



President's Communiqué

FROM THE DESK OF THUY THI NGUYEN

Keeping Calm & Staying Safe

Dear Foothill Colleagues,

By now, you will have received the college-wide message that we have closed the Foothill and Sunnyvale campuses due to the very unhealthy Air Quality Index (AQI) caused by the wildfires around the Bay Area. We decided to close physical access to the campuses for two days so that students, faculty, and staff could plan accordingly and not have to worry about possibly traveling to either locations tomorrow.

I also made the announcement during my daily briefing this morning. All essential employees and individuals scheduled to be on campus today and tomorrow have also been informed. Thank you **Danmin Deng** for alerting them! The DJ volunteers have also been informed, along with students and faculty in the Allied Health programs. The animals on campus will continue to be fed.

Later this evening, I am planning a huddle with Cabinet to receive a status update and anticipate making a decision as to whether campus access needs to be closed on Friday since there are also some Friday classes and employees scheduled to be on campus. You will receive an alert tomorrow morning, including during tomorrow's briefing.

Coincidentally, most of the directors of the Allied Health programs (Professors **Benda Hanning, Angela Su, Lisa Eshman, Tracy Villanueva, Patti Chan, and Cara Miyasaki**) were scheduled to be on the [President's Daily Briefing today](#) to present on how they are managing safety while providing limited face-to-face classes due to accreditation requirements.

As Paramedic Director, Prof. **Tracy Villanueva** said: "[T]he things that we're doing...to the precautions that we're taking, if there is transmission in this environment, there is no hope."

Since some faculty were already on the two campuses, I also inquired as to the situation with the evacuation.

Prof. **Tracy Villanueva**: "As far as the Sunnyvale campus, today was the lightest day...I literally only had a handful of students...And to be perfectly honest with you, I think that they just understood. In light of everything, the fires, the pandemic, and everything else that's going on, I think people are kind of in that: I just accept if something bad happens, I just accept and I move on and I deal with it. And I think that that's just exactly what they did."

Dental Hygiene Director, Prof. **Patti Chan** (main campus): "Everything's okay. We were just closing up here so that we get everyone out. The air quality is pretty bad. That's the main danger."



The projections are for the AQI to remain high (150-200) in much of the Bay Area for several more days and it likely that there will be more thunderstorms (with associated lightning strikes) next week as well. **Governor Newsom** reminded us that California is currently in a state of emergency and most fires are not contained.

Some of our colleagues have been forced to evacuate from their own homes. The college will exercise flexibility as colleagues look to work from a new remote location. If you have been evacuated, please contact your supervisor. The District will be sending out information about leaves -- similar guidelines when the campus closed during the November 2018 wildfires.

The screenshot shows the Foothill College website. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links to CALENDAR, CLASS SCHEDULE, DIRECTORY, LIBRARY, BOOKSTORE, MAP, NEWS, SUNNYVALE, ONLINE LEARNING, MYPORTAL, and A-Z. There is also a search icon. Below the navigation bar is the Foothill College logo, which includes a red graduation cap icon and the text "FOOTHILL COLLEGE". To the right of the logo is a three-line menu icon. A yellow banner across the top states "All fall classes delivered virtually. SEE VIRTUAL CAMPUS". Below this is a large image of seven diverse students smiling. Overlaid on the image is the text "Foothill College Promise". On the left side of the image, there is a breadcrumb trail: Home > Foothill College Promise. On the right side, there is a yellow button with the text "APPLY for Admission". In the bottom right corner of the page, there is a white chatbot window with a yellow border. The window has a question "May I help you?" and an owl icon. The response says "Hi there! I'm a chatbot here to answer your questions. What would you like to know?". There is also a yellow speech bubble icon next to the response.

CALENDAR CLASS SCHEDULE DIRECTORY LIBRARY BOOKSTORE MAP NEWS SUNNYVALE ONLINE LEARNING MYPORTAL A-Z

FOOTHILL COLLEGE

All fall classes delivered virtually. [SEE VIRTUAL CAMPUS](#)

Foothill College Promise

Home > Foothill College Promise

APPLY for Admission

CAMPUS CLOSED

Campus closed Aug. 19 & 20 due to air quality. Also phone interruptions may evacuations.

Please email our Student Services virtual offices. >

CAMPUS CLOSED & SERVICE INTERRUPTIONS

FOOTBALL COLLEGE PROMISE DREAMS

May I help you?

Hi there! I'm a chatbot here to answer your questions. What would you like to know?

We have experienced some phone and Banner interruptions and the District is working to keep all services up and running as much as possible. We appreciate your patience on this matter, and have posted messages on the website. We are also alerting students and families to be patient, as employee safety is our utmost concern and their need to find safety is critical.

It is with great sadness that our Library colleague, **Karen Smith**, lost her house to the Santa Cruz mountains' fire yesterday. Thankfully, **Karen** (and her cat) is safe and are staying with a relative. A [GoFundMe link](#) has been set up by Librarian **Pawel Szponar** to help support **Karen**. Please contribute if you can. Thank you!



Finally, pray you and your family will remain safe. Be prepared for evacuation, should you be required to do so. My family has set aside the evacuation bag. Also, stay inside unless it is absolutely necessary to go out, and keep us posted if you are forced to evacuate.

Foothill College has shown incredible resolve in the face of multiple crises and the kindness, empathy, and love you all show for each other and our students is at the heart of our success.



Of Service,

Thuy

Thuy Thi Nguyen
President

650.949.7200
Twitter: @FoothillPrez