

Insufficient culturally responsive, relevant and sustaining pedagogy and other asset-based approaches in teaching and serving our students of color.

There are numerous benefits to hiring and retaining diverse faculty. Minoritized students experience higher rates of success³³, diversity increases student and employee retention, the likelihood of implicit bias is reduced, and increasing faculty diversity helps all faculty better integrate multicultural and culturally responsive pedagogy.³⁴

As important as who is teaching a course is how and what is taught. Gloria Ladson-Billings, a renowned scholar and pedagogical theorist, has done extensive work in the areas of culturally relevant pedagogy and critical race theory. She argues that by focusing on student learning and academic achievement versus classroom and behavior management and cultural competence versus cultural assimilation, students will take both a responsibility for and a deep interest in their education. She asserts that this is the key to culturally relevant pedagogy: the ability to link principles of learning with deep understanding of and appreciation for culture. This is the place, she says, where the concept of pedagogy “shifts, changes, adapts, recycles, and recreates” the classroom, shifting marginalized students into a place where they become subjects in the instructional process, not mere objects.³⁵ This places students and their lived experiences at the center of the learning, not the periphery.

Students have expressed a need for the establishment of an Ethnic Studies division, whose curriculum and pedagogy aligns with much of what Dr. Ladson-Billings advocates for in her scholarship. Students also desire a more diverse faculty. Similar to prior years, in fall 2019, the majority of Foothill faculty, both full- and part-time instructors, identified as White.³⁶ In their October 2020 letter, students explicitly stated their desire for Foothill to hire “full-time, tenure track faculty of color, with a priority given to Black and Indigenous applicants.” So with the alignment of student requests, data, and scholarship, the Office of Equity offers the following goals.

Representation, diversity, and cultural relevancy in education matters. For students of color, having diverse faculty teaching and centering their stories allows for a reflection of themselves not only in the learning, but in the leadership, and to highlight how

their communities have historically contributed to all fields of study.

- ✔ **Goal 31:** Foothill College faculty, staff, and administrators are racially diverse.
 - A. Racially diverse employees are retained
 - B. Policies or procedures around course assignments do not disproportionately impact faculty of color.
- ✔ **Goal 32:** Faculty are supported in their efforts to iteratively self-evaluate their proficiency with culturally responsive pedagogy.
- ✔ **Goal 33:** Content and pedagogy are inclusive of and created with communities of color in mind.
- ✔ **Goal 34:** The college creates an Ethnic Studies division, and hires demographically diverse faculty.