

From: [Bernadine Fong](#)
To: [BoardOperations](#)
Cc: [Thrift, Jennifer](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on All-inclusive Playground Grant Program
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As a lifetime resident of Santa Clara County and two-time president of Foothill College and educator, I enthusiastically support the County's continuance of the All-inclusive Playground Grant Program. The need for this program has already been evidenced by the success of previous all-inclusive programs, but the need continues to grow if we are to truly infuse into the county a foundational value of inclusivity of everyone. Foothill has been a leader and innovator in educational programs since the college's inception, and programs for the underserved is one of its core missions: "Educational Opportunity for All" appears on the college's seal. This grant would give educational institutions, such as Foothill, the opportunity to establish an educational prototype integrating an all-inclusive "playground" into an outdoor classroom and learning laboratory for students and members of the community of *all ages*, to experience interaction and build a truly diverse community of adults, as well as children. The college is not "neighborhood constrained" and draws students from throughout the county, with San Jose, especially east San Jose, sending the largest number of students (30%). The majority of Foothill students are of color (65%). Similarly, we expect we would have the same demographic "attraction" with the county residents at-large. Consequently, we think such a unique educational facility will not only be impactful countywide, but also provide a unique and much needed county benefit for all of the county's residents and through ease of access to Foothill via interstate 280. A sample of educational programs that would particularly benefit range from special education and transition to careers, apprenticeships, child development, developmental psychology, older adult care management, home healthcare, horticulture and landscape design, graphic design, and military veterans returning to or starting colleges, as well those in physical education.

We thank the Board of Supervisors of your generous support of the continuation of this all-inclusive program.

Best regards,

Bernadine

Bernadine Chuck Fong, Ph.D.
President Emerita, Foothill College (1994-2006; 2021-2023)
Senior Scholar and Director of Leadership Initiatives, Stanford University