

**RIO HONDO COLLEGE**  
**EM/SEM EDUCATION CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING**

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Thursday, December 3, 2009, 9:00 a.m.  
El Monte High School Instructional Building Conference Room

**Present:**

Angela Acosta-Salazar, Trustee, Rio Hondo College Board  
Norma Edith Garcia, Trustee-elect, Rio Hondo College Board  
Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr., Superintendent/President, Rio Hondo College (RHC)  
Dr. Paul Parnell, Vice President, Academic Affairs, RHC  
Teresa Dreyfuss, Vice President, Finance & Business, RHC  
Henry Gee, Vice President, Student Services, RHC  
Dr. Walter Jones, Dean of Counseling Services, RHC  
Dr. Robert Holcomb, Associate Dean of Student Retention Services, RHC  
Russell Castaneda Calleros, Director of Gov't & Community Relations, RHC  
Hector Delgado, City Councilmember, City of So. El Monte  
Andre Quintero, Mayor, City of El Monte  
Dante Hall, Assistant City Manager, City of El Monte  
Linda Wong, Senior Director, California Community Foundation  
Angelica Sifuentes, Mountain View School District  
Rex Botengan, Our Saviour Center  
Anthony Duarte, Office of Congressman Judy Chu  
Jorge Morales, Office of County Supervisor Gloria Molina

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr. at 9:05 a.m.

**Opening Comments and Introductions** – Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

- **Dr. Martinez** introduced himself and thanked everyone for attending the meeting. He encouraged all in attendance to introduce themselves. After introductions Dr. Martinez invited Trustee-elect Norma Garcia to say a few words.
- **Trustee-Elect Garcia** thanked everyone for their support during the campaign and underscored that this educational center was an important issue for her during the campaign and remains so now.. She understands how important this satellite campus will be to the families in the community and vows to do everything she can to keep the process moving forward.
- Dr. Martinez invited **Mayor Andre Quintero** to say a few words. Mayor Quintero expressed 100% support from the city and welcomed the opportunity to talk about programming. He discussed the importance of building educational capacity and envisioned that programming could be a balance of credit courses, non-credit courses, contract education courses, seminars, and other components. He is looking forward to partnering with the County and with the California Community Foundation on the development of this Center.

## **Educational Center Project Update – Teresa Dreyfuss and Dante Hall.**

- Four years ago Rio Hondo College began to work with the City of El Monte to identify a property/location and design that could be suitable for an educational center.
- After numerous meetings and continued negotiations, the two entities reached an agreement to purchase/sell the property at 3017 and 3035 Tyler Ave. to Rio Hondo College.
- Escrow closed on Monday, November 30 which is a big step in the fulfillment of the College's vision to develop an educational center on this property.
- This property is about one acre in area and contains three one-story buildings.
- The Board of Trustees will discuss an agenda item at the 12/9 board meeting which would fund a preliminary design/feasibility study to determine the usage of current existing building or to build a new building including the number of classrooms, offices, and support areas that the existing building could accommodate and to identify the potential remediation and code upgrades required to comply with educational building requirements.

## **Course Offerings and Services at the Center**

- **Dr. Paul Parnell** briefly discussed the process by which Rio Hondo College would determine what courses and services would be offered at the Center. He added that the final list of courses and services would need to be identified about 9 months prior to the opening of the Center so that they are included in the course schedule. The classroom schedule developed for the center in El Monte each term will be a balance of 1) Transfer, 2) Occupational or vocational, 3) Basic Skills, 4) Counseling, 5) Community Services, 6) Continuing Education, 7) Contract Education courses. The schedule will be developed based on student and community input and needs about 9 months prior to each term. The advisory committee, community surveys, and Rio Hondo College Enrollment Strategies committee will assist in developing the best balance of course offerings for the center.
- **Henry Gee** talked about ongoing educational partnerships between school districts in the El Monte area and Rio Hondo College. In particular, Mr. Gee highlighted the GEAR-UP grant, the First 5 Foundation grant and the recently awarded ARCHES grant. Additionally, Mr. Gee discussed the Partnership for College, a collaborative between El Monte Union HSD, UC Irvine & Rio Hondo College and the proposed El Monte Pledge.
- **Dr. Walter Jones** discussed assessment, counseling, and matriculation services and how they could potentially be offered to students who visit the Center.
- **Trustee Angela Acosta-Salazar** arrived and shared how proud she was to see the District close escrow on the property and pave the way for the new Center. She added that it's important to keep students on track to finish their A-G requirements so they can be eligible to pursue their higher educational goals at four-year institutions and beyond.

- **Dr. Robert Holcomb** discussed what basic skills are and how important it will be to make sure that students receive the proper assessment and remediation at high school and at Rio Hondo College. The earlier that students who test at basic skills level can prepare an education plan and then be monitored, the more likely they will be prepared for success down the road.

### **Community Building Initiative – Linda Wong, California Community Foundation**

- Linda Wong reported on the CCF's Community Building Initiative which was an opportunity to test a comprehensive strategy to revitalizing a community.
- Emphasis was placed on three areas in El Monte. One of these areas is the Tyler Corridor, which is where the educational center will be built.
- In the community engagement piece, asset-mapping is done to identify where there is awareness of community services/resources and where there is a lack of knowledge of these resources.
- Ms. Wong talked about the importance of reaching out to "hometown associations" across L.A. County for immigrants who have ties to their hometowns outside of the United States.
- While a previous focus of funds was on physical environment and park space, the next focus of funds will be economic development. She anticipated that a feasibility study will be completed in March 2010 which will help create a baseline of existing businesses in El Monte, identify industries that could attract new business, address workforce needs, and identify future retention strategies.

### **Open feedback**

- Councilman Delgado asked how he could get residents from South El Monte to the Center
- Jorge Morales was pleased to see progress made thus far concerning the center and is looking forward to future briefings.
- Angelica Sifuentes is interested in seeing how local school districts can be involved in the Center and is interested in fine arts partnerships. She hopes that the districts can continue to be engaged as Rio Hondo develops a strategic plan to identify courses and services needed at the Center
- Anthony Duarte promised to brief Congresswoman Chu and reiterated that she would be interested in seeing courses that prepared students for green collar jobs and environment technology-related careers.
- Rex Botengan reminded everyone that Our Saviour Center has a "kids" campus, a series of after school programs, a computer lab, and a medical clinic that could complement any services offered at the El Monte Educational Center.
- Linda Wong added that she is concerned about supporting District initiatives that aim to reduce the achievement gap for English-learners.
- Russell Castañeda Calleros asked if CCF was planning to include a focus on transportation initiatives to help find funding to involve the El Monte Trolley in Rio Hondo's GO RIO program. Ms. Wong responded that it would be best to work

directly with the city and Dante Hall on this question to see if there are any stimulus funds that could help with this.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:29 a.m. by Dr. Martinez.

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Handouts:            Building Access and Excellence - 2009  
                         Spring 2010 Class Schedule  
                         Meeting Agenda

**RIO HONDO COLLEGE**  
**EL MONTE/ SOUTH EL MONTE EDUCATIONAL CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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Wednesday, May 5, 2010, 8:30 a.m.  
El Monte-Rosemead Adult School – Conference Room

**Present:**

Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr., Superintendent/President, Rio Hondo College (RHC)  
Dr. Paul Parnell, Vice President, Academic Affairs, RHC  
Teresa Dreyfus, Vice President, Finance & Business, RHC  
Russell Castañeda Calleros, Director, Government & Community Relations, RHC  
Robert Holcomb, Director of Basic Skills, RHC  
Ruth Gonzales, Valle Lindo School District  
Sandy Stevens, El Monte-Rosemead Adult School  
Nick Salerno, El Monte Union High School District  
Lourdes...., Mountain View School District  
Angelica Sifuentes, Mountain View School District  
Marian Last, City of El Monte Parks & Recreations  
Anthony Duarte, Office Representative Judy Chu  
Vera deVera, California Community Foundation  
Frank Molina, California Community Foundation  
John Tang, Office of Assemblyman Mike Eng  
Irene E. Portillo, Project Amiga  
Diane Bladen, El Monte Union High School District

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr. at 8:41 a.m.

