



President's Communiqué

FROM THE DESK OF THUY THI NGUYEN

“Educators, It’s a Great Day for Y’all”



Foothill College President
@FoothillPrez

"Educators, it's a great day for y'all,"
says President-Elect Biden!
[#JillFanGirling](#)



Dear Foothill Colleagues,

What a week! Thank you to those who joined the post-election gathering last Wednesday to be in community with colleagues.

It has been a long four-years, constantly protecting our students against rhetoric and policy attacks: undocumented students, students of color, international students, students affected by the pandemic, LGBTQ+ students, immigrant students, and the list goes on. The news of **Biden/Harris** pulling ahead to become the declared winners on Saturday morning brought a sigh of relief and for some, even excitement.

You probably also heard that the soon-to-be First Lady, Dr. **Jill Biden** has expressed that she will continue to teach at Northern Virginia Community College – being the first, First Lady to have a paid day job. I can only imagine the security coordination at NoVaCoCo – presumably even more so elevated than when she was teaching while being Second Lady.

Yet knowing how passionate community college educators like the faculty at Foothill College are, I am not surprised by her dedication. My husband when he first immigrated found his chance for a better future at NoVaCoCo while he worked full-time as a waiter at local restaurants in D.C.. That's why he too is committed to supporting community colleges (and those who work for it)! You can understand why an ESL community college professor is this committed to her students; her most important title is "professor" – not First Lady. Shall we refer to Dr. **Biden** as "First Professor?"



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TY [@DrBiden](#) for shining light on the value of community college education! The community college family is so proud that a community college professor will be in the White House (again) and this time, as [#FirstLady!](#) [@CCTrustees](#)
[@Comm_College](#)
[@CalCommColleges](#) [@ccleague](#)





Foothill College President
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Congratulations President-Elect [@JoeBiden!](#) Our country looks forward to decency and inclusion as values in the White House. 2020 is coming to an end, and 2021 is looking brighter. [#ElectionResult2020](#)



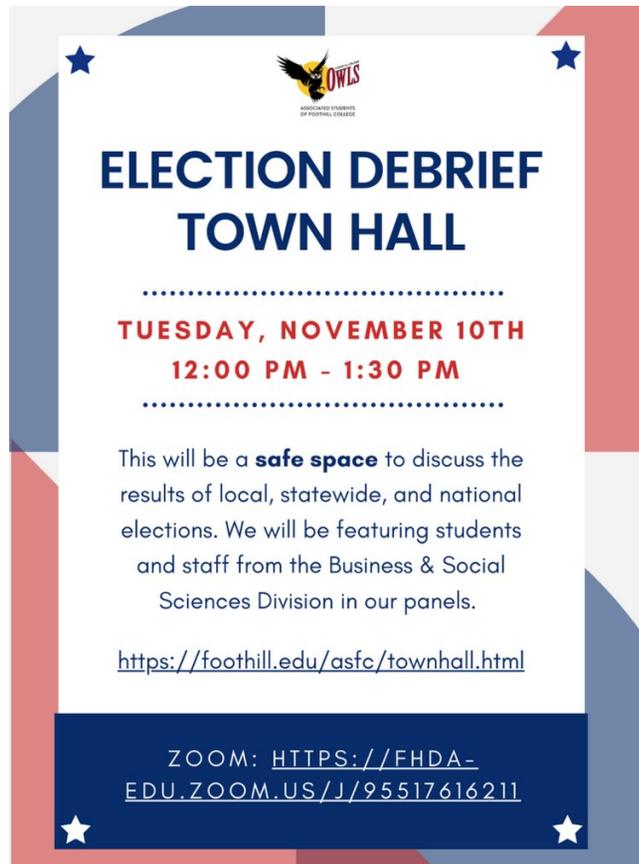
You may recall that Foothill College celebrated the 50th Anniversary of Celebrity Forum in 2017-18 with now President-Elect **Joe Biden** as the first speaker and Prof. **Jill Biden** as the last speaker in the yearlong series. Leaders at our college district (present and past) have played an important role in the national education agenda, and I look forward to Foothill College continuing to be at the center of such national policy discussions!

