

FROM THE OFFICE OF

*Judy C. Miner, President*

**FOOTHILL COLLEGE**

January 2, 2009

Happy New Year!

I hope you had an enjoyable break and that you are returning with a renewed sense of energy. Many thanks to all of you who worked during the break so that we could be ready on January 5 to welcome the increased numbers of students who are choosing Foothill College. As we begin Winter 09, there are four areas whose importance I would like to highlight.

## **BUDGET**

On November 18, I told you that we were working campuswide to identify savings as preparation for the worst possible budgetary scenario predicted at that time. As of December 22, through hiring suspensions, deferred expenditures, and budget transfers, we were about \$1,000,000 short of balancing our budget for 08-09. Because we are committed to solving this problem without resorting to layoffs for July 1, 2009, we continue to explore all possible avenues and funding sources to bridge this gap. On January 8 at noon in Room 3525, we will hold another Budget Town Hall with Vice Chancellor Andy Dunn and Director Bernata Slater to answer your questions and listen to your suggestions.

On December 31, the Governor released a comprehensive budget proposal that is normally presented to the legislature closer to the mandated deadline of January 10. For the full text, you may visit:

<http://www.dof.ca.gov/>

While the Governor's proposal offers us no more direction than we have had for the past six weeks, the early release may mean that some serious negotiations with the legislature can occur sooner rather than later.

## **PROGRAM PLANNING**

While we await budget news, we still need to provide our students with the best programs and services that are within our capabilities. Program

planning is an essential element to assuring quality and relevance and up-to-date program plans will be required for any areas requesting full-time faculty for 09-10 or 10-11. For detailed information, please visit:

<http://www.foothill.edu/staff/irs/programplans/index.html>

## **STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES**

Faculty are encouraged to attend the Student Learning Outcomes Convocation scheduled for February 27. Much has been accomplished to date and even more will be accomplished under the leadership of Vice President Katie Townsend-Merino. Her official start date is January 12, but she has been attending meetings and consulting with colleagues since early December. More information on SLOs is available at:

<http://www.foothill.edu/staff/irs/LOA/2008-09Timeline.html>

## **ACCREDITATION**

Our next accreditation visit will occur in fall of 2011 and our self-study needs to be completed by June of 2011. Vice President Richard Galope is our Accreditation Liaison Officer and will launch the self-study process during January in collaboration with the Academic Senate, the Classified Senate, and the Associated Students of Foothill College. Our goal for the site visit is to demonstrate that our students develop skills, abilities, and values that empower them to succeed in advanced studies and the workplace, contribute to their communities, and participate in lifelong learning. Incredibly ambitious? But of course: we are Foothill College!

Wishing you all the best in 2009,

***Judy***