



for the 100th time

Greetings Foothill,

It was such a treat to see students back on campus. Special shout-out to the Financial Aid team, especially **Stephanie Anchondo** who has been diligently tabling around campus and in the community.

This President's Communiqué is my 100th one. Thank you for reading it! On the very first day as your president nearly 3 years ago, I sent out my first President's Communiqué with an invitation for you to fill out a survey about what you hope I would do as president.



Dearest Foothill Colleagues,

"Vạn sự khởi đầu nan." A thousand-mile journey starts with the first step.

Of the 116 response, the three most frequent areas raised were:

1. "Unify the college"; "breaking down the silos"; "unify both sides of the house (Instruction & SS)"; "foster a sense of community on campus, along all areas"; "listen to and consider the concerns of part-time faculty;" and value CTE programs as a part of the college.
2. "Move to increase civic engagement - or a larger order goal like this as a theme for the college"; and "encourage creative solutions to ongoing issues."
3. Leadership traits such as "fair, consistent, present and inclusive yet not afraid to make necessary changes," "be a great and fearless leader for us"; "stay as genuine and enthusiastic"; and "fair and diplomatic fashion."

I am so grateful for your guidance these past years. It is important as a college and as individual leaders within it to regularly reflect on our work. Last weekend, I participated in a CEO symposium retreat to continue my own leadership development so that I could better serve you and our students.

In my reflection piece for the symposium, I wrote about our budget reductions. It is in times of crisis that we observe characteristics about an individual or an organization, and I journaled "about how the budget crisis demonstrated certain qualities about Foothill that I admire:

- employees at Foothill are fiercely student-centered;
- they are high-performing and intellectual;
- they are kind and civil (even in the most intense debates); and
- they are open to change and invite innovation.
- The student leaders demonstrated a level of sophistication that reaffirms why their participation in governance is critical.
- The president's cabinet worked hard, and showed remarkable comradery and loyalty to each other."

Now with the budget reductions approved by the board, let us accelerate our work on program improvements to increase enrollment and achieve equity (E²). We do not anticipate program eliminations or elimination discussion next year, as that was intentional to provide a safe space for honest discussion on program improvements. Let us engage in such discussion smartly and genuinely. In fact, we are using some one-time, privately donated funds to encourage innovation and spark creative thinking.

Stay posted for a college-wide email on the:

FOOTHILL COLLEGE STUDENT SUCCESS INNOVATION GRANT

Even before I started, I understood that a key role for a college president is communication which is why I started the President's Communiqué for the internal college community and Twitter for the community outside of Foothill.

Yesterday, I was named to this national list for a second year: "[The 20 Must Follow Community College CEOs on Twitter 2019.](#)" For someone who doesn't have any social media account personally or professionally (besides Twitter for Foothill), I am quite amused by this recognition. I love bragging about Foothill, so if you have any good news to share, let me know!

I follow all the schools in our areas, along with their principals and superintendents. Paly Alto USD's new Superintendent reached out to me via Twitter, and visited last week! I also enjoy following Foothill faculty, staff, and student organizations.

My top "3 Must Follow Foothill-Owls on Twitter" are:

- Professor **Lisa Delapo** (@LisaTeachesTech) from the Krause Center for Innovation – highly respected for her innovative approach, her postings of K-12 teachers and their professional development are both informative and inspiring.
- Football Assistant Coach @**BrandonYounger** is high energy and motivates young people in magical ways.
- Professor **David Marasco** (@ThePhysicsShow) demonstrates an unyielding commitment to equity at our college and in his physics profession nationally.

Don't have Twitter but want to see my posts or review previous President's Communique? Go to the [president's webpage](#).

Want to follow these cool Foothill Owls on Twitter?

