



President's Communiqué

FROM THE DESK OF THUY THI NGUYEN

Why Focus On Race?

Greetings Foothill College:

Thank you to those who attended last week's Town Hall on Equity Plan 2.0 and offered feedback on the draft definition of equity as presented at College Opening Day.

You probably have received a survey from Institutional Research in June for faculty and in July for classified professionals/administrators. Thank you to the nearly 100 folks who have already filled out the survey.

We are extending the deadline to Monday, October 21st for everyone. Please take time to fill it out.

Staff/admin survey: <https://irp.fhda.edu/cgi-bin/rws5.pl?FORM=FHEquity2StaffAdmin>

Faculty survey: <https://irp.fhda.edu/cgi-bin/rws5.pl?FORM=FHEquity2Fac>

I have been contemplating for some time now how to get more faculty and staff to be engaged in the college's "equity" efforts. We have many faculty members, for instance, who teach race relations, social justice, and race discrimination in their own classes. Some of us are even experts, and are called upon by

people outside the college. I wish we could “hire” pro bono our own faculty and staff to serve as consultants to our own equity work. We could learn a lot from many of you. Thus, I am working with our Equity Office to get more engagement of faculty and staff in the work.

One of the ideas for more faculty/staff engagement is the creation of a Foothill-published journal where we would feature scholarship by faculty, classified professionals, administrators, and students in racial equity. This is why the survey was sent, with the last set of questions related to scholarship and research. The journal would be the first in the country by a community college, as far as we know. I’ve also reached out to the University of California, Irvine’s School of Education to provide support for the journal. If the first-year pilot goes well, the goal is to publish annually hard copies for mass distribution at the college (and nationally upon request).

During the Town Hall on Equity Plan 2.0 last week, there was much conversation as to why the focus on race, considering the intersection with other experiences such as poverty, LGBTQ+, veterans, gender, immigration-status, and disabilities. Why focus on race? That is a question the college needs to answer if it is to make progress on its most persistent, college-wide gap.

Indeed, our college continues to provide support for all students. This week is Undocumented Student Action Week with a training on Wednesday.

Next week:



disABILITY Awareness Week

PROMOTING DISABILITY AWARENESS, EQUITY & INCLUSION

In recognition of October as National Disability Employment Awareness Month (NDEAM), Foothill College is hosting Disability Awareness Week to increase awareness & understanding, and change attitudes among the community. This week's events aim to promote dialogue about issues faced by students with disabilities and highlight stigma surrounding disabilities.

Opening Event

Monday, October 21

Hearthside Lounge Room 2313

RSVP at foothill.edu/drc

- **10:30–11:45AM** DRC Open House
- **12–1:30PM** Lunch (free pizza!), Meet & Greet
- **1:30–2:30PM** Keynote talk: *Disability and Technology Innovation* by Dr. Richard E. Ladner (Welcome remarks by President Nguyen)
- **2:45–3:30PM** Video: *Meet Haben Girma* by Laurie Scolari & Poetry Reading by Sophia Falco

Dr. Richard E. Ladner is Professor Emeritus in the Paul G. Allen School of Computer Science & Engineering. He is well known for accessibility technology & research, especially for deaf, deaf-blind, hard-of-hearing, and blind people. He is a renowned leader in promoting the inclusion of persons with disabilities in computing fields.

Visions of Warriors Film Screening

Tuesday, October 22, 2–4PM, Room 5001

- In *Visions of Warriors*, by Ming Lai (Producer/Writer/Editor/Director) four veterans from the Vietnam War era to the Iraq War participate in the groundbreaking Veteran Photo Recovery Project at the VA Menlo Park and use innovative photography therapy to treat their mental illness.
- Popcorn provided!

Chalk the Quad & Community Resource Fair

Wednesday, October 23, 11AM–2PM, Library Quad 3500

- Raising awareness about disability on campus
- Check out our broad range of disability and health related campus and community resources
- Popcorn and Snow Cones will be provided.

Educational Seminars

Thursday, October 24, 12PM–2PM, Room 5419

- Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Faculty Panel Discussion
- Alumni/Current Student Panel
- Internet of Things (IoT) and People with Disabilities

RSVP at foothill.edu/drc

For more information please contact:
subedibidya@foothill.edu



Also, next week is the inaugural Mellon Humanities Scholars Program Conference:

“Bridging Humanities Across Disciplines: A Little Conference for Big Ideas”

October 24 & 25, 2019

University of San Francisco

Register at: myusf.usfca.edu/arts-sciences/mellon/2019

All are invited! For more info, please contact Professor **Falk Cammin** at camminfalk@fhda.edu

As you know, the Mellon Scholars Program is a learning community at Foothill to encourage students from diverse backgrounds to explore the humanities.

