

Foothill College,

What to hear some exciting news as you enjoy that cup of hot coffee/tea in light of today's weather?

Foothill College is fortunate to have two outstanding professionals to lead the Finance and Administration division. Few people know the college/district budget as well as **Bret Watson**, and few people know state finance/accounting regulations as well as **Elias Regalado**. Together, they will make a great team to lead our dedicated finance and administration team.

**Bret Watson** has worked in the California Community College System in the areas of budget, accounting, and finance for over 23 years. He started his career in community colleges working for Ohlone College across the Bay. In 1999, he was hired by the Foothill-De Anza Community College District and worked in the Central Services Budget Department as the Grants Monitor for several years. This position allowed Bret to develop an extensive knowledge of grants and categorical programs and allowed him to work with many faculty, staff and administrators at the campuses including Foothill College.

In 2012, Bret was promoted to Director, Budget and Personnel of De Anza College where he worked to improve communication regarding the budget. While at De Anza, he helped to develop and streamline processes and provided quality financial services including leadership regarding the changes to the categorical programs like SSSP and the Student Equity programs.

During the last year, Bret has provided fiscal leadership for Foothill College as the Interim Associate Vice President, Finance and Administrative Services. Bret assisted recently on the Accreditation Self Study, serves as the Operations Planning Committee Tri-chair and serves on the Planning and Resource Council (PaRC).

Bret is excited to be a permanent member of the Foothill College Team. He is looking forward to helping the college to identify financial resources to assist in enrollment and growth initiatives and most importantly, to support student learning and success. He is married to public elementary school music teacher, has three teen-aged children and

has a recently adopted golden retriever named “Maisy”.

Bret received his undergraduate degree from Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo in Business Administration-Accounting and completed his Masters Degree in Public Administration in May 2017.

**Elias Regalado** is currently the Director of Fiscal Standards and Accountability Unit, College Finance and Facilities Planning Division for the California Community College Chancellor’s Office. Elias was employed by the State of California for over 30 years, the last 28 of which have been with the Chancellor’s Office. During this time, he has worked in the Fiscal Services Unit and assisted in or been responsible for the development and maintenance of the fiscal and student attendance electronic reporting systems and databases, revision of the Budget and Accounting Manual, compilation of Fiscal Data Abstract Reports, Full-Time/Part-Time Faculty statutes and regulations, academic calendar configuration matters, and emergency conditions FTES allowances. In April of 2016, Elias was appointed as the Director of Fiscal Standards and Accountability Unit, which has oversight over the state’s uniform budgeting and accounting system, state audits, student residency, and attendance accounting and reporting for apportionment purposes.

Aside from his dedicated work at the State Chancellor’s Office, Elias raised two kids who would eventually become community college transfer students and recent University of California graduates. For this and many other reasons, he is very appreciative of the support and assistance that our colleges provide to students to help them reach their goals and achieve their dreams.

Elias is extremely excited to have the opportunity to transition his service and contribution to Foothill College, as it would allow him to directly impact and support college academic programs and services that improve the lives of students. He is anticipated to start on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

I have had the opportunity to work with both Bret and Elias, and I can tell you that we are fortunate to have such talent and service-oriented individuals.

Many thanks to **Kurt Hueg** (chair), **Kevin McElroy**, **Phuong Tran**, **Debbie Lee**, **Jay Patyk**, and **Red Lucas** for serving on the VP hiring committee.

Many thanks also to **Andrea Hanstein** (chair), **Kevin McElroy**, **Mike Mohebbi**, **Suzanne**

**Yamada, Kevin Harral, Carolyn Holcroft, and Simon Pennington** for serving on the AVP hiring committee.

Please help me congratulate Bret and welcome Elias to Foothill College!

Warmly,  
Thuy

*Thuy Thi Nguyen*  
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