**Welcome remarks & self introductions** – Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.,  
Superintendent/President

- **Dr. Martinez** introduced himself and thanked everyone for attending.
- Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

**Educational Center project update** – Teresa Dreyfuss, Vice President, Finance & Business

- Teresa Dreyfuss reported that a piece of land has been purchased in El Monte and Rio Hondo is in the in process of surveying the land to determine the soil impact. After surveying is complete, the architect will start designing four classrooms. Construction will start in one year and the center should be completed in two years.
- Dr. Martinez commented that the District is committed to this project and will continue to keep the advisory committee updated on the progress. He also shared the progress of the South Whittier Educational Center which is set to be completed this summer. Dr. Martinez introduced Paul Parnell and Robert

Holcomb to give the committee more information about the South Whittier Educational Center Taskforce.

**SWEC Taskforce & relevance for El Monte/So. El Monte** – Paul Parnell, Vice President of Academic Affairs & Robert Holcomb, Director of Basic Skills

- Paul Parnell shared with the committee that the South Whittier project has been given to Robert Holcomb, Director of Basic Skills. He explained the reasons that led to the creation of the South Whittier Education Center Survey and how the information will be used to determine which courses would be offered at the new center.
- Robert Holcomb commented that putting together an off campus project requires a lot of logistics. Robert introduced the South Whittier Educational Center Implementation Plan Report submitted by the Taskforce which outlines all the needs of the educational center. He expressed that there is potential in El Monte to offer classes for Transfer, Basic Skills, and Continuing Education. He also reported that a scientific approach was taken with South Whittier with decisions being data driven. He added that Rio Hondo wants to provide channels for community input and plans to work with the adult schools so that classes are not duplicated.
- Dr. Martinez said that Rio Hondo intends to follow the same process with El Monte as it did with SWEC. The intent is to offer courses most needed at the future El Monte site.
- Robert commented that because SWEC is situated near an adult school in South Whittier, Rio Hondo remains mindful of courses so as not to duplicate. For example, an ESL course at SWEC is an entry level college course.
- Russell expressed that he was in charge of working with the community to come up with a course offering schedule for SWEC. He added that it's important for Rio Hondo to collaborate with community groups and school districts in El Monte for the same purpose. He also expressed that SWEC is a great model that worked well.
- Dr. Martinez expressed that Rio Hondo intends to follow

The meeting was adjourned at

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Handouts:

**RIO HONDO COLLEGE  
EL MONTE EDUCATIONAL CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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Thursday, December 1, 2011, 9:00 a.m.  
El Monte High School - Conference Room

**Present:**

Angela Acosta Salazar, Trustee, RHC  
Norma Garcia, Trustee, RHC  
Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr., Superintendent/President, Rio Hondo College (RHC)  
Dr. Paul Parnell, Vice President, Academic Affairs, RHC  
Henry Gee, Vice President, Student Services, RHC  
Russell Castañeda Calleros, Director, Government & Community Relations, RHC  
Dr. Robert Holcomb, Assistant Dean, Student Success and Retention, RHC  
Dr. Jennifer Fernandez, Coordinator/Counselor, South Whittier Ed Center, RHC  
Jim Sinsheimer, Program Manager, Rio Hondo Program Management Team  
Irene E. Portillo, Project Amiga  
Frank Molina, California Community Foundation  
Primo Castro, Office of Assemblyman Roger Hernandez  
Anthony Duarte, Office of Congresswoman Judy Chu  
Pedro Salcido, Office of Senator Ed Hernandez  
Lourdes Hale, Mountain View School District  
Robin Torres, El Monte Union High School District  
Trina Cardona, El Monte-Rosemead Adult School

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr. at 9:02 a.m.

**Welcome remarks & self introductions** – Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.,  
Superintendent/President

- **Dr. Martinez** introduced himself and thanked everyone for attending.
- Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.
- **Trustee Angela Acosta Salazar** also welcomed everyone and commented that the reason we are meeting is to serve as many students as possible, to get everyone's input, and to strengthen our community partnerships.

**Construction Update** – Jim Sinsheimer, Program Manager, RHPMT

- Jim reported that construction on the El Monte Ed Center is set to begin on December 5. They will begin with abatement and two weeks of demolition. The construction will be on-going for about 1 year with an expected completion date of Spring 2013.
- Jim referred to the diagrams and displays of the El Monte Ed Center and noted there will be four classrooms in the facility, a central courtyard, and 81 parking spaces. He also mentioned that the open courtyard will serve to provide a space for community events or gatherings.

- The classrooms within the El Monte Ed Center will consist of two fixed (in size) classrooms which hold 48 students each, one computer classroom, two classrooms with a divider for flexibility, and two office spaces with computers for students to use.
- A question was asked about the use of solar panels for the building. Jim said the relatively small size of this project does not make it cost effective to purchase and install solar panels, hence the building will not be LEED certified. Still, the building is designed to be as energy efficient as possible.
- Dr. Martinez commented that the District is hopeful to be ready to offer classes at the El Monte Ed Center in Spring 2013. He also said we would use the South Whittier Educational Center as an example. He introduced Jennifer Fernandez, Coordinator for SWEC.

**SWEC Course offerings and relevance for EMEC**– Jennifer Fernandez, Coordinator & Counselor at SWEC

- Jennifer commented that one of the best things that students say about SWEC is that we offer something close to home. She provided the committee with a handout on course offerings (Course Offering – 2 year Summary) to review.
- SWEC was opened in Fall 2010 and the time had 2 classrooms available. SWEC now has only one class available but Jennifer pointed out that although only one classroom is available, RHC continues to offer more classes.
- Special priority is given to basic skills classes with early time slots. Courses that are transferable to four-year institutions are also available at SWEC. For the very first time in Fall 2011, a reading course was offered.
- Jennifer also pointed out that there are a variety of vocational program classes available at SWEC.
- Jennifer also mentioned that she surveyed students at SWEC. Survey results revealed that many of the 538 students who use SWEC would not attend college if it were not for SWEC.
- Jennifer opened the conversation for questions. One attendee expressed gratitude for the transfer courses that are available and is pleased to hear that applying lessons learned will benefit the El Monte Ed Center.
- Another attendee shared it may be a good idea to start classes after 8:30 a.m. at the El Monte Educational Center since some potential EMEC students who are parents usually drop off their K-12 students around 8:00 a.m. (or earlier if they have “zero” period at 7:00 a.m.)

**Educational Partnerships** – Russell Castaneda-Calleros, Director of GCR

- Russell presented the committee with information about the Early College Academy. Within this academy students at Mountain View HS are prepared to attend community college so they can effectively transfer to a four-year institution and acquire skills needed for successful college coursework.
- Vice President Henry Gee added that because of some of our educational partnerships, such as our partnership with CSULB, students from RHC are able

to transfer despite the fact that CSULB is impacted. He also mentioned that another result of our educational partnerships is that high school students who have attended the ECA tend to outperform their peers in college.

