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Sent: Wednesday, March 16, 2022 1:27 PM
To: foothill
Cc: centralservices; asfcelelectedappointed@foothilldeanza.onmicrosoft.com
Subject: An alarming event on our campus

Dear Colleagues,

To my great dismay, the campus has just experienced its third break-in in eight weeks. There were thefts in the president's office suite and the bookstore and the latest incident, which is by far the most concerning, occurred later on Monday. Bathrooms and an unlocked classroom in the PSEC area were vandalized and graffiti expressing vicious racial epithets aimed at our African American community were written on the walls. Campus police have been notified, the offensive messages have been photographed and removed from the walls, and our police are investigating. Let me be clear, Foothill College takes hate speech very seriously and I am deeply troubled at what has transpired. In all of my years with Foothill, this incident is the most abhorrent and has no place on this campus. I personally condemn such hateful actions and I know our college also rejects any racist language that targets members of our college community.

While it is unlikely that we will catch the perpetrators of any of the crimes noted above, in particular the hate crime, I am working with our police department to address how to mitigate further incidents from occurring and how we can continue to ensure our physical and emotional safety and security on campus.

We must realize an uncomfortable truth, racial intolerance is not just in the media or elsewhere, but right here on our campus. Nevertheless, be assured, this act will not deter us from our commitment to continue to create an inclusive college community where Black, Indigenous and People of Color feel welcomed, affirmed, and included.- Our commitment is steadfast and unwavering.

This repugnant action reminds us that we must turn to our core values and trust each other and be open and transparent about our efforts to do better.

Best regards,

Bernadine

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