



# President's Communiqué

FROM THE DESK OF THUY THI NGUYEN

## President's Commission on Race

Dear Foothill College,

Thank you to the 50+ colleagues who came out to the courageous-conversation gathering yesterday and joined me in “porchtalk” (an Umoja practice). Many of you spoke honestly and with great compassion, and there are many of you who probably wanted to say something also. Please continue the dialog with each other.

I have been reflecting on our “porchtalk” and have decided to commission a President’s Blue Ribbon Commission on Race to develop speech counter to the hate speech in Charlottesville and propose concrete actions for the college to take this year to ensure that such speech of love and inclusion is amplified tenfold at Foothill College.

Foothill College has already tasked itself with the responsibility to teach tolerance and multicultural sensitivity. The college identified *Community/Global Consciousness and Responsibility* as one of its four core competencies (4-Cs), Institutional Learning Outcomes: “**Social perceptiveness**, including **respect, empathy, cultural awareness, and sensitivity**, citizenship, ethics, interpersonal skills and personal integrity, community service, self-esteem, interest in and pursuit of lifelong learning.”

I mentioned at our gathering an article that an administrator shared with me. The article is an interview with the organizer of the Charlottesville rally; his bigotry stemmed from his experience living in San Jose and his strategy is to recruit college students. <https://ww2.kqed.org/news/2017/08/14/californian-who-helped-organize-charlottesville-protests-used-berkeley-as-a-test-run/>

I am reminded again that racism is not far from home. Last night, I received a call from our Campus Police Chief Ron Levine that offensive graffiti was found in the men's bathroom on campus. The graffiti had a racial slur and the swastika image, and may have been on the bathroom wall before this weekend, possibly for several weeks. Our maintenance team is working to remove it.

Such an act of vandalism is a hate crime. Please know that the college does not treat this as protected speech but a crime with racial animus. The law treats such hate crimes with an enhanced punishment. Students and employees should not be subjected to inappropriate or vile graffiti on our campus. If you have any information, or know someone who may be responsible, contact campus police at 650-949-7313. The college can only hand over the case to the district attorney for prosecution if there is an actual suspect to report. A reward will be given to anyone with relevant information. You can also report it anonymously.

I repeat and will repeat it again, Foothill College is committed to inclusion and equity, and part of that relentless commitment requires vigilance in ensuring the physical and mental well-being of our students and employees, no matter their ethnicity and

religion (in addition to sexual orientation, national origin, and other legally protected status).

Our “porchtalk” yesterday solidified for me the need for our college to take action and actualize these Institutional Learning Outcomes. The bathroom incident is further affirmation of that.

Please find “porches” on campus and continue the “porchtalk”. We need to continue the dialog, along with taking action.

Of Service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Thuy'.

Thuy

*Thuy Thi Nguyen*  
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