@scottlankford @gregkragen @lenewp @fhbec
@OnlineFoothill@OwlTalent @dengdanmin @eljrjimenez@cocobila @tatsianams @eayore2000@doctorampc @ChiefDannyA @BabaKofiFHDA
@CheMeneses1 @doloresdp @fei_foothill @jeffbiod
@CarolynHolcroft @FHpsmedean @RomyPaule @Mariantonet @ScaryMommy @textbookmyths @josh6881 @catpunkin @IDEALabcenter
@OwlFootball_ @BrandonYounger @KrauseGay @fhmusictech @briancurrenlew1
@dlcohn @laurencelew @kevinmcelroy7 @jamoreau @PatrickAhrens1 @bbartindale @lattarobin @lindsaysaninja @denniscima
@DAFoothill @teresafoothill @CraigGawlick @judycminer7 @Foothillnews @foothillscrip @foothillcollege @Alepeleke @laureenbalducci
@Kerri_Ryer @AuthorBogle @EOPSontheHill @FoothillBsu @FoothillUmoja @rdcormia @mschukraft @ASFctweet @umojafoothill1
@KClunderground @FoothillGreens @MERIT_KCI @SH101_Foothill @fcowlsathletics @foothillowls @FoothillFB @ThePhysicsShow
@FHMedDenBrigade @krausecenter @SpraggeP @khueg @FoothillBsu @FHDA_Police @FoothillChld @fhdanceteam @fhda_foundation
@FoothillSVC @STEM_FH @FH_PassTheTorch @FH_WiSTEM @fh_volleyball @kjscafe @KFJC897fm @rappa01 @FoothillLibrary
@eric_kuehn @AprilCHend @socidoc @amberlap @LisaTeachesTech @kimcescamilla @RaivioMatt @interalian @FoxSociology
@FHpsmedean @whatdoesmilosee @lisle_y

Leadership is a journey that takes courage and competence, and I am so grateful to those stepping up, helping out, and leading.



Anthony Cervantes – Dean of Enrollment Services

Anthony grew up in the Central Valley, the small town of Atwater. He attended Cal State Stanislaus and received his Bachelor's of Arts in Criminal Justice. He is a First-Gen! After college, he worked in the Stanislaus County Juvenile Hall for three years as a Group Supervisor where he found a passion to help minors find a way out of the justice system by pursuing college. With this experience, he found an interest in counseling and was recommended to apply for an opening at ITT Technical Institute in Oakland. He became an Admissions Advisor and then later Registrar for ITT Tech. This being my first experience in higher education I realized I could make a difference and help more students at a California Community College.

Anthony started with Foothill College as an Enrollment Services Specialist, had the opportunity to be Interim Supervisor at the Disability Resource Center and then moved into the role as a Senior Enrollment Services Supervisor. Through his time at Foothill, he has received Classified Staff of the quarter and of the year. I also had the distinct privilege of nominating Anthony for the & Suanne Roueche Excellence Award from the League of Innovation. During his time here, he also had the opportunity to go back to school and obtain my Master's Degree in Education Counseling and People Personnel from San Jose State University.

Anthony dedicated to serving underrepresented and underserved students and continuing to help the college reach its goals. He's also committed to our classified professionals as he currently serves as Classified Senate President and helped design our new governance structure.

Evan Gilstrap, Articulation Officer

Yes, you read that right. Check out his bio in the *Wow Factor* that profiled recently tenured faculty!

Evan Gilstrap

Evan was born and raised in Chula Vista, CA. He is a product of the California Community College system by the way of Southwestern College (SWC) where he earned his Associate's degree in Transfer Studies. His experiences being a community college student and student worker for the Outreach department at SWC, solidified his desire of working in a community college setting, mainly as a Counselor.

Evan transferred to San Diego State University where he earned his Bachelor's degree in Psychology. After taking a year off to work, Evan went back to school to obtain his Master's degree in Counseling at University of San Diego. Upon completing his Master's degree, Evan decided to pack his bags and head to Orange County where he worked as an academic counselor for the University of California, Irvine. While in Orange County, Evan also worked as a career counselor for the OC Workforce Investment Board, where he met his wife Debbie.

After a couple of years, Evan decided to get back to following his passion of being a community college counselor. He started working as a part-time counselor at Gavilan College where he learned the necessary skills to become a competent counselor and then he came to Foothill College in fall of 2015. Since being at Foothill, Evan has been a curriculum representative for the Counseling Division for nearly two years while serving on the counseling division curriculum committee as well. He also has been the liaison to the Dental Hygiene program, as well as developing MOUs for allied health programs to ensure consistent messaging to students.



Neelam Agarwal, Ed.D, CRC - Dean of Disabled Services and Veterans Services

Dr. Agarwal is joining Foothill College as a Dean of Disabled Services and Veterans Services program. Before coming to Foothill college, she was working as an Associate Director of Disability Resources department at Santa Clara University. Dr Agarwal worked for more than 10 years at the Center for Accommodations and Support Services (CASS) at the University of Texas at El Paso. Dr. Agarwal received her doctorate in Educational leadership and administration from University of Texas, El Paso (UTEP) with her dissertation focused on investigating the issues of students with disabilities in postsecondary education.

