



President's Communiqué

FROM THE DESK OF THUY THI NGUYEN

Best of 2019 at “The Loop”

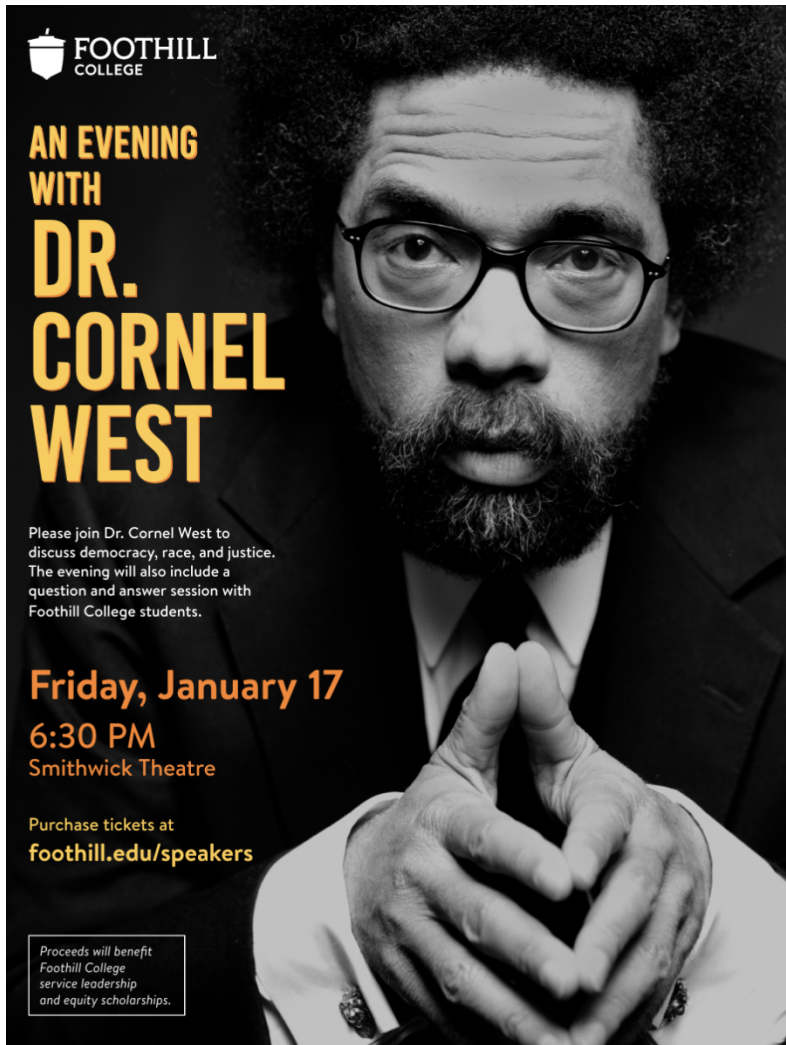
Greetings Foothill,

Did you know that some students affectionately refer to Foothill College as “The Loop” on social media?

Thank you to all those who responded to my question as to why homeless students continue their education at “The Loop” (versus just moving to a less expensive area):

And the winner of 2-free tickets to the **Cornel West** talk is Prof. **Kimberly C. Escamilla**:

“Moving, particularly for the poor, is expensive. It often requires first and last month's rent, a deposit, and moving expenses itself. If students move to a cheaper area, likely they are moving out of their social (and often racial) networks, away from friends, family, and familiarity. Also, if it is a less expensive place to rent, there are likely fewer part time jobs available for lower pay than the bay area. If the area is more rural, then it is likely more racially white, which can increase stress for our students who at least have pockets of racial diversity within a commute of our campus or on our campus.”



[Tickets are now available!](#) If you are interested in the special-fundraiser priced tickets that entail a small reception with Dr. **West**, please contact Foundation Development Director [Leigh Howell](#).

