



# President's Communiqué

FROM THE DESK OF THUY THI NGUYEN

## Our Students Are Impressive

Countdown to Finals . . .

Have you seen the Dreamers Mural lately? It is breathtaking! We will have an unveiling party during the first week of Spring quarter, on Thursday, April 13, from 12:00 PM to 1:15 PM. **Please save the date!**

Yesterday, I attended the fabulous Professor **Sarah Parikh's** Engineering 10 class where students presented their group projects on *process-thinking*. One group tested Foothill's water fountains and found that water obtained from fountains across campus is as clean, if not cleaner, than bottled water.

### How Much Water are you Drinking?

Being properly hydrated helps reduce and prevent headaches as well as enhancing energy levels and brain function. We aim to give users peace of mind by ensuring clean fountain water and to save users' money that would have otherwise been spent on water from other sources, like bottled water. Foothill College has approximately 60 water fountains on campus available to students and faculty and of those, our group tested approximately 10%.

We asked 40 students near campus water fountains what source of bottled water they preferred. 2/3 students said they drank from bottled water because they trust its clean and not contaminated. **Our own testing showed that the water obtained from various fountains across campus is as clean, if not cleaner, than that of bottled water.**

#### Drinking Water Test Results

	EPA Standard	Fountain 1 (PSEC)	Fountain 2 (Administration)	Fountain 3 (Vet.Tech)	Fountain 4 (Lockers)	Fountain 5 (Stadium)	Fountain 6 (Tennis)	Vita	Crystal Geyser
Bacteria	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None	None
Lead	<15 ppb	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Pesticides	<4 ppb	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass	Pass
Total Nitrate	<1ppb	.15	.15	.15	1.5	.15	0	0	0
Total Chlorine	<4 ppm	≈1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
pH	6.5-8.5	8.5	8.0	8.5	8.5	8.5	8.5	7.5	7.5
Total Hardness	<50 ppm	120	0	120	120	120	120	120	50

I was so impressed with **Diego Garcia, Michael Johansen, Andrew Niue, Adrian Barajas, and Alfredo Arredondo** who are also in STEM Core, a new diversity-in-STEM learning community. They pointed out that the water fountain at the Admin Building was the cleanest, and teasingly asking me why I think that was the case. As **Diego** later wrote to me, *"Our team focused on the negative perceptions that Foothill*

*students have towards water fountains. Our goal was to increase the use of reusable bottles and water fountains and prevent tons of plastic from potentially ending up in landfills.”*

A couple of weeks ago, I met a dynamic duo at the Business Innovation Showcase put on by Professors **Lawrence Lew** and **Jose Nava**. The students, **David Wan** and **Hon Leung** approached me and said words to this effect, “*President, do you know how hard it is to register at Foothill, to build a schedule? You start with one class and if you could not fit the next one, then you have to do the schedule all over.*” They showed me a software program they designed to help students build a class schedule. I informed them earlier that week, the board had approved a contract with EduNav to do just that. The program was described by Vice Chancellor **Joe Moreau** at the board meeting as a “game changer”. There is no such program in community colleges in the country, and thanks to **Denise Swett**, **Nazy Galoyan**, **Lan Truong**, the Student Services team, and ETS who all worked on it for the past two years, we hope to implement it next year. I was happy to hear that our students were developing a similar program, and I admire them for their ingenuity and business savvy.

Another extraordinary student is Student Trustee **Courtney Cooper** who was honored by State Senator **Jim Beall** as a “Rising Star” for Women’s Month. As a woman of color with disabilities, Courtney is breaking all types of barriers and helping all of us have a better appreciation for student voices in the state. As you know, she is also the State Student Senate President.



*Courtney Cooper with CalWORKS’ Sofia Abad and a Foothill student.*

A group of Foothill students in the newly formed Journalism Club recently interviewed me for their podcast, and they reminded me of how thoughtful, enthusiastic, and smart our students are. I saw some of that in how our students came together to support undocumented students and students affected by the travel ban. Our students truly inspire me.

Of course, our students are successful thanks to the incredible commitment of all of you. I had the joy of honoring our four John & Suanne Roueche Excellence Award recipients at the recent League for Innovation Conference. Congratulations to **Jose Nava**, **Anthony Cervantes**, **Judy Baker**, and **Sam Connell**.



*Photo with John Roueche at League for Innovation in the Community College Award Ceremony.*

Have a great weekend, Foothill.

Of Service,

*Thuy Thi Nguyen*  
President  
Foothill College

650.949.7200  
*Twitter:* @FoothillPrez  
12345 El Monte Road  
Los Altos Hills, CA 94022