
From: Bernadine Chuck Fong <fongbernadine@fhda.edu>
Sent: Monday, August 22, 2022 9:55 PM
To: foothill
Cc: centralservices
Subject: Back to the Future begins the week of Sept. 21, 22, 23

Welcome “Back to the Future” which is Foothill’s theme for Opening Day on Friday, September 23rd. However, this exciting day (believe me) will be preceded by our District Day on Wednesday, the 21st, and our Flex Day on Thursday, the 22nd. *Below is the planned schedule of activities for all three days and all should plan to attend in person as there will be no remote option.*

With one foot in the future and one in the past we have much to reflect upon and also celebrate, as we start the 65th year of the founding of Foothill College which was established in 1957.

Indicators for our future are looking very bright. This summer concluded with 23 of our Foothill students completing their classes in Stanford University’s summer session tuition free. We had a 100% completion rate! Our students who were from our Honors, Puente, and EOPS programs chose courses in anthropology, classics, communications and virtual reality, computer science, electrical engineering, history, philosophy, physics, religious studies, and sociology. More students (8) took the physics classes than any other! One of these students had in fact, just graduated from high school and had not yet taken any Foothill classes yet! When I met with many of them on their last day of class, they reported what a positive experience they had had, and how they gained in their own self-confidence and esteem and realized they could do the academic work. Each has their respective professor’s email and some are going to invite them to come to guest lecture at Foothill. Our students were also given “A” parking passes which meant they were able to park in the prime locations, closest to the classrooms (these passes cost Stanford faculty and staff over \$1000 a year!). Our students were the first cohort of community college students being invited to attend Stanford’s summer session. This is an attempt by the university to better serve the community and Roosevelt Charles, our dean of counseling, was surprised when he got the somewhat random call from the summer session director in February, asking whether some students could be identified to participate in this trial program. We think our students’ success will mean this program will continue in the future and now our students will have both a Foothill College transcript and a Stanford University transcript. We could not be prouder.

Foothill hosted a booth at the Los Altos Rotary’s *Art in the Park* during an August weekend. Thank you to all those who participated. The event and experience was particularly heart-warming, as we met many individuals who stopped by and proudly declared they had gotten their start at Foothill. We met one individual who was in the first class at Foothill when we began in the old Highway School on El Camino Real in 1957! We met another who started at Foothill and ended up getting her undergraduate and graduate degrees at Stanford, including a PhD in STEM. We met several parents of rising seniors who were looking for options to lower the overall cost of going to college. We were joined by a Foothill friend and supporter, a former state assembly woman who proudly told others that she attended Foothill to prepare to enter an MBA program. We met soon-to-be retirees who were looking for other educational options to continue their productive years as they were not ready for a life of daily Bingo!

Another bright spot is our fall enrollment which looks like we are attracting or re-attracting more students. During the Covid era our enrollment was down as much as 35% from the previous year. We are

now almost even with the previous year (+/-1%). This is critical for us as our financial health and stability relies on our enrollment since so many State funding formulas are based on FTES (Full Time Equivalent Students). And what is worth noting is both our African American (8%) and Latinx student (2%) populations are up though our Asian (-8%) and white (-4%) populations are down.

However, another interesting trend is our online enrollment for both Foothill and De Anza is lower than this same time last year (-7%), which makes sense as it appears our enrollment is starting to shift somewhat from online to in person though we are not yet at the 50:50 mark pre-pandemic.

This year we will begin to explore when the future can emerge from our past and how do we continue to improve? How do we truly internalize our mission “educational opportunity for all” which is on the college’s seal, created in 1957? At this point in time, “opportunity” is not just about “access” or even “success,” but by Merriam-Webster’s definition: “Opportunity” is “a favorable combination of circumstances, time, and place.” So, for us, how do we assure our students have a “*favorable combination of circumstances, time, and place*” for the education they seek from us? We will address this question during our college opening day.

Below are the *tentative* schedules for our three professional development days: 1) District Opening Day; 2) College Flex Day; 3) College Opening Day. *Events and activities for all three days will be take place at Foothill, beginning in the Smithwick Theater.* I wanted to make sure that you have these schedules well in advance so you can make childcare, carpool, transportation or other arrangements accordingly. You will receive more detailed information about the sessions in September, including a QR code, but the schedule will remain the same.

