



President's Communiqué

FROM THE DESK OF THUY THI NGUYEN

Welcoming (Back) Our Students

I have had a lot of fun these past two days welcoming and welcoming back students to the main campus (Monday) and Sunnyvale (Tuesday). I really appreciate all the classified professionals and administrators who came out to the welcome tables! Special shout-out to **Erin Ortiz** and **Andrea Hanstein** who coordinated these welcoming tables. Enrollment is soft this spring quarter. Our goal is to encourage students to study at Foothill and not drop classes ... and maybe even enroll in an additional class or two!

In addition to meeting students, I also learned a lot about our students and our campus operations. I even discovered a classroom I did not know about when I was helping one student find her class! Every student I spoke with expressed enormous appreciation for the STEM Center – some even talked about practically living there. Some students shared admissions news from four-year universities, while others expressed how much they enjoy studying at Foothill.

I also ran into some of the students we are sending to the Science March in Washington D.C. next week. We had 33 applicants and I decided to select not three, but nine winners and all are excited.

- **Kevin Allan** (Engineering), **Patrick Kolence** (Biological Sciences) and **Allison Inanoria** (General Science)
 - These three submitted as a group and included a video:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jEegmsXpLl0&feature=youtu.be>
- **Vanessa Murillo** (Anthropology for Transfer)
 - Who also included a video: <https://youtu.be/mQA22tUW1kU>
- **Brandon Davis** (Physics for Transfer)
- **Aaron Grulich** (Chemistry)
- **Caitlin Hoerber** (Biological Sciences)
- **Steven Robledo** (Biological Sciences)
- **Donna Trott** (Chemistry)
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The group met yesterday with the faculty “chaperones” who will attend the march with them: **Eric Reed, Brendan Mar, and Jiin Liang.** Many thanks to them and **Bob Cormia, Sandya Rao, and Elaine Neukermans** who all served as judges for the competition. Thank you also to **Kevin Harral,** Director of Financial Aid, and **Robin Latta,** Foundation Assistant Director, for organizing a seamless application process.

Tomorrow is also a special day as we will unveil the Dreamers Mural. Parents from our Family Engagement Institute were on campus to enroll a few weeks ago, and expressed how welcomed they felt from seeing the mural.

DREAMERS MURAL UNVEILING

Thursday, April 13

12:00 PM - 1:15PM

Smithwick Theatre Courtyard

**featuring live music and snacks!*

I am continuing to listen to the audio tape of Tim Wise’s “White Like Me”. As he tells his story of campaigning against white supremacist David Duke in New Orleans and the poignant question by the Xavier University student that stumped him, I am reminded of my own experience living in Louisiana. One year, our family moved to Lake Charles, and I remember a group of African American students telling us while we were all waiting for the school bus that the neighboring town, Moss Bluff, is where the KKK live and that “they also don’t like Asians.” Thus, when a teacher drove me to her home in Moss Bluff to get decoration materials for the school party, I was so afraid that I might get kidnapped and die without my parents knowing. It was the longest drive of my adolescent life.

The south definitely has its own form of racism and oppression. It also has its southern “charm” including great food. One of the students I met on Monday is from Arkansas, and he and I lamented on how we miss southern food. I offered to treat him and 3 other students at a new nearby restaurant called NOLA. I was then later told that it doesn’t really have authentic southern, soul food. In case our Arkansian student takes me up on this offer, where can I find a place for authentic grits, jambalaya, gumbo, po’ boys, and beignets? Email me!

And see you on Thursday at the Dreamers Mural unveiling party!

Of Service,



Thuy Thi Nguyen
President
Foothill College