- Russell spoke briefly about his work with the GO RIO program. Because of our partnerships with transit agencies for the GO RIO program, new bus times have been added for Metro 270 at two bus stops in El Monte and a new bus stop was added at SWEC for Line 120 in South Whittier.
- Henry Gee spoke about the Honors Transfer Program. He reported that Rio Hondo Honor students have an 80 percent acceptance rate at UC Berkeley; roughly 17 out of 21 students that apply are accepted.

#### **Q&A from committee members – All participants**

- Primo Castro announced that Assemblyman Roger Hernandez will host a toy drive on December 15.
- Trustee Norma Garcia announced an El Monte Coalition of Latino/a Professionals (EMCLP) Tamalada to take place on December 8.
- Pedro Salcido announced that Senator Ed Hernandez will host a toy drive at the Foothill building on December 15 from 6-8pm.
- Irene Portillo announced the Project Amiga toy drive will take place on December 7 at Luminarias Restaurant and the toy giveaway will be held on December 17.
- Trustee Angela Acosta Salazar announced to the committee that the RHC Foundation continues to seek funding for the college. We are planning a 50<sup>th</sup> celebration for next year. She encouraged the committee to support the RHC Foundation.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

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#### Handouts:

- Agenda
- El Monte Educational Center Fact Sheet
- RHC Summer 2011 Newsletter
- Fall 2011 RHC Continuing Ed Schedule
- Fall 2011 Let's Talk College brochure
- Fall 2011 SWEC Survey
- RHC Course Offerings – 2 year Summary Sheet
- RHC Honors Transfer Program Brochure

**RIO HONDO COLLEGE**  
**EL MONTE EDUCATIONAL CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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Thursday, September 20, 2012  
El Monte Rosemead Adult School - Conference Room

**Present:**

Norma E. Garcia, Trustee & Board President, Rio Hondo College (RHC)  
Teresa Dreyfuss, Superintendent/President, RHC  
Dr. Kenn Pierson, Vice President, Academic Affairs, RHC  
Henry Gee, Vice President, Student Services, RHC  
Russell Castañeda Calleros, Director, Government & Community Relations, RHC  
Robert Holcomb, Interim Dean, Communications & Languages, RHC  
Jim Sinsheimer, Program Manager, Rio Hondo Program Management Team  
Andre Quintero, Mayor, City of El Monte  
Ruth E. Gonzales, Trustee, Valle Lindo School District  
Mary Louise Labrucherie, Superintendent, Valle Lindo School District  
Robin Torres, Principal, El Monte Rosemead Adult School  
Primo Castro, Field Deputy, Office of Assemblyman Roger Hernandez  
Jerry Quemada, Del Terra  
Sara Shapiro, Assistant Principal, El Monte Rosemead Adult School  
Lourdes Hale, Director II of Educational Services, Mountain View School District  
Liliana Arguello, Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles  
Luis Rojas, President & CEO Del Terra  
Iso Nakasato, Field Deputy, Office of Senator Dr. Ed Hernandez

The meeting was called to order by Russell Castañeda -Calleros at 4:07 p.m.

**Welcome & Introductions – Russell Castañeda Calleros & Teresa Dreyfuss**

- Russell Castañeda Calleros was pleased to announce Teresa Dreyfuss as Interim Superintendent/President. Russell also gave a special thanks to El Monte Mayor Andre Quintero for joining the group.
- Teresa Dreyfuss thanked everyone for attending and said she is happy to be meeting with the group. She said Rio Hondo is fortunate to have purchased the land for the new El Monte Educational Center (EMEC) through the Measure “A” campaign and is looking forward to seeing the Center open soon. She thanked Mayor Andre Quintero for his support of Measure “A” funding. Teresa also thanked Robin Torres, Principal of El Monte Rosemead Adult School (EMRAS) for hosting the meeting.
- Robin Torres welcomed the group and provided folders with information about EMRAS. She also introduced Assistant Principal Sara Shapiro.
- Russell invited everyone around the table to introduce themselves.
- Mayor Quintero said he is proud of the work Rio Hondo has been doing and is proud of the work Teresa Dreyfuss has done. He also acknowledged Trustee

Norma Garcia's dedication to public service partnerships in creating pipelines for high school students.

- Mayor Quintero reported that the City of El Monte is seeking \$50,000 in grant funds that will help low income families bridge the gap to college and save for college.
- Trustee Norma Garcia announced she is very excited to see the Center take shape and thanked everyone for their partnerships. She expressed gratitude for the El Monte Promise Foundation which provides matching gap funding, and CCF which has helped contribute a college-going culture. She said the biggest barrier for families is that they can't afford college – a concern even as early as kindergarten. She also said that is why it is important for school districts to be involved. She is in support of having EMEC serve as a flagship in El Monte so that each student can say "I'm going to college."

### **Construction Update – Jim Sinsheimer, Program Manager, RHPMT**

- Jim Sinsheimer provided photo boards of the progress that has been made at the EMEC site. He discussed the site plan which includes four classrooms, an outdoor courtyard which can be used as a classroom, and a front office.
- Teresa Dreyfuss said the plan is to expand the parking around EMEC.
- Russell thanked Mr. Sinsheimer for his outstanding service and announced that the contract with Rio Hondo Program Management Team has ended as of September 30<sup>th</sup>. Luis Rojas, President & CEO of Del Terra will be replacing Jim Sinsheimer in overseeing the remainder of the construction project.

### **SWEC Course offerings and relevance for EMEC – Dr. Kenn Pierson & Russell Castaneda Calleros**

- Dr. Pierson reported that deans and faculty will be meeting regarding the scheduling process. He said that South Whittier Educational Center (SWEC) and EMEC should complement each other, so faculty and deans are working in a taskforce to identify which courses will be offered at the new center.
- Dr. Pierson spoke of two approaches that can be taken when identifying which courses would work best. The first approach was referred to as a "four legged stool." The four legs consisting of (1) transfer courses, (2) career and technical education courses, (3) basic skills courses, and (4) continuing education courses. The second approach would be a "niche" approach. This would identify specific programs such as, green jobs or STEM education.
- He encouraged the advisory group to provide feedback and said their input is very valuable in the early stages of identifying course offerings.
- Robin Torres said she liked the "niche" approach and recommended STEM education. She mentioned it would be helpful to work with the elementary and high school students to provide them courses at EMEC.
- Mayor Andre Quintero said it is important not to duplicate services already offered in the El Monte community. He is interested in providing students a core course curriculum; offering struggling high school students a cohort experience to

catch up during summer months.; providing assessment testing; using the center for outreach events with parents, such as orientations and financial aid workshops. He recommended having some type of Counseling 101 course that will provide students with a “survival guide” for attending college.

- Lilitiana Arguello offered feedback regarding STEM education. She spoke about the Girl Scout STEM conference held at Rio Hondo College in July. She recommended EMEC include STEM curriculum; serve as gathering place for the community; and build leadership development.
- Norma asked if both approaches can be taken; a combination of core classes and the “niche” approach that Kenn spoke of.

### **EI Monte Promise Update – Henry Gee, VP Student Services**

- Henry called attention to the handout about EI Monte Pledge Cohort One, provided by the office of Institutional Research and Planning. He reminded the group that Rio Hondo is very grateful for the partnerships that have been made with the high schools, specifically with the EI Monte Pledge.
- Henry presented data from key indicators that measure the academic performance of the pledge students. This data shows that this partnership has achieved student success.