Dr. Agarwal holds two Master of Arts degrees: Master in Rehabilitation Counseling (MRC) (University of Arizona, Tucson, AZ) and Master in Social Work (MSW) (University of Delhi, Delhi, India) and a Bachelors of Arts (BA) degree in Applied Psychology (University of Delhi). Dr. Agarwal is also a Certified Rehabilitation Counselor (CRC). Dr. Agarwal is committed to address the barriers to access and excellence for students with disabilities in post-secondary education. Dr Agarwal took various leadership roles such as she helped found the Miner Diamonds disabled student organization to give voices to the students with disabilities at UTEP, and advised and mentored students from the Miner Diamonds and Delta Alpha Pi honor society. Apart from that, she has organized several Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) activities to increase awareness of high-paying and high demand jobs and build pathways for the students with disabilities. This included the "Explore STEM Camp" funded by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) for the high school students with disabilities. She has worked with STEM faculty, students, and staff to develop and teach STEM curriculum for students with disabilities. She has successfully secured funds from various federal, state, and local funding organizations. These include Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities (TCDD), TWC, National Association of Student Affairs Personnel Administrators (NASPA), and Texas Association of College & University Student Personnel Administrators (TACUSPA), the U.S. Department of Education.

Her primary research and education goals are to investigate and address the needs of students with disabilities transitioning into college and employment. Dr. Agarwal has investigated the impact of the invisible and emerging disabilities such as lupus, Ehlers-Danlos syndromes (EDS) on the education and rehabilitation implications of the students with disabilities in K-12 & in higher education. Dr. Agarwal has extensively published her research findings on various education and research related issues including lupus, STEM education, Photovoice; and

also working on publishing findings of CapAble voices of students with disabilities Photovoice project that aims at giving voices to this marginalized population, promote inclusion and to remove barriers to the full inclusion and participation of students with disabilities in K-12 & in higher education.



Steven Trinh- Enrollment Services Supervisor

Steven grew up in San Diego as the youngest of 6 kids. His family immigrated to the US in 1975 and as a first generation child, my parents instilled the ideas of get a good education and hard work. He graduated college from Cal State, Northridge with a BS in Family Environmental Sciences, Emphasis in Consumer Affairs.

He was a Supervisor at REI for 10 years prior to getting into education. At REI, he had the opportunity to work with school districts in educating kids about the outdoor experiences. As he writes, "I saw the lack of opportunities many kids had in enjoying something that is all around us and that I took for granted." After his career in retail ended, he started at Academy of Art University in Admissions. After working with many students and seeing that many lacked the counseling and guidance they to prepare for secondary education, he looked into the Community College system.

Steven joined the Skyline College Admissions team about 3 years ago and immersed himself in how to better assist the student experience in starting college. He hope to continue to be able to help assist the students to have the best education experience as possible.

Vanessa Smith- Marketing Supervisor

Vanessa recently served as Interim Director, Marketing and Public Relations position and has been invaluable team member. She will continue to serve on the President's Cabinet to provide the continuity of marketing expertise in cabinet discussions. As you may know, I had revamped President's Cabinet to include the marketing position.

Vanessa has been in the Marketing Department at the college for two years and with the district for almost four. Before Foothill, Vanessa was the Communications Associate at De Anza College.

Keri VanOverschelde, Manager of International Enrollment Systems and Technology

Although not a college employee, Keri will work on our campus with our ISP team starting April 15th. Keri is from Augsburg University in Minneapolis where she has served as the Director of Enrollment Management Technology and Operations for the past four years. Prior to joining Augsburg, Keri held the roles of Associate Director, Center for Degree Acceleration and Operations Manager with Walden University. Keri has a Bachelor's in Elementary Education, a Certificate in Project Management, a Masters in Public Administration, and a Masters and Ph.D. in Industrial and Organizational Psychology. She has also served as an adjunct faculty member at Augsburg University and Hamline University and a contributing faculty member at Walden University.

Please help me welcome (and thank) these individuals!

Of Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the name 'Jing'.

Thuy

Thuy Thi Nguyen
President
Foothill College

650.949.7200

Twitter: @FoothillPrez

pronounced: <https://name-coach.com/thuythinguyen>

12345 El Monte Road

Los Altos Hills, CA 94022