



"With Pride ... A Lot of It"

As I hit my one-week mark, I would like to thank all of you for the warm Foothill College welcome! I have met several of you, but would love to visit your classes or department/division gatherings this summer to learn more about what you do on a day-to-day basis. Please let me or Justin Schultz know if you would like me to attend.

Yesterday, I met with the incoming dental hygiene students and was excited to talk to them about their role in a historic moment for California community colleges – baccalaureate degrees! You should have seen the pride on their faces. Special thanks to Program Director **Phyllis Spragge** for inviting me to speak.

The Disability Resource Center and Veterans Resource Center presented me with these gifts when I visited them today. Thank you, **San Lu** for the tour!



I am happy to say that several faculty and staff have started following me on Twitter (@FoothillPrez). You may have noticed I shared both CollegeStart.org and BestCollege.com ranking Foothill as one of the best online education providers in the country.

CollegeStart.org:

Foothill College ranked No.1 For Best Affordable Online Community College

BestCollege.com:

"Foothill has not only set the standard for distance learning in California, but for the country as a whole." Top 4!

In spite of this news, I was surprised by a rumor about Foothill cancelling its fully online (a.k.a. "online-only") classes. Foothill College is a proud pioneer of online education. As the first California community college to offer credit online courses, as well as a pilot college with the Online Education Initiative (OEI), we continue to be a leader in the state. We are committed to serving our students in multiple modalities to best serve their needs. We offer face-to-face, fully online, and hybrid or blended learning courses and have no intention of eliminating fully online courses.

Last week I met with the trifecta, tri-chairs of the Professional Development Committee (**Ben Stefonik**, **Karen Smith**, and **Judy Baker**) to prepare for Opening Day on Friday, September 23. They had some great ideas around equity. Our goal is to make the day an engaging one while providing critical information on various initiatives this year and continuing to make progress on equity efforts. We hope to finalize the agenda in the next couple of weeks. The Chancellor is also planning a dynamic district opening day, with a welcome reception for new faculty, staff, and administrators. I look forward to joining the other newbies from Foothill at the reception!

As we welcome the new, we also want to say good-bye and thank-you those who are leaving us. At Monday's board meeting, the trustees are expected to approve the retirement of **Andrew Fraknoi**, Astronomy Professor (effective June 2017); **Naomi Kitajima**, Health Services Director (effective June 2016); and **Brenda Davis**, Accommodations Coordinator (effective July 2016). Together, these three represent nearly 80 years of service and dedication to Foothill College! The board is also expected to approve the resignations of **David Ellis**, Apprenticeship Coordinator and **Amanda Kolstad-Stobaugh**, 3SP Coordinator, both of whom left the college in June. Please join me in wishing all of these individuals success in their future endeavors!

Shelly Bowers, Admissions, sent me a picture of **Naomi** with two of her recently retired colleagues, **Joe Ragey**, Theatre Arts and **Konnilyn Feig**, Social Sciences.



Special thanks to Dean **Victor Tam**, whose last day with the college was Tuesday. Victor made a point to meet with me on his last day here and I assure you I tried to convince him to stay. It was quite apparent in our conversation that Foothill is a special place for him and he thinks I will really enjoy working here! It is a true sign of Foothill's values when an employee's departure is as positive as his arrival.

Speaking of **Andy Fraknoi**, this must be his year! In addition to being the faculty speaker at Commencement, he just won a publishing prize for his book, *Solar Science*, and his Silicon Valley Astronomy Lectures YouTube channel just hit one million views! Check it out for yourself at <https://www.youtube.com/user/SVAstronomyLectures/about>.

There are some major changes in the Workforce area with the departure of three employees. Currently the Vice President of Workforce, Director of Business & Education Partnerships, and Apprenticeship Coordinator positions are vacant. I've asked **Kurt Hueg** to, once again, answer the call of duty and serve as the interim Vice President of Workforce until I have a chance to consult with the President's Cabinet and make a decision about whether to go out for a longer term interim or permanent hire. *Thank you, Kurt!*

Lastly, thank you for the over 90 responses to my survey! I have read each of them, with a few chuckling comments such as, and I paraphrase, "*I don't believe anything is ever confidential so I will identify myself. Hi Thuy. It's me...*"

It is confidential – really! What do you hope I **will do**, what you hope I **will not do**, and what is the **most meaningful** work to you at Foothill College? It should take 5-7 minutes, and would be for my edification only: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/VCX7GSX>.

Thank you again for your warm welcome. I look forward to getting to know you all over the coming months!

P.S. Did you notice that Footsie the Owl is carrying a message? My family and I are huge Harry Potter fans and Footsie is my messenger!

Of Service,



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