### **Q&A from committee members – All participants**

- Valle Lindo School District Trustee Ruth E. Gonzales shared with the group that she is a Rio Hondo graduate as well as her children. She stated she was thankful for the many faculty and guidance that was provided to her during her education at Rio Hondo and is hopeful that student guidance continues to remain a high priority at Rio Hondo.
- Director Lourdes Hale shared that Mountain View School District has parent action teams that provide instruction and direction for getting students ready for college. Each school has a parent group that can provide feedback.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.

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Handouts:

- Meeting Agenda
- Fast Facts 2012
- Let’s Talk College Fall 2012
- Fall 2012 Continuing Education Schedules
- Institutional Research & Planning: EI Monte Pledge Cohort 1 Data Summary

**RIO HONDO COLLEGE  
EL MONTE EDUCATIONAL CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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Thursday, April 11, 2013  
EMEC Room 104

**Present:**

Norma Garcia, Trustee, RHC  
Angela Acosta-Salazar, Trustee, RHC  
Teresa Dreyfuss, Superintendent/President, Rio Hondo College (RHC)  
Henry Gee, Vice President, Student Services, RHC  
Russell Castañeda Calleros, Director, Government & Community Relations, RHC  
Robert Holcomb, Dean, Communications & Languages, RHC  
Dr. Dyrell Foster, Acting Coordinator of EMEC/Dean of Student Affairs  
Luis Rojas, Del Terra Group  
Jerry Quemada, Del Terra Group  
Luis Aguinaga, Mayor, City of South El Monte  
George Munoz, City of South El Monte  
Hector Elizalde, Office of Congresswoman Grace Napolitano  
Theresa Velasco, Trustee, El Monte Union High School District  
Nick Salerno, Superintendent, El Monte Union High School District  
Richard Gardner, Citizen's Oversight Committee, RHC  
Lourdes Hale, Mountain View School District  
Celia Avila, Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles  
Iso Nakasato, Office of Senator Dr. Ed Hernandez  
Connie C. Preciado-Gonzalez, SPIRITT Family Services  
Lillian Maldonado-French, Superintendent, Mountain View School District  
Henry Lo, Office of Assemblyman Ed Chau  
Perla Hernandez Trumkul, Office of Congresswoman Grace Napolitano  
Suzie Hsi, Office of L.A. County Supervisor Gloria Molina

The meeting was called to order by Russell Castaneda-Calleros at 9:03 p.m.

**Welcome & Introductions** – Russell Castaneda Calleros & Teresa Dreyfuss

- Russell thanked everyone for their attendance. He was delighted to announce the opening of the new El Monte Educational Center (EMEC) on April 1st and added that today's meeting would serve as a classroom experience.
- Russell invited everyone in the room to introduce themselves.
- Teresa Dreyfuss provided the group the history of planning and selecting the EMEC site from the beginning of bond passage. She thanked Del Terra, the construction manager, for the construction and completion of EMEC.

**Trustee Remarks** – Angela Acosta-Salazar & Norma Garcia

- Trustee Angela Acosta-Salazar provided some positive comments about EMEC. She thanked Mr. Rojas for a “jewel” in the community. She hopes EMEC will serve a variety of community needs for families, seniors, and those individuals wishing to obtain a degree or certificate.
- Trustee Norma Garcia thanked everyone for their amazing partnership and the many years of dedication to this project. She commented that the space (EMEC) in the community of El Monte changes the dynamics of education.

**Update on EMEC courses/services offered/feedback received – Russell Castaneda Calleros, Dr. Dyrell Foster, Dr. Robert Holcomb**

- Russell distributed a handout on the current courses offered at EMEC which began on April 1<sup>st</sup>. The courses include Biology, Reading, Spanish, Chinese, Computer Information Technology, English, History, Speech, Political Science, and two sections of the continuing education course titled “Computers Unlimited for Older Adults.”
- Russell introduced Dr. Dyrell Foster. He said Dr. Foster is doubling as Interim Coordinator of EMEC and will provide the leadership needed at EMEC.
- Dr. Foster commented that he was very proud of a successful launch at EMEC. He attributes the success to the collaboration between faculty, staff, and administration to get EMEC up and running. He also said that students have shared that they love the close proximity of EMEC to where they live.
- Dr. Foster shared the highlights of one student’s passion for EMEC. Art Sandoval is a Rio Hondo student who is excited that there is a college in his neighborhood. Dr. Foster said that Art hopes to connect with Dr. Mike Munoz and Outreach staff to encourage all high school students to explore EMEC.
- Dr. Foster reported that counselor Jorge Huinquez is also available at EMEC. The center will also plan to do assessment testing in the future.
- Dr. Foster also shared that EMEC is conducting a survey amongst its student population to identify more specific needs. They hope to have survey data by summer 2013.
- Dr. Holcomb reported that EMEC taskforce has tried to put together a distinct set of courses that will benefit the entire community. He commented that he initially recognized three language groups (Spanish, Chinese, and Vietnamese) in the El Monte community that would benefit from having those language courses offered at EMEC.

**Update on new continuing education course – Russell Castaneda-Calleros**

- Russell announced that Rio Hondo College is pleased to offer a continuing education course titled “Computers Unlimited” which is a beginning computer class for older adults. The class has 17 students as of the date of the meeting and has room for more students.
- Russell spoke with Mayor Louie Aguinaga from South El Monte about brining seniors from the South El Monte Senior Center to sign up for this class.

## **50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration – Teresa Dreyfuss**

- Teresa spoke about several events that have taken place in celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Rio Hondo College starting last year. The biggest celebration will take place on Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> at Industry Hill Expo Center. She invited everyone to join the college as it concludes the year-long festivities. She also mentioned that sponsorship forms were included in today's meeting handouts and encouraged everyone to help support student scholarships with a donation.
- Russell added that distinguished service awards will be given out during the celebration to the Fellows of the College over the last 50 years. He announced that Nick Salerno is one of the recipients.
- Russell also mentioned that EMEC will be having its own celebration on May 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10:00 a.m. to celebrate the official grand opening. He invited everyone to attend and said invitations would be going out next week.

## **Questions and answers from committee members – All participants**

- Nick Salerno asked a question about the changes proposed for adult school education and what stance community colleges would be taking.
- Russell responded that while Rio Hondo is open to whatever changes the Governor has in mind for adult education, Rio Hondo College is interested in meeting with each of the high school districts in its service area.
- He added that college officials are eager to learn more about each of the three adult schools, including El Monte-Rosemead Adult School. While it might be premature to discuss contractual arrangements due to the uncertainty of what might appear in the Governor's May Revise, there is value to meeting one-on-one with each high school. To this end, Rio Hondo College intends to meet with EMUHSD and El Monte Rosemead Adult School officials to see how they can collaborate to better serve our community.

## **Announcements – All participants**

- Russell announced that Rio Hondo College will host the Affordable Care Act Forum in Senator Dr. Ed Hernandez today, April 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. The Senator will discuss ACA implementation and how it will affect our workforce and businesses. Russell thanked Iso Nakasato for her help in coordinating the forum.
- Hector Elizalde gave a brief presentation on the current state of veterans. Some of his remarks included:
  - The excessive number of veteran claims that are backlogged more than 125 days.
  - 273 days is the average time that a veteran must wait to receive benefits
- Hector stated that Congresswoman Napolitano intends to address these issues and many more concerns during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Veterans Forum on Saturday, June 1, 2013. Hector distributed flyers for the event and encouraged everyone to announce the event to others. He also encouraged everyone to support the veterans by getting veterans to register with the V.A.