Last week, the *Revenue & Resources Council* discussed student housing as part of the revision of the Facilities Master Plan and in response to the recommendations from last year’s Summit on Student Homelessness. Stay posted for updates and announcements from R & R Council.

Student homelessness is also another area that intersects race and other identifiers. According to the HOPE study, there were larger percentages of students (greater than the college average of 19%) who were undocumented/undeclared immigration status, African Americans, and LGBTQ+ students at Foothill. The study did not focus on veterans status, and a subsequent study is being conducted.

One area of our campus that is showing a lesser racial equity gap is the athletics program. This, in light of the large number of students of color in team sports such as football, is commendable. Of course, this is not to say that the racial gap could close entirely and thus, the division continues to work on efforts such as its Scholar Athletes program and faculty/staff participation in Beyond Diversity training – among others.


Speaking of football, yes, the Owl team won this past weekend


and remains undefeated!




Foothill College President
@FoothillPrez



 #OwlEra

 Foothill College Football @OwlFoot... · 11m

The Owls head into the bye week 6-0! Here's a few photos from today action! 



There's no football game this upcoming weekend, although there is a game against De Anza at De Anza College on Nov. 9th if anyone is interested in joining me. Of course, there are other games in between, but I sure would like to visit De Anza College for a game.

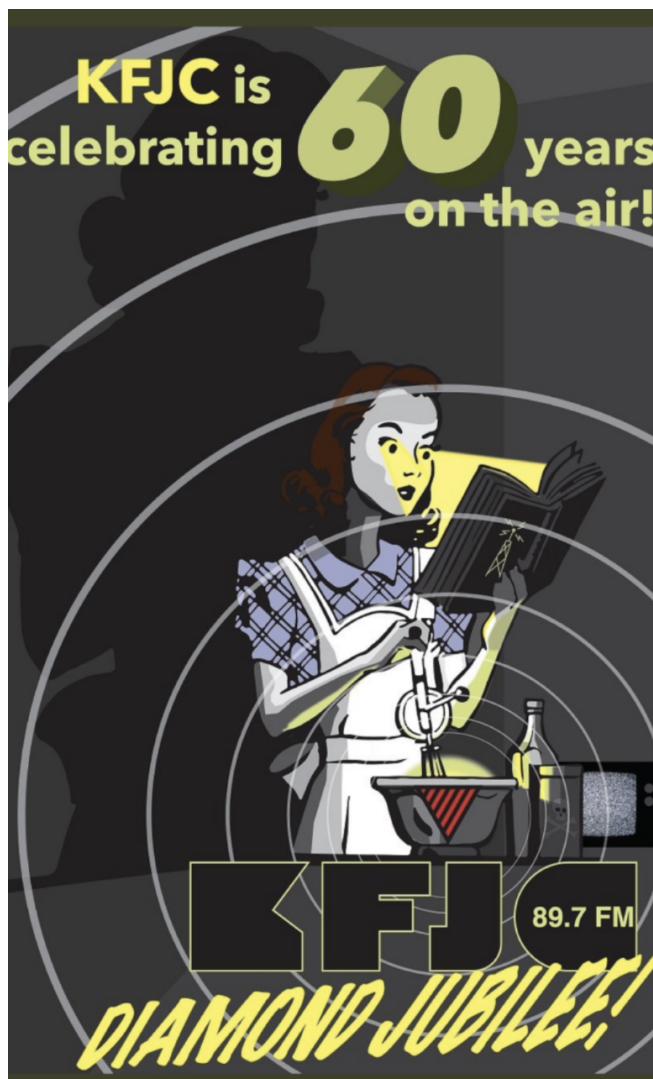
What *IS* happening this upcoming weekend is KFJC's 60th Anniversary Celebration on Sunday! Donate to KFJC to support this rich history of underground music programming. Phone 650-941-6800 or visit kfjc.org/donate/.



KFJC
@KFJC897fm



Hope to see you at the KFJC 60th Anniversary Open House on Sunday, October 20, 2019 from noon to 5pm at Foothill College! [#KFJC60](#)
[#collegeradio](#)



Of Service,



Thuy

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