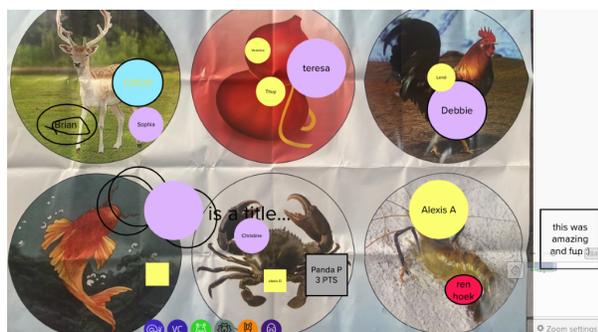




Chúc mừng năm mới

Dear Foothill Colleagues,

Chúc mừng năm mới. Chúc các bạn đồng nghiệp một năm mới dồi dào sức khỏe.
(Happy Lunar New Year! Wishing you, dear colleagues, a new year full of good health!)



Congratulations to Prof. **Brian Evans** for winning the traditional Tet game – virtual style – at the President’s Briefing! I sure miss playing this game in our Dining Hall on Lunar New Year Days in the past.



As you know, 2021 is the Year of the Ox (Water Buffalo in VietNam) and this Zodiac sign is associated with steadfastness, reliability, determination, and diligence. With the surge in COVID-19 cases and the insurrection last month, the Lunar New Year serves as another opportunity to reset the new year for me. Year of 2021 will be a year of solutions, including a

year for us to show our diligence and determination as we work to dismantle oppressive systems and work toward a college community where student success will no longer be predictable by race.

As you may have heard, we will hire three tenure-track faculty this new year. In addition, Advisory Council lifted the hiring holds on several classified and administrative positions and hiring committees are being formed. It is exciting that we are able to hire in spite the challenges of the last 11 months.

I cannot thank you all enough for everything you do for our students and for each other. We are living through (and driving!) the most consequential changes in the history of education in this country. It is the kind of work that is getting our college attention state-wide and nationally, yet we know that it is a work in progress, is quite humbling, and at times, is even challenging emotionally. While these changes are long-overdue (and even exciting for many), change is inevitably going to make people uncomfortable. Keep in mind the *Courageous Conversation* protocol: stay engaged and accept/expect discomfort. As long as we remain empathetic of our colleagues, despite our occasional differences, I have no doubt that we'll make great progress this year.



Remember, don't clean the house or take out the trash on Lunar New Year Day. You may be throwing out good fortune!

Enjoy a well-deserved long President's Weekend.

Of Service,



Thuy

Thuy Thi Nguyen
President

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