And lastly, I want to quote the words of my counterpart at De Anza, Lloyd Holmes. He has said more than once that “if we wanted the two colleges to be the same, then we should be one college with two campuses” rather than two distinct colleges. Given that Foothill and De Anza are clearly two distinct colleges, and in so many ways, we will likely address our remote work practices differently. *Going forward this fall, I intend to have some people from the d.school at Stanford to help us be inventive and creative in how we approach how the work week and work presence has changed all of us, our roles, and our ways of working and how can we take advantage of our experiences to increase Foothill’s student-centeredness even more. Given Foothill’s history of innovation, I am certain we can, collectively, come up with a thoughtful and responsive process and practice. You will hear more about this when the quarter begins.*

However, in the meantime, and after considerable thought and discussion, and informal consultation with many others, I would like to *encourage everyone (faculty, staff, and administrators) to come to campus during the first two weeks of the upcoming quarter* in order to rebuild our sense of community and be on hand to better serve our students, particularly those new to Foothill and 1st gen students who are looking for a true college experience. It was sad in June when I handed a diploma to a graduating student who was on campus for the first time. Deans will be reaching out to our teaching and non-teaching faculty for roles they might play in the first two weeks that welcome and help on campus students during the first two weeks. Until we employ design thinking, Foothill will continue its hybrid classified professional work option with one but not more than two days of remote work, and only in selected positions and circumstances. All in-person student and public-facing positions work on campus a minimum of four (4) days per week. This includes:

- Administrative Assistants
- A&R Positions
- Program Coordinators, as applicable

All other staff positions work on campus a minimum of three (3) days per week. *All staff employees will work on campus on Wednesdays to support our College Hour the activities that our students plan for that day and time.*

DISTRICT OPENING DAY

Wednesday, September 21, 2022

Renewal and Change at Foothill-De Anza

7:30-8:00 AM	Continental breakfast/Meet and greet
8:00-9:45 AM	Morning Plenary Patrick Ahrens, President, Board of Trustees Judy Miner, Chancellor Renewal and Change at Foothill-De Anza – Keith Curry, Equity Avenger and Chancellor of Compton Community College District, Judy Miner, Chancellor, and Anu Khanna, Senior Advisory to the Chancellor for Reimagining Foothill-De Anza
9:45 AM-10:15 AM	Connections/Reflections
10:30 AM-Noon	Workshops (1 and 1.5 hour workshops)
10:30-11:30 AM	One hour workshops
10:30-Noon	1.5 hour workshops
11:30AM-3:00PM	Benefits Fair
Noon-1:30 PM	Lunch
1:15-3:30 PM	Workshops
1:15-2:15 PM	One hour workshops
1:15-3:15 PM	Two hour workshops

FOOTHILL COLLEGE FLEX DAY

Thursday, September 22 Tentative Flex Day Agenda

- 8:00-9:00am – Check in (pick up nametags) and continental breakfast, Smithwick Quad
- 9:10-10:00am - Concurrent Session #1, Location TBA
- 10:10-11:00am - Concurrent Session #2, Location TBA
- 11:10-12:00pm - Concurrent Session #3, Location TBA
- 12:00-1:30pm - Lunch, Library Quad
- 1:30-4:30pm - Department Chair Meetings and Ensuring Learning Meetings, Location TBA
- *All Day: Division and Department Photos by Marketing, Location TBD



FOOTHILL COLLEGE OPENING DAY

Friday, September 23 Tentative Opening Day Program: *Back to the Future*

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| 8:00-9:00 AM | Check in (pick up nametags) and continental breakfast (Smithwick Quad) |
| 9:15 AM | Convene in Smithwick Theater |
| 9:15-9:45 AM | Welcome and land acknowledgement
Introduction of new full time faculty (from 2018 to present) and staff |
| 9:45-10:30 AM | <i>Back to the Future</i> kickoff of Foothill's 65 th year |
| 10:30-11:45 AM | Prof. David Yeager, UT Austin, "How we can be wise mentors in encouraging growth mindset among our students and ourselves" and Q&A |
| 11:45 -12:30 | <i>Back to the Future</i> Lunch and ice cream trucks or carts, popcorn, |
| 12:45-1:30 | Options: <ul style="list-style-type: none">Follow up with David Yeager for those who wish to have small group discussion and participate as fellows in a <i>community of practice</i> going forward |

- Presentation on the future: *Metaverse Institute*, what is it, who's in it, what have they been doing this summer
- *Photo booths* – commemorate your day on campus with friends and colleagues
- *Animal Assisted Happiness* (returning by popular demand)

1:30 – 4:30

Division/Dept meetings

Best regards,

Bernadine

Bernadine Chuck Fong, Ph.D.

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