



Presidents & Leadership

Happy Presidents' Day!

Last week, Chancellor **Miner**, Trustees **Wong** and **Ahrens**, and I were in Washington, D.C. for the National Legislative Summit.

I originally did not want to go: it often feels that D.C. politics is too hard to have a real impact (versus Sacramento where one can more easily change laws and regulations). Yet knowing there is access that comes with being a college president, I decided to make the trip to advocate for DREAMers.

It saddens me to report that DACA was barely the talk of town. The most promising news came from Speaker **Pelosi's** Office that the House may introduce something this Spring, and the key person is our local Congresswoman **Zoe Lofgren** who is chair of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship.



Met two students with DREAMers buttons.



Congressman Ro Khanna wearing Foothill’s DREAMers sticker. Anyone recognize **Nandini**(his staffer), a Foothill alumna?



Foothill President @FoothillPrez · 5d
@SenKamalaHarris had a message for the California delegation of community college trustees and CEOs. @CalCommColleges #NLS2019



Senator Harris: “You are the jewel of our state. You really are.”

With the recent presidential declaration of a national emergency at the southern border, I crave to be in the classroom teaching constitutional law again. The statewide law pathway program that I designed was in the papers last week, and it noted that the number of community college students interested in the law pathway nearly doubled after the 2016 presidential election! (*Diverse Issues in Higher Education* article: “[Pathways to Law School Program is Yielding Success Stories](#)”)

During the National Legislative Summit, there was much talk about the lack of diversity in the college presidency. Among college presidents in the country, 17% are people of color and only 1.8% are Asian American women. With so few of us, every other month seemingly, I am being interviewed by doctorate students on leadership. The American Council on Education recently published [an article](#) on women of color presidents and chancellors such as our own chancellor talking about why women presidents remain underrepresented.

The day before the D.C. summit, there was another important summit in Los Angeles: the inaugural “Building Diversity” Summit by the State Chancellor’s Office. Foothill’s Equity Team was there in full force: **Adrienne Hypolite, Carolyn Holcroft, and Melissa Cervantes.**

The summit was mostly focused on faculty diversity and equal employment opportunity. Prof. **Holcroft** was on a panel about the new faculty orientation program that she redesigned, and I was on another panel talking about the new EEO funding allocation that I led when I was at the State Chancellor’s Office. One of those thought partners that I collaborated closely with will be at Foothill Thursday’s Thoughts this week at 12:30 pm: come meet **Jonathan Lightman**, former executive director for FACCC.

The faculty diversity work we did has moved the needle statewide, though there is still so much more to do.

Change is difficult, even when we know it needs to occur. This seems to have been a statement I have had to make on several occasions during our budget reduction conversations these past two months.

Thank you to the Advisory Council for its recommendation to approve the proposed budget reduction ([Option One in Governance Memo](#)) with the convening of a joint study group to evaluate its effects, including a possible design of a hub-and-spokes model.

One of our college values is forgiveness, and apparently, it was incorporated as a college value by then President **Fong** after a tough

budget reduction period. One of our budget “Guiding Principles” is empathy, and genuine forgiveness requires empathy. Thank you to all those who have been practicing these values during our budget talks.

Even though the conversations were tough (and at times, trying), I continue to be impressed with Foothill for your thoughtfulness and care for students.



Prof. **Amy Edwards** sent me a picture of this rainbow last week. It has much symbolism for me in light of our college’s budget talks.

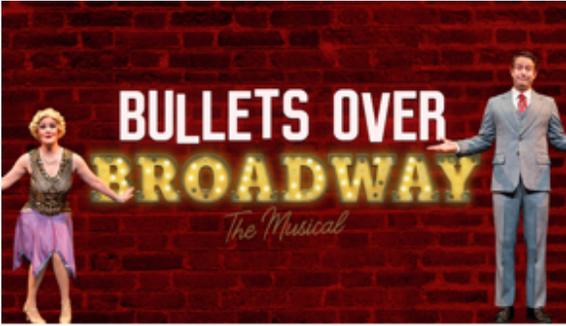
Now with the budget reduction conversation nearing its conclusion, let us **move forward**.

- Let us strategize on the funds we do have to move our college forward.
- Let us design a new college that promotes interdisciplinary work and create community.
- Let us develop Equity Plan 2.0 to ensure all students succeed.
- Let us start thinking about Education Master Plan 2020/2030 to best position our college for the future.

One set of values that is not currently identified is: equity, diversity, and inclusion. The Advisory Council will be taking a look at our values and possibly recommend some changes. I hope we would also explore other values such as innovation and service leadership.

Save those hotel toiletries from your trips. I am. We will have bins to collect them at the [Research & Service Leadership Symposium](#) on Thursday, May 16.

Please remind students that the **application deadline for the Symposium is Friday, March 15** (week 10 of winter quarter)! Thanks to you, we had over 150 students participating last year.



Support our Theatre Arts Department by attending a performance of *Bullets Over Broadway* (Feb. 28 – March 7). The matinee performance on Sunday March 3rd is an exclusive benefit hosted by Foothill College Commission with reception during intermission. Tickets for this special performance start at \$75 and proceeds benefit our Theatre Arts program. Purchase tickets online for any of the performances, [click here](#).

Interested in hearing **Diane Keaton** at [Celebrity Forum](#) this Thursday/Friday? First ones to email me their favorite U.S. President and the leadership qualities he possesses (which we should consider as learning outcomes for Service Leadership), these tickets are yours!

Of Service,

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

Thuy

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