



President's Communiqué

FROM THE DESK OF THUY THI NGUYEN

Charlottesville

Greetings Foothill College,

I write to you with a heavy heart regarding recent developments in our country, particularly the events over the weekend at the University of Virginia in Charlottesville.

Foothill College is committed to inclusion and equity, and to making good on our promise in the Student Equity Plan. Part of that commitment requires our relentless belief in racial equality and social justice, and that no race is superior.

Our college continues to be a safe place for our students and employees no matter their ethnicity, religion, or gender identity. At the last Board of Trustees meeting, our chancellor advanced and our board voluntarily and unanimously voted to not expend district funds for travel to states that discriminate based on gender identity.

The open display of white supremacy and neo-Nazism should be alarming to all. We also share in the pain for the loss of Ms. Heather Heyer who was killed during the counter-protest in Charlottesville, and all those who were injured. As Ms. Heyer posted last on her Facebook account: "If you're not outraged, you're not paying attention."

The right to free speech is fundamental, but the rally that occurred in Charlottesville is completely counter to the values of Foothill College. There is so much to write and say on this topic, and I honestly think it is better for us to come together as a college (even during the summer) to share and discuss. At President's Cabinet this morning, we discussed an article on how a college could respond to these events and even then, there was not a clear answer. You can find the article at <http://www.chronicle.com/article/When-White-Supremacists/240913>.

Please join me tomorrow (Tuesday) for an informal gathering. Let's come together for each other. I also want to hear your thoughts and answer any questions you may have about how the college should respond if such a situation occurred here, and to discuss what we as a college need to do (if anything) when our students come back.

Courageous Conversation group discussion
for faculty, staff, and administrators. (Students are also invited.)
Tuesday, August 15th
11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.
Hearthside Lounge
(Light snacks provided.)

This most likely will not be the only gathering on the topic, though we want to provide an outlet for conversation as soon as possible.

Some of you who follow me on Twitter probably saw my postings over the weekend.

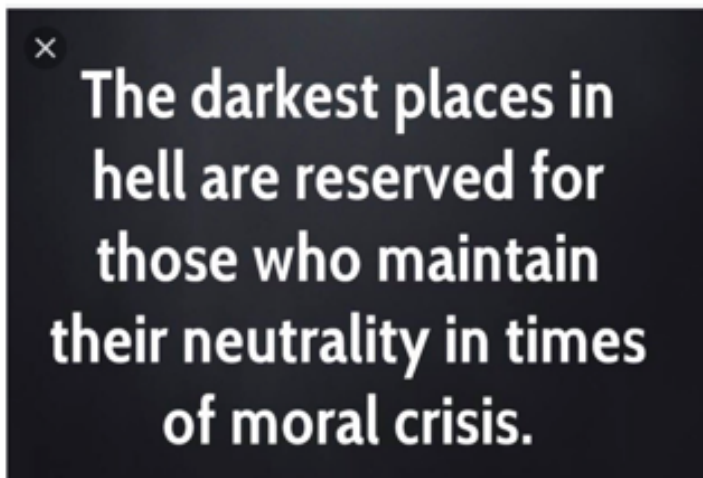
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Foothill President
@FoothillPrez



Dante's words keep coming to mind these days.



I leave you with this thought and look forward to seeing you tomorrow.

Of Service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Thuy'.

Thuy

Thuy Thi Nguyen
President
Foothill College

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