



# President's Communiqué

FROM THE DESK OF THUY THI NGUYEN

## Giving THANKS to YOU



Chancellor **Eloy Oakley** addressing CEOs and trustees at the Community College League of California (CCLC) Annual Convention with Foothill students on stage last week.



Two inspiring people: **Liliana & Missy** as part of the Campus Ambassador Program helping to “light” the way for CCLC conference attendees.



Another great performance by  
[@Foothillnews](#) #cclcAC2017



Our students with dance Prof. **Bubba Gong** at CCLC Annual Convention

The staff at the Community College League of California (CCLC) sought me out to rave about our student volunteers (and staff such as **Antoinette Chavez**), saying that Foothill students are the best group of students they have ever had to serve as ushers at last week's annual convention. As you may know, I once served as interim president & CEO of CCLC, our Board Chair **Laura Casas** currently serve on the state trustee board, and Chancellor **Judy Miner** serves on its legislative committee. Such compliments by CCLC just made me beam with pride!

The CCLC conference is a statewide gathering of college presidents/chancellors and trustees. I am also following several college presidents tweeting about their respective colleges hosting the "Black Minds Matter" series.

## **Black Minds Matter**

Tomorrow (Wednesday, Nov. 22)

1-3 p.m.

Hearthside Lounge

Topic: "Fostering Healthy Learning Climates of Belonging" (includes practices that will help not just faculty, but staff and administrators, as well)

and Prof. **Carolyn Holcroft** has snacks!

Here are some comments from Foothill folks:

- Enlightening! A great reminder about the various cultural considerations necessary to help students succeed in higher education. A wonderful event to allow Foothill College community members to join together to discuss the ignored truth among college Black men."
- I have loved "Black Minds Matter". I feel it is important to be informed about what is going on around us to be able to be part of the change for the better. I appreciate that the college has organized this series and started the conversations that we all need to have be part of the solution not the problem.

- In the session on black masculine identity development, I gained new insights into the problematic gender dynamics in my own STEM fields, along with some vocabulary to describe the problems. I'm beginning to imagine classroom practices to make the damage caused transparent without making the situation seem hopeless or immutable. There are ways to think about making positive change.
- Black Minds Matter presented me an opportunity to introspect my internal and external spaces within which I function, both consciously and subconsciously. A resounding theme of "Black Minds Matter" is that it is the need of the hour to change our educational system in which the black (and brown) minds are frequently undermined and undervalued. It is time for us to move beyond the rhetoric and take actionable steps to embrace strategies that represent a democratizing data about our students and our efforts for ensuring equitable outcomes for all students.
- Attending the Black Minds Matter sessions is really helping me understand some of the challenges our students are facing. There hasn't been a single week yet when I've not left with ideas that will apply directly to my teaching.

We hope everyone will attend the series, if not at least one session. This series applies to everyone – not just the person whom we believe needs to attend. I must admit that I need to force my calendar to open up so I could attend the series; I surely want to learn from the impressive gathering of lecturers nationwide.

Come and get a "blessing" tomorrow also, as part of Native American Heritage Month Celebration:

### **Welcome Ceremony (a.k.a., a "blessing")**

Tomorrow (Wednesday, Nov. 22)

12-1 p.m.

Hearthside Lounge (and then move outdoor for sage-incense burning)

Anne Marie runs an indigenous nature preserve under the Ohlone Tribal. As Prof. **Scott Lankford** explained to me, the Ohlone people have continuously inhabited the Bay Area (including the land presently known as Foothill College) since at least the end of the Ice Age.