Quite frankly, regardless of the outcome of the presidential election, I am proud to say that Foothill College is focused on our efforts to support all our students in their educational goals and to work to truly achieve a college where a student's success is not predictable by their race. We will continue to do our part to create a more democratic and just society.

One evidence of that is the re-election of our trustees **Laura Casas, Peter Landsberger, and Gilbert Wong** who along with Board Chair **Pearl Cheng** and Trustee **Patrick Ahrens** broke tradition and voted unanimously last Monday on the Board Priorities with the sole focus on racial equity. When one addresses institutional racism, it is inevitable that such work challenges the existing structure of power and privilege and can be unsettling for people with such power and privilege. For the Board of Trustees to address the matter in this manner sends a clear message, and I admire them deeply for their focus and courage. We look forward to our Equity Plan 2.0 aligning with their priority.

Today (Nov. 8) is National First-Gen Day, and we will continue to celebrate First-Gen students at Foothill College. The election of **Kamala Harris** to the vice presidency has generated many “first” records in the country. You can imagine that I am particularly elated by her election as a lawyer from Oakland! Our college will hold an inauguration-watching event, so stay tuned.

In the meantime, join Student Trustee **Priya V.** and Political Science Prof. **Kerri Ryer** who are organizing the post-election town hall for students on Tuesday. Please consider giving credits to students to join. I heard there will be other great faculty speakers reflecting on the election! Faculty/staff are also invited.



The poster is a vertical rectangle with a white background and a decorative border of blue and red geometric shapes. At the top center is the Foothill College logo, featuring an owl and the text "FOOTHILL COLLEGE ASSOCIATED STUDENTS OF FOOTHILL COLLEGE". Below the logo, the title "ELECTION DEBRIEF TOWN HALL" is written in large, bold, blue capital letters. Underneath the title, the date and time "TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM" are written in red capital letters, flanked by horizontal dotted lines. A paragraph of text follows, stating: "This will be a **safe space** to discuss the results of local, statewide, and national elections. We will be featuring students and staff from the Business & Social Sciences Division in our panels." Below this is a URL: <https://foothill.edu/asfc/townhall.html>. At the bottom, a dark blue horizontal bar contains the Zoom link: "ZOOM: [HTTPS://FHDA-EDU.ZOOM.US/J/95517616211](https://fhda-edu.zoom.us/j/95517616211)". There are four white stars, one in each corner of the poster.

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TOWN HALL**

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One of the concerns raised at the faculty/staff post-election gathering last Wednesday was how divided the country is. Keep in mind that **Biden/Harris** is slated to win both the popular vote and electoral votes with record votes.

It is still noticeable how divided the country is, including Congress. Yet, I think about how Foothill faculty often navigate such space and teach in classrooms with diverse views – challenging students to think critically, to decipher fact from fiction, and to find their own agency in their education. One of the main reasons why I launched *Service Leadership* the following quarter after the 2016 presidential election is my own concern about the state of our country. The goal was to prepare students for leadership that is grounded in service – and along with that, ethics, diplomacy, critical thinking, cultural awareness, race-consciousness, global citizenship, compassion, and effective communication -- to name a few. Many of you were already engaging in such work, and to have a college-wide theme/philosophy enabled more support of such activities. *Service Leadership* is also grounded in racial equity -- as the research shows this is a proven equity strategy. Thank you to all the faculty, classified professionals, and administrators who continue to invest in our students and their leadership!

Last Monday's Briefing, we talked about what we could do to lower our stress level in light of the pandemic. Hope you are feeling less stressed and more hopeful for 2021. Based on those who have reached out to me this weekend, it seems to be so!

Of Service,



Thuy

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