
From: Bernadine Chuck Fong <fongbernadine@fhda.edu>
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To: foothill
Cc: centralservices
Subject: Making a Comeback.....



One of my interests is football and I have been going to games since 4th grade. However, my two teams (49ers and Stanford) had been having dismal seasons, and not living up to their potential, and so we diehard fans were hoping for a comeback, if not this season, then certainly the next one. However, the 49ers, after moving from a 3-5 record at the beginning of the season to the NFC Championship game after beating the Packers, this weekend, have made a comeback like no other. Similarly, Foothill, like all other campuses, has been having a “dismal” season, in the sense that you were all forced off campus to shelter in place during the pandemic. While Foothill seems to have lived up to its potential to the best it could and educating and serving students in as many creative ways as possible through Zoom, it still has been dismal times, overall. However, we are now on the verge of a comeback, literally and figuratively. As Covid outbreaks begin to subside in the next few weeks, particularly in Santa Clara County where well over 50% of our students live, we are poised to make a Comeback, and hearing the “roar of the crowd” in our ears. I have been meeting with the students and they are anxious for a Comeback once we get past this recent virus surge, and we will. (Don’t forget, we have tests and masks available for everyone on campus: employees, tests are at the district office and masks are in division and administrative offices; and on campus students, check with the Health Office for tests and masks should be available in the classrooms, as well as in the Admissions and Records and Financial Aid offices. Masks indoors are required by the County).

We currently have about 3,100 students attending classes on campus this quarter, about 1/3 of the total number of students we have enrolled, and our total enrollment of 10,000 is *19% fewer students than last year*. So, in making our “**Comeback**,” we need to think about what makes Foothill unique that students will choose to come to Foothill rather than other neighboring institutions, whether they attend in person or online? Some of us are working on how to have Foothill reassert itself as an innovative and distinctive institution. We need to do this while also developing our **Guided Pathways** (I am told we are at least two years behind other colleges in this effort and the team is working very, very, hard to make up ground); our all-important **Self Study**, which will be the beginning of our **re-accreditation process**, which will require updating our Educational Master Plan and all the various “plans” that fall under it and so it becomes an **Educational Equity Master Plan**; and *restoring our academic divisions*, some which were merged during the budget cuts. The latter will entail hiring new division deans, adding to the 13 faculty positions for which we are opening searches this month, for a fall start date. Related to this, we are going to restore our offsite new faculty, staff, administrator retreat in the fall, like the famous Asilomar retreats of the past, but perhaps not at Asilomar per se. However, more importantly, we want to bring in new members to our community with a formal introduction and orientation to the college, Foothill’s history, legacy, and vision for the future.

Last December I wrote to you and noted the many Foothill “firsts” which established the college as an educational leader, and I asked for suggestions, whether in the box or “out of the box” to restore our innovation and distinctive legacy. Here are some, thus far: 1) reinstate and expand our former Campus Abroad program to “Global Experiential Learning,” which would include field studies, as well as overseas residential education, *when travel is inherently safe*; 2) restore our former Creative Writing Conference (anyone want to self-nominate to lead this?); 3) restore the former Academically Talented Youth Summer Program, again, anyone interested? 4) Develop virtual open spaces for students to congregate and “hang out” and also “walk into” offices such as Admissions and Records (this makes me think we need to bring virtual reality to campus in

very meaningful way); 5) provide virtual courses that are accessible on one's phone, since many more students have mobile phones than other devices, and more importantly, teach with "augmented technology," and how to embed artificial intelligence at every step along the student journey," so our processes, beginning with registration, are intuitive; 6) learn more about augmented technology from MetaVerse and Google; 7) provide a more predictable class schedule for students so they get the classes they need in a more reliable path and sequence; 8) design tech learning modules for easy sharing with students (including helping students to set up Zoom meetings at their end!). While I am not naming the authors of these wonderful suggestions, you know who you are, and feel free to chime in. We have a confluence of ideas in # 4, 5, 6.

Please know the virtual "suggestion box," my return email, is always open, until we get a Google doc or even a Box account set up for our "suggestion box." The Campus Abroad and Global Experiential Learning planning is already underway, bringing together several already existing programs and there will be many more new ones, with travel safety putting us on hold for the moment, but also giving us time to plan more thoughtfully.

And lastly, Foothill is the north county site for the county's distribution of test kits (by reservation only). You should have received an earlier email about this from Simon. Not only are we doing what we can to help in the fight against Covid, but it presents a wonderful opportunity for the public to drive through and see our campus (and the coyotes, perhaps) and realize we are easily accessible, at least by car. In fact, our site was one of the first that was fully booked with appointments by the second day. However, if you are on campus, there will be steady flow of cars driving to Lot 6 all this week, between 1-8 PM. I met with the group on Saturday when the distribution started, and there were no long lines but just a steady stream of cars so it does not cause a traffic problem.

Happy 4th Week of the Quarter! (or is it the 4th quarter of the NFC Championship game, yet?)

P.S. And speaking of "comebacks," let me introduce or re-introduce Annette Stenger, the former executive assistant to myself, and Judy Miner, during our respective presidencies. She offered to temporarily "comeback" from her home in Montana, to help all us out during this transition. Veronica is back too, so stop by to say "hello" whenever you are in the administration building.

Best regards,

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