- Norma Garcia gave special thanks to Richard Gardner of the Citizens Oversight Committee and Suzie Hzi of Supervisor Gloria Molina's office for their attendance and participation at today's EMEC meeting.
- Perla Hernandez Trumkul announced the "Women of the Year" event on behalf of Congresswoman Grace Napolitano. The Congresswoman's office is currently seeking nominees for this special award. The award can be given to any special woman living in the 32<sup>nd</sup> district. The brunch/lunch event is scheduled for May 10<sup>th</sup>.
- No other announcements were made

**Brief visit of computer lab and central office**

- Russell announced that Dr. Foster offered to give a visit of the central office.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:55 a.m.

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**Handouts:**

- Agenda
- Fast Facts 2013
- Facilities Facts
- RHC 2012 Annual Report
- EMEC classroom schedule



# INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND PLANNING

## Results for 2013 EMEC Survey

How many units are you currently taking at Rio Hondo College?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
0-5 units	17.5%	52
6-8 units	15.8%	47
9-11 units	24.6%	73
12 or more units	42.1%	125
<i>answered question</i>		<b>297</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>0</b>

What is your major?	
Answer Options	Response Count
	290
<i>answered question</i>	
<b>290</b>	
<i>skipped question</i>	
<b>7</b>	

TOP 5 MOST COMMON MAJORS	N
Undecided	35
Business/Business-Related	26
Nursing/Nursing-Related	25
Administration of Justice/Criminal Justice	24
Computer Information Technology/Computer-related	15

\*Full set of responses on begin on page 7.

In which city do you live?	
Answer Options	Response Count
	297
<i>answered question</i>	
<b>297</b>	
<i>skipped question</i>	
<b>0</b>	

TOP 5 MOST COMMON CITIES	N
El Monte	108
Whittier	31
Pico Rivera	22
Baldwin Park	16
La Puente	13

\*Full set of responses on begin on page 7.



# INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND PLANNING

## Results for 2013 EMEC Survey

What is your zip code?	
Answer Options	Response Count
	296
<i>answered question</i>	296
<i>skipped question</i>	1

  

TOP 5 MOST COMMON ZIP CODES	N
91732	51
91733	39
91731	30
90660	21
91706	17

\*Full set of responses on begin on page 7.

What is your main reason for continuing your education?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
To earn a Career Technical Education (CTE) certificate	5.1%	15
To earn an Associate's degree	30.5%	89
To earn a Bachelor's degree or higher	57.9%	169
To take classes to maintain/further my career	15.4%	45
To take classes for personal growth	13.0%	38
	<i>answered question</i>	292
	<i>skipped question</i>	5

How do you usually travel to and from the El Monte Educational Center (EMEC)?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Carpool with others	9.8%	29
Drive myself	69.0%	205
Bus/Shuttle	10.8%	32
Walk/ride bike	11.4%	34
Get dropped off/picked up	12.8%	38
	<i>answered question</i>	297
	<i>skipped question</i>	0



# INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND PLANNING

## Results for 2013 EMEC Survey

How many classes are you currently enrolled in at EMEC?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
One	82.4%	243
Two	12.5%	37
Three or more	5.1%	15
<i>answered question</i>		<b>295</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>2</b>

What is the main reason you enrolled in classes at EMEC?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Fit my schedule	43.6%	129
Close to home	37.2%	110
Fewer students	12.2%	36
Easy to find parking	15.9%	47
Other course sections were full, EMEC was my only option	23.0%	68
I didn't realize the class was scheduled at EMEC	15.5%	46
Other (please explain)	4.7%	14
<i>answered question</i>		<b>296</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>1</b>

"OTHER" RESPONSES	
I also attend Pasadena City College and EMEC is closer to Pasadena's campus	Closer to work
Unable to enroll at main campus due to part-time status	Great assistance, nice people at the office
closer to home and work; easy transition	I can come here instead of Rio
Good time and day	But I love that it's close to home
Try something other than Rio Hondo	Two preferred classes
off campus, more opportunity at EMEC	Only class for music
I like that it is small. Everyone is very nice. Easy to get to. Parking is not an issue. It is a lovely campus. I wish all my classes could be here.	When I registered it said TBA, I didn't know until the first day of school that my class was here at this location



# INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND PLANNING

## Results for 2013 EMEC Survey

Would you consider taking additional classes at EMEC?		
Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Yes, because...	93.3%	264
No, because...	7.1%	20
<i>answered question</i>		<b>283</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>14</b>
TOP 4 MOST COMMON RESPONSE THEMES TO "YES, BECAUSE..."		Approximate Response Count
Close to home		100
Parking		59
Environment/Staff		45
Convenient		28

\*Full set of responses on begin on page 7.

TOP 2 MOST COMMON RESPONSE THEMES TO "NO, BECAUSE..."	Approximate Response Count
Too far from home/work	8
Don't like classes at different locations	4

\*Full set of responses on begin on page 7.



# INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND PLANNING

## Results for 2013 EMEC Survey

**Which of the following classes would you consider taking if offered at EMEC? (Choose as many as apply to you.)**

Answer Options	Response Percent	Response Count
Accounting	15.0%	44
Administration of Justice	14.3%	42
Animation	7.8%	23
Anthropology	8.9%	26
Art/Music/Theater Appreciation	20.5%	60
Biology/Physical Sciences (no lab)	21.2%	62
Business Management	14.3%	42
Child Development/Education	20.1%	59
Chinese	5.5%	16
College/Career Planning (classes)	9.2%	27
Computer Information Technology	14.3%	42
Continuing Education Courses	3.4%	10
Economics	13.7%	40
English	60.4%	177
English as a New Language	3.1%	9
Geographic Information Systems	2.0%	6
History	34.5%	101
Humanities	16.4%	48
Human Services	9.9%	29
Mathematics	62.8%	184
Mass Communications	5.1%	15
Physical Education	14.3%	42
Philosophy	18.1%	53
Political Science	13.7%	40
Psychology	32.8%	96
Reading	25.3%	74
Sociology	27.3%	80
Spanish	18.8%	55
Speech	24.2%	71
OTHER (please describe)	7.5%	22
<i>answered question</i>		<b>293</b>
<i>skipped question</i>		<b>4</b>

"OTHER" RESPONSES		
All of the classes I need	Japanese	Computer Programming
Chemistry (2)	Child Development	Dance
Logistics	Dance	French
Graphic Design	Whatever is open in EMEC	ASL
Everything	Nursing classes or prerequisites	ASL 2
A variety of other different courses so I don't have to go all the way to Rio Hondo	I won't because it's harder for me to come	Any because it's way more convenient



# INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND PLANNING

## Results for 2013 EMEC Survey

What time of day would you be interested in taking classes offered at EMEC?				
Answer Options	Very interested	A little interested	Not interested at all	Response Count
Early morning	136	72	49	257
Late morning	203	55	9	267
Early afternoon	153	74	26	253
Late afternoon	96	75	76	247
Evenings	68	67	110	245
Weekends	45	42	148	235
Other (please explain)				6
<i>answered question</i>				<b>294</b>
<i>skipped question</i>				<b>3</b>
"OTHER" RESPONSES				
They should offer classes at all times	it all depends on my work schedule	I really like it here		
Fits my work schedule	I prefer on campus at Rio Hondo			

How interested would you be in using the student support services listed below if offered at EMEC?				
Answer Options	Very interested	A little interested	Not interested at all	Response Count
Career Planning	180	55	24	259
Counseling	192	55	21	268
Tutoring	166	67	25	258
Computer Lab	177	51	27	255
Financial Aid	193	50	20	263
Disabled Student Services	49	60	117	226
Veterans Services	37	40	135	212
Other (please explain)				7
<i>answered question</i>				<b>292</b>
<i>skipped question</i>				<b>5</b>
"OTHER" RESPONSES				
Add Financial Aid office so we don't have to wait in long lines	Cafe Food	store (scantrons), library with textbooks		
More tutoring with one on one instead of online	Food!	EOPS		

OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES

What is your major?

