



President's Communiqué

FROM THE DESK OF THUY THI NGUYEN

Access to High Salary Potential

Dear Foothill,

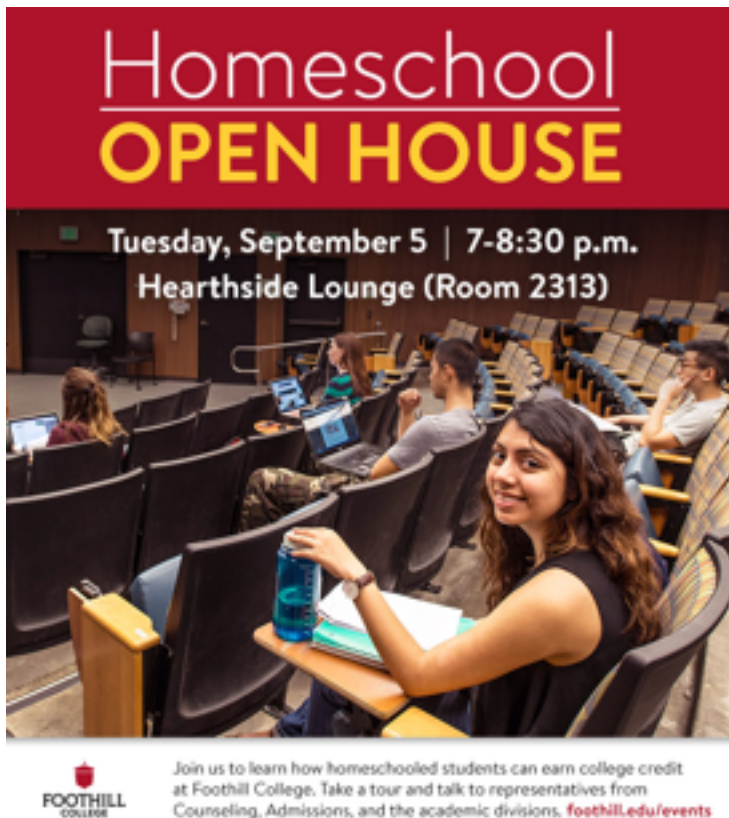
By now, you probably have read Chancellor Miner's email regarding the three-year budget reduction plan that the Board accepted earlier this week. The 35% cut at Foothill College equates to \$700,000 this fiscal year. This reduction plan is due to the significant decline in student enrollment district-wide last year that was not fully tallied until after the fiscal year ended.

Today, Cabinet and I had a productive retreat to plan for the academic year. We also discussed the strategies and principles that will guide our decision regarding the budget reduction, including the process in which we will employ to ensure input from the entire college community and consultation with participatory governance.

Interim Associate Vice President **Bret Watson** and I anticipate briefing members of participatory governance on the \$700,000 reduction at the annual Governance Summit being organized for the first time on September 14th. I will then seek PaRC's recommendation on the \$700,000 reduction at its first meeting on October 11th. For the \$700,000 this year, we plan to look at a combination of one-time source of funds and cost-cutting measures such as software expenses and energy efficiencies.

It is critical that we remain laser focus on enrollment growth. These budget reductions depend on enrollment growth – that is, the lack of growth led us to this and an increase in growth can help mitigate the issue.

The incredible summer quarter enrollment surge is a promising sign! Fall quarter enrollment though is soft at this time, so please continue to promote the courses and think creatively about areas of untapped needs and new populations. For instance, thanks to Dean **Simon Pennington** along with the student services and marketing teams, the college will hold an open house for homeschooled students and their families on September 5. Please help promote.



Keep in mind that enrollment growth is not just about the budget: it is about increasing access to the incredible education that Foothill provides. In today's paper, Foothill College was mentioned for a recent report ranking us the top California community college for salary potential of our graduates. While the Mercury News article focused on universities such as Stanford and UC Berkeley, it also noted Foothill's ranking:

“The report also surveyed community college graduates and found that some earn more than graduates of four-year universities. . . Recent graduates of Foothill College, in Los Altos Hills, earn almost \$49,000, and 72 percent feel their work makes the world a better place.”

<http://www.mercurynews.com/2017/08/30/4-bay-area-schools-rank-top-10-statewide-for-high-salary-potential/>

I am constantly in awe of the work you do to transform our students' lives. Go Owls!

Surely, I will be yelling “Go Owls” a lot at this Saturday’s first Football home game against Hartnell College. Game starts at 7 pm. (By the way, we already beat them. Hartnell is ranked bottom half in the salary-potential report. #JustSayin’)

Have a wonderful, Labor Day weekend!

Of Service,



Thuy

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