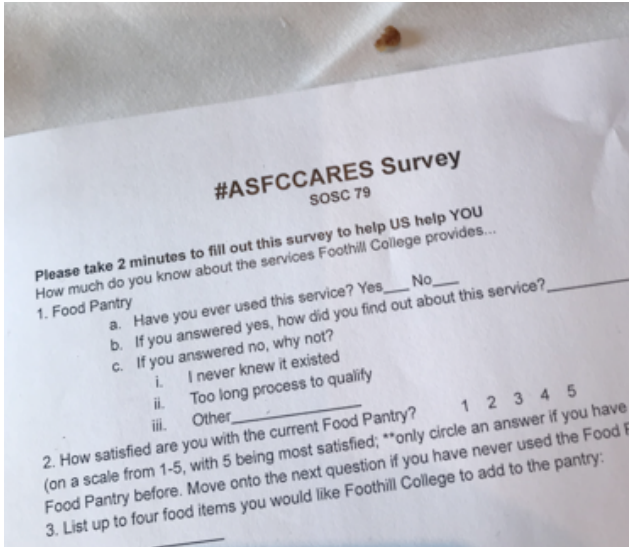
As we get ready to celebrate Thanksgiving and take a much deserved holiday break, we are reminded once again that America is a land of immigrants. Last week, the Los Altos Rotary invited me and a few immigrant members to talk about our immigrant story and wear our heritage garb as part of its Thanksgiving celebration. Mine was the áo dài.



I got a chance to publicly congratulate Dean **Kurt Hueg** & our sociology professors at that same Los Altos Rotary luncheon. Foothill's Sociology department ranked #1 for online sociology education in the country: <https://www.onlinecolleges.com/social-science/sociology.html>

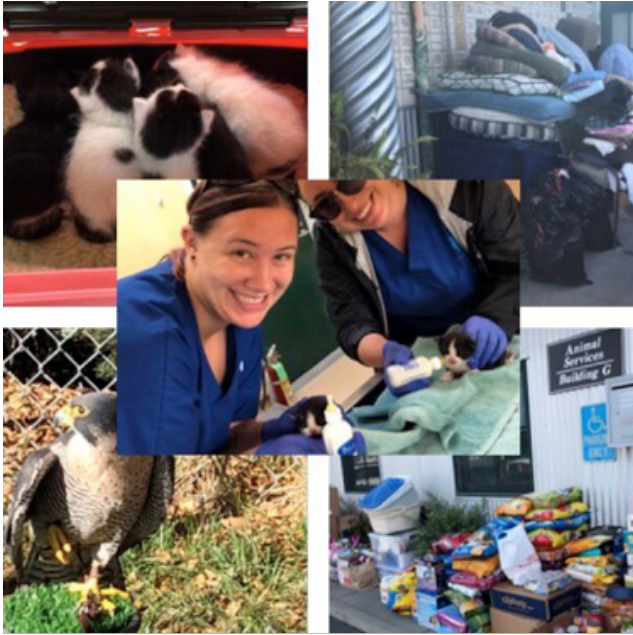


ASFC hosted Thanksgiving lunch last week, and it was a hit! Thank you to ASFC and our incredible Dining Hall staff for an impressively well-cooked, well-served meal.



Prof. **Daphne Small's** leadership class is doing a Service Leadership project. At the ASFC Thanksgiving luncheon, they conducted this survey about our food pantry!  
#60for60 Service Leadership





Our Vet Tech student club raised over \$1,500 and donated a lot of food and supplies to animal shelters affected by the fire. Hats off to the Vet Tech faculty, staff, and students! #60for60 Service Leadership



Me and our students, the cast of "It Can't Happen Here"



Dinner at Opa before the show "It Can't Happen Here"

Thank you, Foothill College for your humanity, your unyielding commitment to our students. The reason why *Service Leadership* resonates with you is because you exemplify it!

I am thankful for YOU.

*With Love,*

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Thuy".

Thuy

P.S. This Thanksgiving week, I started the Percy Jackson series since my kids are fans of it. My kids are now calling me a "demigod" - daughter of Athena, the goddess of wisdom. If only that is true! Any fans out there? Worth finishing the series? Email me.

*Thuy Thi Nguyen*  
President  
Foothill College

650.949.7200  
Twitter: @FoothillPrez  
pronounced: <https://name-coach.com/thuythinguyen>  
12345 El Monte Road  
Los Altos Hills, CA 94022