MAJOR	N	MAJOR	N	MAJOR	N
A.J/Sociology	1	Computer/Sound Engineering	1	Mass Communications	1
Accounting	5	Counseling	1	Mechanic/Body Shop	1
Acting/Welding	1	Criminal Justice	12	Mechanical Engineering	1
Administration of Justice	11	Criminology	1	Medical	1
Alternative Energy Technology	1	Culinary Arts	1	Medicine	2
Anesthesiology Tech	1	Dance	1	Motor Behavior - Kinesiology	1
Anthropology	1	Dental Hygiene	1	Music	2
AON	1	Dermatologist	1	Music Education, Math and Linguistics	1
Architecture	3	Don't know/Not sure	5	N/A	2
Art	2	Drug Studies	9	Neonatal Nursing	1
As Environmental Tech	1	Early Child Education	1	Nursing	24
Associates Drugs and Alcohol	1	Ecology, Behavior and Evolution	1	Planning on transferring out/Computer Science	1
Athletic Training/Kinesiology	1	Electrical Engineering	1	Political Science	2
Automotive Technology	6	EMT	1	Psychology	7
Biology	7	Engineering	1	Psychology for Transfer	1
Biomedical	1	English	2	Registered Nurse	3
Business	14	English and Literature	2	Right now doing basic	1
Business Administration	9	Environmental Science	1	Social Behavior	1
Business Management	2	ET	1	Social Work	3
Business Marketing	1	Film	1	Sociology	2
Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist	1	Fire Protection Engineering	1	Spanish Teacher	1
Child Development	12	Fire Technology	6	Speech Pathology	1
Child Development in Special/General Ed	1	Firefighter/EMT	1	Still deciding/Still thinking	2
CIS	1	General Ed	3	Surgical Technology	1
Civil Engineer	1	Health Science	1	Teacher	1
Commercial Art	1	Horse ranch business management and Psychology	1	Teaching/Undecided	1
Communication	2	Human Services	1	Undecided	35
Communications and Speech Therapy with the disabled	1	Journalism or Medicine	1	Undecided/Medical Billing	1
Communicative Disorders	1	Just get my Associates Degree	1	Undeclared	3
Computer Engineering - Hardware	1	Kinesiology	5	Veterinarian	2
Computer Information Technology	8	Law Enforcement	3	Vocational Rehabilitation	1
Computer Programming	1	Liberal Arts	2	Welding	1
Computer Science	5	Logistics Cert.	1	Wildland Fire Tech	1
				Zoology	1



# INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND PLANNING

## Results for 2013 EMEC Survey

### What city do you live in?

CITY	N	CITY	N
Arcadia	3	Los Angeles	4
Azusa	1	Maywood	1
Baldwin Park	16	Monrovia	1
Bell	1	Montebello	8
Bell Gardens	3	Monterey Park	2
Bloomington	1	Ontario	1
Cerritos	1	Paramount	1
Covina	1	Pico Rivera	22
Cudahy	1	Pomona	2
Diamond Bar	1	Redondo Beach	1
Downey	9	Riverside	1
Duarte	1	Rosemead	12
East Los Angeles	2	San Gabriel	8
El Monte	108	South El Monte	12
Hacienda Heights	9	South Gate	1
Huntington Beach	1	South Pasadena	1
Huntington Park	1	Temple City	1
La Habra	1	Walnut	4
La Habra Heights	1	West Covina	7
La Mirada	1	Whittier	31
La Puente	13		

### What is your zip code?

ZIP CODE	N	ZIP CODE	N	ZIP CODE	N
90001	1	90638	1	91740	1
90022	2	90640	8	91744	7
90044	1	90660	21	91745	9
90059	1	90701	1	91746	6
90063	1	90703	1	91754	1
90201	4	90723	1	91755	2
90240	3	91006	2	91762	1
90241	4	91007	1	91765	1
90242	2	91010	1	91767	1
90255	1	91016	1	91770	10
90270	1	91030	1	91776	6
90277	1	91270	1	91780	1
90280	1	91276	1	91789	3
90601	6	91676	1	91790	3
90602	6	91702	1	91792	4
90603	3	91706	17	92316	1
90604	2	91723	1	92509	1
90605	8	91731	30	92647	1
90606	6	91732	51		
90631	2	91733	39		



# INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND PLANNING

## Results for 2013 EMEC Survey

### Would you consider taking additional classes at EMEC?

Yes, because....		
It's close to home and fits my schedule	convenient	it's convenient, the parking is good
It's close to my house.	easy parking	I really like the campus
it's close	It's easier to find parking	it's close to home
there is not a lot of people here.	it's closer and more space	it's about 5 mins. away from home
It's not so crowded and its close to home	close to home, parking isn't a hassle, easy to find classes	I really enjoy being here more than Rio Hondo
it is conveniently close	it's close and convenient	it's more convenient to me
no hills	I like it here	
the staff is polite and campus is nice taken care of.	it is close by, better parking	the campus is small and good parking
of availability of courses.	it's less crowded	not as full, nice facility
The facility is extremely well clean and professional.	It's close to home and no worrying about parking.	it is close to my home and an easy commute
easy parking and small campus	it's close to home	it's easier access for me (disabled)
it's close to home and it's easy to find a parking spot close to the classroom!	it's less of a hassle with parking than at Rio	the staff is very helpful and environment is stress free
location is close, nice environment	close by home	the classrooms are nicer
parking is easy, same distance to come here or Rio	it's closer to home and not as crowded	Less students, easier to find parking
better parking facilities, better environment of classrooms	easier transition; I liked the classes/teacher	I don't have to worry about parking, I just come in
Fewer students	it is convenient	parking is bomb dot com
parking	there's parking, easy to get to class	parking is easy
it's really nice	same city I live in	parking is closer to class
less crowded	it's close to my house	it's a great environment
I like the environment and setting	parking is easy and free	yes only if I need them
not as busy as main campus	it's close to home	near my house
it is new, clean and close to another CC I attend	less crowded than the main campus	it is close to my house and very convenient
It is very close to home	it's convenient to come here	great parking
it is close to home	it's close to home, it has good instructors and not so packed	it's not a big campus and seems to fit my schedule and transportation
no traffic and always parking available	it's close to home	it's close
convenient and nice classrooms	it's new and clean, not crowded	it's convenient for me
easy classes to get	it's one street away from my house	it fits my schedule
it's closer to me and fewer students (more room in classes and parking)	do not have to worry about parking	it is closer to home and I don't have to go to Rio
it's closer for me and I like the classrooms	it's closer and is not too big and crowded	convenient parking and no parking permit is needed
it is extremely convenient	it is very convenient	I truly like little students
I like the campus	if needed	it's close to home
it is walking distance from my house	nice area, good parking	there's not a lot of people
it is closer to home and more convenient	easy parking and small student body	I really like that we have more space, and we get to have more of the teacher's attention
it doesn't matter where I take my classes	close to my friendly, helpful environment	it's closer to my house and parking is not crazy
easy to find parking	lots of space for parking	it's closer to home, saves money
it's not that full of students	close to home	of parking



# INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND PLANNING

## Results for 2013 EMEC Survey

I realized it's close to my house and easier parking	it's easy to find classes and parking here	if necessary because main campus is full
easy to find parking and fewer students	it's close to home	good environment
it's convenient and is not super packed	less stress of parking	it's close to home
closer to my house and less students	easy access	it's super less crowded
great parking in the morning and closer to home	I can find parking, save time and don't need parking permit	it's closer to home and not really crowded
it's more convenient and easy commute	it's closer to home	there's more parking
there are fewer students and I live nearby	it's more closer to home and I like the atmosphere here	it's really easy to find parking and really close to home
good class sizes and parking	convenient	it's close
as long as I have my pass, I will go anywhere	the class is nice, roomy and less students	fit my schedule, fewer students and easy to find parking
it is very convenient	near to my home	it's close to home
less crowded environment, more comfortable	the campus is much more quiet and relaxing	it's more open/available in class spots and parking
easy parking, not a lot of people	great facility and staff	it's nearby my house
it could fit my schedule	close to home	it's closer to my home
of availability	it is close to home	it's close and convenient
it's a nice environment and saves me time and gas	it's closer to my home and I can get here quicker	it's closer to home and it will save me time for transportation
less people and it's close to home	I live ten mins away	it is not too far from my house
it is convenient, saves time and money	it is more convenient	they might have classes I need
close	it's convenient	it is a pretty campus
I get to class faster without dealing with parking and going up the RHC hill	the bus drops me off right in front of here	small site and easy to get around and find parking
I don't have to rush from home to school	easy, friendly	it's a small campus
few students, close, nice classrooms	there is no parking issues	it is less crowded
it is clean and less students on campus	it isn't as crazy as Rio Hondo	close to home
it is less crowded and closer to home	closer to home, parking	staff is very friendly and helpful
free parking and better classrooms	it's close to my house	easier parking, less crowded
great facility, state of the art classroom	smaller classes	it's easier for me to get here
it's less crowded and hectic and more convenient	it offers the education that I need to further my career goal	the environment is safe, friendly and small
I like the environment very much	it's convenient to where I live	it's less people
it's way more convenient than Rio Hondo	it's not too far (only if my choices at Rio were full)	easy to find parking and you get a smaller class to work with
it's small campus and less students	easier to find parking	if it fits my schedule
it is a nice addition to Rio Hondo	it is small, quiet and nice	the parking is amazing
it's closer to my house and fit my schedule	it is a lot closer than going all the way to Rio Hondo	it's a nice change from the crowded campus
close to home, less fight for parking	it is easy to get here	easy to park
not as packed as Rio Hondo	it is close to home	I enjoy having it so close to home
it's not far from my house, good environment	it is close to my house (5 - 10 mins) away	it is close to home and I don't have to pay parking
they seem to have openings usually	parking and traffic is better	it is very close to home
it is closer than Rio is	it's close to home	it is easier for me to attend
it's closer to my house and parking is easy to find	it's much faster and closer from class to your car	it is less hectic than being on campus, parking is much better
I like how there is always parking, it is never packed, it has almost everything we need(printers, counselors)	if a class I need to take at Rio Hondo are taught here, it's not that big of a deal	if a class is full at Rio Hondo I know that the EMEC campus might have a class opening
it is closer to my home	it's convenient	it's easier to find parking



# INSTITUTIONAL RESEARCH AND PLANNING

## Results for 2013 EMEC Survey

it's close to home, but they need to add more business classes	it is a nice area and environment to learn around	I enjoy how small it is and the classrooms are comfortable
nice, new, clean, easy to work in and it's small	closer to home, fewer students, easy to find parking	it's closer and there is classes that I need
they are closer to home	close to home	the classes are a little smaller
it is easy to park and close to home	I like how staff treats us	very easy access
it's close to my home	it is easier for me to drive here	it's closer to my house
it's close to where I live	it's closer to my home	it's closer to where I live
it's more convenient and accessible	it is close to home	it is closer to home
it is easily commutable and not crowded	why not	it is closer to me
it's closer and I waste less gas	if it fits my schedule	it is close to my house
it's more convenient for me and not such a hassle like the main campus	It seems more focus without like those vending machines and etc.	the rooms are clean, comfortable, 10x better than Rio
it's very quiet and easy place to learn; very comfortable classroom	I like that it is smaller in size and convenient to home	it's new, clean, close to my house, no parking worries!
classes aren't full and parking is good	easy to get to class	it's close and parking is good
it's closer and I feel it's more effective	it's close to my home	it's nice and not too crowded

### Would you consider taking additional classes at EMEC?

No, because...		
I'm pretty much a full time student.	it's too much driving	I don't like the drive
it is further away from my work	just don't want to	far away
campus is closer to my home along with South Whittier Campus	limited transportation	I have to go to main campus right after
my schedule is already full	it's not too convenient	it is too far from my house
it is far from home and gas is expensive	too far and parking is limited	it's too far from my home
I personally like staying at one school, not driving from different locations	not enough resources like main campus	I have classes at Rio so it's an inconvenience having to go back and forth
everything I need to do is on campus at Rio Hondo, it makes it harder for me when my classes are at different locations		

**RIO HONDO COLLEGE**  
**SFS/ SOUTH WHITTIER EDUCATIONAL CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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Thursday, April 8, 2010, 9:00 a.m.  
Sheriffs Relief Conference Room – STARS Center

**Present:**

Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr., Superintendent/President, Rio Hondo College (RHC)  
Dr. Paul Parnell, Vice President, Academic Affairs, RHC  
Henry Gee, Vice President, Student Services, RHC  
Teresa Dreyfus, Vice President, Finance & Business, RHC  
Russell Castañeda Calleros, Director of Gov't & Community Relations, RHC  
Mike Munoz, Director of Educational Partnerships  
Jim Sinsheimer, Program Manager, RHPMT, RHC  
Andrea Avila, County of Los Angeles, Office of Supervisor Don Knabe  
Gary Tse, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department  
Jaime Zamora, Office of Congresswoman Linda Sánchez  
Jerry Blackburn, So. Whittier School District  
Joe Duardo, WUHSD, Whittier Adult School  
Larry Ortega, Community Union, Inc.  
Louis Reyes, Office of Senator Ron Calderon  
Sonia Solis, Dept. of Rehabilitation, El Monte  
Alice Arterberry, County of L.A., Community Development Commission  
Bill Yee, County of L.A., Community Development Commission  
Toby Chavez, Whittier County Community Coordinating Council

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr. at 9:09 a.m.

**Opening Comments and Intros – Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr., Superintendent/President**

- **Dr. Martinez** introduced himself and thanked everyone for attending.
- Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

**Educational Center (STARS) Project Update –**

- Teresa Dreyfuss commented that she is excited about the opening of the South Whittier Educational Center. She introduced Jim Sinsheimer to give the group an update on the project's current timeline.
- Jim Sinsheimer reported the project is moving along great. There were some challenges with the construction of the roof, but they were able to work through those challenges. Completion of the project is expected in June. Computers and furniture are currently being ordered with expected delivery in the summer.
- Plans for the South Whittier Educational Center Annex are complete and waiting approval from DSA.
- Dr. Martinez introduced Gary Tse with the Los Angeles Sheriff's Department. He thanked him for his involvement with the Educational Center.

