



President's Communiqué

FROM THE DESK OF THUY THI NGUYEN

Keeping Calm & Staying Safe

Dear Foothill Colleagues,

By now, you will have received the college-wide message that we have closed the Foothill and Sunnyvale campuses due to the very unhealthy Air Quality Index (AQI) caused by the wildfires around the Bay Area. We decided to close physical access to the campuses for two days so that students, faculty, and staff could plan accordingly and not have to worry about possibly traveling to either locations tomorrow.

I also made the announcement during my daily briefing this morning. All essential employees and individuals scheduled to be on campus today and tomorrow have also been informed. Thank you **Danmin Deng** for alerting them! The DJ volunteers have also been informed, along with students and faculty in the Allied Health programs. The animals on campus will continue to be fed.

Later this evening, I am planning a huddle with Cabinet to receive a status update and anticipate making a decision as to whether campus access needs to be closed on Friday since there are also some Friday classes and employees scheduled to be on campus. You will receive an alert tomorrow morning, including during tomorrow's briefing.

Coincidentally, most of the directors of the Allied Health programs (Professors **Benda Hanning**, **Angela Su**, **Lisa Eshman**, **Tracy Villanueva**, **Patti Chan**, and **Cara Miyasaki**) were scheduled to be on the [President's Daily Briefing today](#) to present on how they are managing safety while providing limited face-to-face classes due to accreditation requirements.

As Paramedic Director, Prof. **Tracy Villanueva** said:, “[T]he things that we're doing...to the precautions that we're taking, if there is transmission in this environment, there is no hope.”

Since some faculty were already on the two campuses, I also inquired as to the situation with the evacuation.

Prof. **Tracy Villanueva**: “As far as the Sunnyvale campus, today was the lightest day...I literally only had a handful of students...And to be perfectly honest with you, I think that they just understood. In light of everything, the fires, the pandemic, and everything else that's going on, I think people are kind of in that: I just accept if something bad happens, I just accept and I move on and I deal with it. And I think that that's just exactly what they did.”

Dental Hygiene Director, Prof. **Patti Chan** (main campus): “Everything's okay. We were just closing up here so that we get everyone out. The air quality is pretty bad. That's the main danger.”



The projections are for the AQI to remain high (150-200) in much of the Bay Area for several more days and it likely that there will be more thunderstorms (with associated lightning strikes) next week as well. **Governor Newsom** reminded us that California is currently in a state of emergency and most fires are not contained.

Some of our colleagues have been forced to evacuate from their own homes. The college will exercise flexibility as colleagues look to work from a new remote location. If you have been evacuated, please contact your supervisor. The District will be sending out information about leaves -- similar guidelines when the campus closed during the November 2018 wildfires.

The screenshot shows the Foothill College website. At the top, there is a navigation menu with links: CALENDAR, CLASS SCHEDULE, DIRECTORY, LIBRARY, BOOKSTORE, MAP, NEWS, SUNNYVALE, ONLINE LEARNING, MYPORTAL, and A-Z. A search bar is located in the top right corner. Below the navigation is the Foothill College logo and a hamburger menu icon. A yellow banner reads "All fall classes delivered virtually. [SEE VIRTUAL CAMPUS](#)". Below this is a large image of diverse students with the text "Foothill College Promise" overlaid. A yellow button says "APPLY for Admission". A large red banner at the bottom left reads "CAMPUS CLOSED" and "Campus closed Aug. 19 & 20 due to air quality. Also phone interruptions may occur. Please email our Student Services virtual offices. >". A chatbot window is open on the right, asking "May I help you?" and responding "Hi there! I'm a chatbot here to answer your questions. What would you like to know?". A yellow chat icon is in the bottom right corner.

We have experienced some phone and Banner interruptions and the District is working to keep all services up and running as much as possible. We appreciate your patience on this matter, and have posted messages on the website. We are also alerting students and families to be patient, as employee safety is our utmost concern and their need to find safety is critical.

It is with great sadness that our Library colleague, **Karen Smith**, lost her house to the Santa Cruz mountains' fire yesterday. Thankfully, **Karen** (and her cat) is safe and are staying with a relative. A [GoFundMe link](#) has been set up by Librarian **Pawel Szponar** to help support **Karen**. Please contribute if you can. Thank you!



Finally, pray you and your family will remain safe. Be prepared for evacuation, should you be required to do so. My family has set aside the evacuation bag. Also, stay inside unless it is absolutely necessary to go out, and keep us posted if you are forced to evacuate.

Foothill College has shown incredible resolve in the face of multiple crises and the kindness, empathy, and love you all show for each other and our students is at the heart of our success.



Of Service,

Thuy

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