I am attaching the link for both (see the NBC Twttter feed) before the link expires:

<https://www.courier-journal.com/story/sports/horses/kentucky-derby/2022/05/07/rich-strike-kentucky-derby-2022-replay-highlight-video/6552219001/>

(Those of you who were on our December Equinmity retreat might be able to relate, somewhat, to this).

Why is this relevant for Foothill? Because we are in a horse race. And while we might not have been the last to join the race, we have been behind in a variety of areas, for a number of reasons. However, in watching the race and how the winning horse weaved through a literal herd of horses, all running at breakneck speed, and how he outmaneuvered them and found his “opening” and headed home, with energy to spare, I think that’s us!! So, indulge me and view the videos and think of where are we in the race? And where is the “finish” line? When we get back on track, when we can worry more about the business at hand, our students, and less about the distractions we have had since and during Covid. As we begin to reflect on the last few months, we have accomplished much in our race to new normalcy. We/you have completed the long awaited Guided Pathways and we are ready for implementation, and many thanks to the very hardworking team!!! We have a new and functioning governance group, MIP-C, Mission (I’m)Possible Council, which our students named, apparently, because it seemed like a “mission impossible” task to get this done! Many thanks to our thoughtful partners, the leaders of ASFC, the Classified Senate, and the Academic Senate. We are fully engaging in our self-study and preparation for accreditation due to the tireless work of many. We are nearing the halfway point in our faculty search process and many thanks to the diligent search committees for conducting the extensive interviews and selection process. We are looking to expand programming in new areas to attract the middle to older adult student since that is the population that is increasing, not our high school population. We are looking to new programming, such as a heightened focus on experiential learning, at home and abroad, through our Research and Service Leadership Symposium, and increase in internships, including resurrecting our NASA Ames internships, and apprenticeships. (“Apprenticeship” used to refer to work in the “trades,” like plumbing, pipefitting, construction. Now it also includes work with virtual reality, 3D, and gaming; as well as work in the sciences and health sciences). Our already successful online learning programs as well as in person classes can be enhanced by giving our students a true digital education experience with the use of 3D and VR. A Metaverse group of faculty, staff, and administrators are new thought partners in this effort (if you wish to join, LMK). We are continuing to develop our work in Global Experiential Learning for study outside of our area, including in other states and other countries, though securing much needed support staff to help us in this work has been a challenge but the planning continues.

We are looking to all of our professional development programs and how can they be brought together for a true institutional transformation of ourselves, our work, our pedagogy, and our true integration of trust, empathy, and equity in our culture. We are embedding the Strategic Vision for Equity goals into our

administrative evaluations so that these goals become part of a living and active process of engagement with the SVE and our college's administrative leadership. A center for teaching and learning that brings together our professional development for equity, the KCI programs in technology, and online learning would make for a very powerful combination to also transform ourselves.

We are also looking at all of our youth programs and how can they be better integrated with one another and share in each other's strengths, like FEI, SLI, dual enrollment. We are looking to attract international students, an Experiential Learning Institute for International Students (ELIIS), starting with high school students who could take our online courses during the academic year and spend two weeks during the summer in an experiential program in the sciences and humanities and then return as college students once finishing their high school education in their home countries.

And also, bringing a playground to campus, Magical Bridge, that is "an inclusive for all" playground for all ages, toddlers through older adults, of all abilities, able and disabled, that is also a learning lab for our child development students, our disabled students, and our horticulture students who can help design such playground, and the Magical Bridge designer is also a Foothill graduate in horticulture! (Your truly is committing to raising \$6m from private donors to pull this off, so hold your breath). You can experience Magical Bridge playgrounds in Redwood City, Palo Alto, and Sunnyvale, to name only a few locations. https://magicalbridge.org/site/?gclid=Cj0KCQjwmuiTBhDoARIsAPiv6L88u6o9SDLYVMo-olp35dwhI9u4vZCbT1rAqui4yBxZiChClpD8UqgaAkqLEALw_wcB

And lastly, you might wonder what are we racing for or against? We are racing to reposition Foothill as the college of choice among our competitors, to attract the best possible presidential candidates to a college that is thriving, fully functional, and healthy – emotionally, academically, creatively, and fiscally.

Best regards,

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