My actual response on that Thanksgiving Day was similar to Stem Center colleague **Paul Hayter** who wrote:

“I believe the best response is that not all Community Colleges are created equal. Foothill has an exceptional record of students transferring to the university of their choice which is key to achieving student objectives. In addition, the location in Silicon Valley and proximity to Stanford means access and contributions from world class resources. So yes, it is difficult to live here but the education is exceptional.”

As I had explained at Thanksgiving, there was a larger percentage of students who reported in the survey being homeless their second year at Foothill, and yet they continue to study (sometimes full-time) at Foothill while living in their cars and couch-surfing. I believe that is because of YOU, faculty and staff at The Loop! You have created such a supportive and transformative experience for students that they want to continue

studying at Foothill despite their living conditions – not to mention ones who travel long distance every day to get to us. It also speaks volume about the grit and resiliency of Foothill students. They are absolutely worth our love and hard work!

Speaking of which, a few of us are actually working today. I'm even "acting chancellor" – a designation that I had asked our beloved chancellor when I first started to change the policy such that when she is out, the vice chancellors serve as "acting chancellor" instead. Well, due to a few holiday vacations by colleagues, that designation has come back to me for this holiday period. (If you are around today and want a warm bowl of Vietnamese pho at the local restaurant at 12:30 pm, email me!)

Before signing off here with this final communiqué for 2019, here is a list of accomplishments that the administrative team shared last week. The list is actually longer than 10 notables but nothing that a little merging and prioritizing could not solve.

BEST of 2019

10. All units in Student Services/Support now have mission/value statements (with 100 faculty and staff in Student Services participated in department retreats, totaling 20 retreats).

9. New programs/certificates such as "Digital Marketing and Data Analytics" and "Amazon Web Services" with enrollments!

8. **Jean Thomas** Dedication in TLC & the 50th Anniversary of EOPS!

7. \$\$\$

- Powergrant: faculty embraced the opportunity to learn to become a reviewer with 20 faculty qualified as peer-reviewers and 25 faculty signed up to have their courses reviewed.
- Facilities rentals up 20% (with 41% increase Fine Arts alone)
- \$82K gift to support TECH Core.
- \$25K grant from AT&T to help with food and housing insecurity.
- \$25K grant from SAGA to provide veterans housing assistance.
- 100-Day Challenge with Bill Wilson Center to help Foothill and other colleges in the county to house 100 students in 100 days.
- \$250K grant for psychological services.

- FEI received grant to be a regional pilot site to host free immigration legal services on the Foothill campus starting Feb. 2020 to Jan. 2022.
- etc...

6. Sports teams –all five Fall teams made it to the playoffs.

5. Dual enrollment – approximately 70% increase in 4 years.

4. Access: College Promise (free 2-year college with full textbook coverage), along with financial aid now also available to all Apprentices.

3. New Program Review process! Here's a faculty feedback (in part): "I just completed the program review documents and wanted to say thank you to whoever developed the rubrics and the template and everything else...This was the easiest program review I have every done and the thought process was really great because I had some assumptions about the decrease in enrollment and it was totally shot down after I went back and looked at some of the data that we collected...I appreciate the reflection piece because that's when I got the "aha" moment...."

2. 705 implementation (full implementation in Math & English implemented in fall with guided self-placement now in effect).

AND 1. Service Leadership – Students' civic engagement with Homeless Student Initiative & Homelessness Summit!



Thank you to all those who came to the college holiday party, and special thanks to KCI for hosting.

Have a fun, relaxing holiday break filled with love! See you in 2020.

Of Service

Thuy

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**CALLING ALL
FOOTHILL COLLEGE
ALUMNI!**

We want to recognize alumni who exemplify *Service Leadership*,
doing good work in their professional and personal lives.
Please connect with us and nominate former students
for our inaugural **Alumni Hall of Fame Induction**
and **All-Class Reunion Party**
on June 6, 2020.

 **FOOTHILL**
COLLEGE

Share your story at foothill.edu/alumni