

Planning for a Safe Return - a Return to the Past or a New Future?

Greetings Foothill,

As we finish winter quarter, I want to send words of deepest gratitude for each of you and for your resiliency. We can sometimes unintentionally take each other for granted. Gratitude is the attitude. Please take a moment to reach out to colleagues who especially helped you through these past 12 months.

I hope you are making progress toward getting your vaccination. Dr. **Scolari** shared this: "[I'm Not Throwing Away My Shot!](#)" I'll get my second one next week while on "vacation." I have to try really hard not to wince while being videoed for the county's PSA campaign. (I'm a baby when it comes to needles!)

By now, you have probably seen the email from Chancellor **Miner** about return-to-campus Phases II and III which now gives us the green light for the next phases.

We are getting ready! <https://foothill.edu/return>

Many thanks to the EOC team, with special shoutout to the Scheduling Task Force and Student Services colleagues for helping to put together the prioritization list as part of our plan. The list will be placed on the website and emailed to the college community once fully finalized. Thank you also to the Return-to-Campus Council (previously known as “5th Council”). I can’t wait to see students in outdoor conditioning classes in May, along with Allied Health students who have been working diligently on campus since last May!

As we continue working on the logistics, including supporting colleagues interested in working from their offices/classrooms next month, please keep in mind the guidelines to promote safety. Building on the good work by our Allied Health colleagues these past 12 months, our ability to return safely in spring quarter will define our ability to follow our return-to-campus schedule in summer and fall.

Friday, March 26 is the last day for all faculty/staff/administrators to [express interest in working](#) from Foothill office space and classroom this spring quarter. So far, we have over 70 requests!

While there are some of us who are adamant about a full return sooner rather than later, we need to acknowledge that not everyone is ready to return to work on campus just yet.

Our ACE union conducted a districtwide survey (77% response rate). 45% of respondents said they would be comfortable returning to campus before everyone has been vaccinated, and 41% were open to returning if there were enough PPE equipment and clear safety protocols in place. There is still a clear preference to work remotely until herd immunity is established through vaccination.

Finding the right balance to enable use of the campus while honoring employee preferences will be challenging. I ask for your patience and forgiveness (in advance) as we navigate the wide range of feelings about returning to campus.

One of the major questions people have posed as we plan for the return to campus is what are we returning to? The pandemic has exposed the inequities in our country, and many people believe that the pandemic has changed higher education forever.

What does the future of Foothill look like? Our equity efforts will guide us. Not only should we return equitably, but we also need to plan for a Foothill College that makes progress toward student equity.

Thank you to colleagues who joined the statewide [“Courageous Leadership” webinar](#) last week. Thank you to **Abhi Muhar, Mariam Touni, Carolyn Holcroft, Adrienne Hypolite, Laurie Scolari, and Roosevelt Charles** for their outstanding presentation!

On a similar note, our college is also being recognized nationally for equity-minded leadership! The American Council on Education, with USC’s Pullias Center for Higher Education, just released a [report studying leadership](#). Foothill College was one of the eight featured colleges/universities. This 2-year study will be used, among many things, to develop training for rising college and university presidents in the country.

I was listening to Prof. **Kimberlé Crenshaw** yesterday at the American Council on Education Annual Meeting. She spoke about her feelings on being singularly pointed out by the previous Presidential Administration on her critical race theory scholarship. She also spoke about intersectionality and how race very much played a part in the murder of Asian American women in Atlanta last week. To say that the shooting was strictly based on gender is misguided when one understands the cultural and historical racialized lens of Asian women in our country.



Thank you APAN for co-hosting the Porch Talk last week. According to the [Pew Research Center](#), more than 30% of Asian adults say they have been subject to slurs or jokes because of their race/ethnicity since the COVID outbreak began. One common sentiment by Foothill colleagues is that people did not realize how much they needed that community space.

I am proud to say that in the past 5 years, we have increased the percentages of Asian Americans among each of the faculty, classified, and administrative ranks at Foothill.

As mentioned at the Porch Talk, Asian Americans as the “model minority” is an insidious myth itself – often referring to being a model for certain stereotypes and used as a wedge against other communities of color. The state of being seen as a perpetual foreigner or an outsider has often cast Asian Americans as untrustworthy and uncaring. Seldom are Asians deemed a model of qualities such as leadership, for instance.

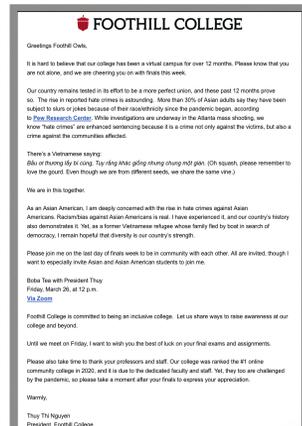
Asians constitute the largest racial group in the South Bay, surpassing the White population. Yet, Asian women are the least likely among all racial/gender groups to be senior executives in tech companies in Silicon Valley, [according to a study](#). The latest [ACE study shows](#) that 2% of college/university presidents are Asian Americans with fewer Asian American women. For instance, as I write this, there is no other Vietnamese American college/university president in the country.

Asian Americans should not be proud to be called a “model minority” as it is often not cast in a positive light. These are some of the thoughts I plan to share at the Asian Pacific Americans in Higher Education (APAHE) summit next month. As part of a Coalition, [APAHE is also hosting a webinar](#) this Saturday at 1 pm.

I was asked what my advice would be to Foothill students during this time. Students should reach out to each other and share their feelings about anti-Asian hate. My second piece of advice to students, especially Asian American students, is to learn the history of Asians in this country.

Here is my letter to students Monday morning.

Subject: You Are Not Alone



I will be holding a college-wide “Boba Tea with President Thuy” on Friday for students on “Stop Asian Hate” Day of Action. We will surely talk about the college’s plan to offer Ethnic Studies, including Asian American Studies next year. Thank you to the CORE students, E&E Council, Academic Senate, and the College Curriculum Committee for prioritizing Ethnic Studies.

Many thanks to the faculty members for reviewing course outlines from other institutions as models; reviewing the language from AB 1460 to ensure the CORs met the requirements; writing the content for the CORs;

preparing the accompanying forms, including GE applications; and working with our curriculum reps in Language Arts (**Ben Armerding** and **Allison Herman**, who in turn worked with **Evan Gilstrap**):

- **David Marasco**: Intro to Ethnic Studies
- **Voltaire Villanueva**: Intro to Ethnic Studies
- **Sam White**: African American Studies
- **Hilda Fernandez**: Latinx Studies
- **Susie Huerta**: Latinx Studies
- **Stephanie Chan**: Asian American Studies
- **Kella Svetich**: Asian American Studies

Thank you also to Professor **Michael Wilcox** who is currently writing curriculum for the **Native American Studies** course. Special thanks to Deans **Valerie Fong** and **Debbie Lee** for their leadership in advancing this important work!

Please make sure to find ways to rejuvenate and refuel before the spring quarter.

See you at the next briefing on April 5th!

Of Service,



Thuy

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