## **Course Offerings & Services at the Center – Dr. Paul Parnell, Vice President**

- Paul Parnell reported that they are in the process of deciding which classes will be offered at the Educational Center. A deadline of April 12<sup>th</sup> has been given to decide about class offerings.
- Paul directed everyone's attention to the handout from the April 7th Educational Center Taskforce meeting. Three classrooms will be open at the Center in the Fall. The proposed course schedule includes transferable courses within the areas of Business & Technology, Community Services, Communications, Basic Skills, and enrichment courses. There are plans to teach Computer Information Technology classes, provide Assessment testing, and Continuing Education courses such as medical transcription.
- Leadership for the center will include Mike Munoz, Director of Educational Partnerships, and Robert Holcomb, Assistant Dean of Student Success and Retention. Clerical staff for the Center would most likely be transferred from the Rio Hondo College campus.
- Paul mentioned a possible incentive of providing the first 30 students to register for classes at the center with a personal laptop. Laptops would be generously donated by...
- Institutional Research and Planning is conducting surveys as to identify classes that the community would like to see offered. Paul emphasized the importance of the surveys in order to provide the community with what is needed and make an educated decision about what to offer.
- Jerry Blackburn suggested offering Reading classes and providing students accessibility to computers for online classes.
- Paul mentioned that assessment testing will also help to identify what additional courses can be offered or changed at the Center. Classes will be offered 4 days a week with Fridays designated for assessment testing. G.R.E.E.N (Giving Rio Hondo Environmental Education to Our Neighbors) classes will also be offered at the Center on weekends.

## **So. Whittier Community Survey Project – Russell Castaneda-Calleros, Dir. of GCR**

- In addition to the information that Paul provided about the course offerings, Russell emphasized the importance of the Taskforce in identifying classes, times, and staff for the Center.
- The South Whittier Community Surveys will help to identify the needs of the community. The surveys were distributed to local middle school students and just recently made available to the parents of the students (adult version survey). He introduced Andrea Avila who is working with the county of Los Angeles to get surveys from surrounding areas for RHC and a new county facility. He thanked Andrea for the hard work she has been doing with the project.
- Russell announced only about 35% of the student surveys have been entered. However the preliminary results are helping to identify the needs of the community. Such as, 41% of the individuals surveyed aspire to obtain a

Bachelor's degree with 80% planning to attend a college or university; 31.3% of individuals are interested in dance as a type of personal enrichment/recreational course; and 47.3% of individuals surveyed would be interested in attending courses at the new site.

- Russell pointed out that Rio Hondo is right on track with the course offerings because 70% of the individuals surveyed would like to see classes that count toward a four year degree; 58% of individuals would like to see career planning services offered, and 36.3% of individuals would like to see Financial Aid services offered.
- Rio Hondo is looking forward to obtaining the results of the adult surveys.
- Andrea Avila expressed her gratitude to Rio Hondo for sharing resources and staff. She mentioned one of the reasons for the partnership on this project was because both Rio Hondo and the County of L.A. were on the same schedule to open two facilities. Andrea reported that out of the 10,000 surveys that were distributed, the data received is exactly what they were hoping for, especially with results showing an interest for the Arts. She reported the next step for the county of Los Angeles is to hold focus groups that will help identify classes for the Wallace Annenberg Center. The overall investment of the new community center is estimated at \$15 million.

#### **Open Feedback –**

- Jerry Blackburn commented that the utilization factor of the South Whittier Educational Center is important. He asked if there was a potential for evening classes to be held there and/or if Rio Hondo has considered contracting consultants to conduct evening classes. He asked if the survey results indicated a need to look at the business community and whether it should be explored in light of the resources.
- Paul Parnell mentioned that the interest in Continuing Education courses is important; however the new center will focus on Transferable courses, Basic Skills, and Communication courses. The need to reach out to the business community has started with the G.R.E.E.N. program.
- Sonia Solis would like to see class offerings for disabled students.
- Joe Duardo thanked everyone for all their hard work with this project. He asked if classes from the high schools will be offered at the Center.
- Toby Chavez expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the committee and is excited to see the results of the Center.

#### **Walk Through at the Construction Site – Jim Sinsheimer, Project Manager, RHPMT**

- Jim Sinsheimer and the construction group took all committee members in attendance on a walk through of the construction site. Committee members gathered in front of the center for a photo.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

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Handouts:

- Agenda
- South Whittier Educational Center Taskforce Meeting – April 7<sup>th</sup> Draft of proposed course schedule
- Community Needs Survey (Student version)
- 2009 Annual Report

**RIO HONDO COLLEGE  
SOUTH WHITTIER EDUCATIONAL CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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Thursday, December 8, 2011, 9:00 a.m.  
STARS Center – Room F104

**Present:**

Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr., Superintendent/President, Rio Hondo College (RHC)  
Dr. Paul Parnell, Vice President, Academic Affairs, RHC  
Henry Gee, Vice President, Student Services, RHC  
Gary Mendez, Board Member, RHC  
Russell Castañeda Calleros, Director of Gov't & Community Relations, RHC  
Jim Sinsheimer, Program Manager, RHPMT, RHC  
Dr. Jennifer Fernandez, Coordinator/Counselor at SWEC  
Dr. Robert Holcomb, Asst. Dean of Student Success & Retention  
Toby Chavez, Whittier County Community Coordinating Council  
Elvia Torres, SPIRITT Family Services  
Sunshine Zuniga, Whittier Union High School District  
Dr. Mary McNeil, Los Nietos School District  
JoAnn Delgado, Community Resource Center  
Ulisses Sanchez, Office of Senator Ron Calderon  
Rosa Zavala-Ramirez, Expanded Horizons, Santa Fe High School  
Kara Medrano, Office of Congresswoman Linda Sanchez  
Jacqueline Cardenas, Los Nietos Middle School  
Lilia Torres-Cooper, Whittier Union High School District

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr. at 9:15 a.m.

**Welcome remarks & Self Introductions** – Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.,  
Superintendent/President

- **Dr. Martinez** introduced himself and thanked everyone for attending. Dr. Martinez also thanked Trustee Gary Mendez for all of his support.
- Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

A change to the agenda was made. Item number two on the agenda: SWEC Administration Office & Annex project update was moved to item number three to allow time for project manager, Jim Sinsheimer to arrive.

**Course Offerings & Services at SWEC** – Dr. Jennifer Fernandez, Dr. Robert Holcomb

- Dr. Martinez introduced Dr. Jennifer Fernandez who joined SWEC this year and is the point person at SWEC.
- Dr. Fernandez asked everyone in attendance to refer to the power point handout in front of them and the power point presentation.

- Dr. Fernandez referred to the Course Summary at SWEC. She reported that at the start of the Fall 2010 semester, SWEC began with only 8 courses to start. Courses have grown over the last year and are now at 14 courses, and will increase to 18 courses in Spring 2012.
- Some key demographics at SWEC include the following: the median age of a student is 20 years old and Hispanics make up about 80% of all ethnic groups.
- When taking a look at enrollment figures, Dr. Fernandez explained the difference between retention and success. Retention is defined as any student that receives any grade other than a “W”, while Success is defined as any student passing with a “C” or better. Overall retention versus success is 82 to 66.9%.
- Dr. Fernandez found it interesting that 45% of students served at SWEC are continuing students while all other relatively new to the college. 38.5% of all students are taking a full-time load (12 units or more).
- Dr. Fernandez presented photos of various classrooms and classes that have taken place throughout the semester. She was pleased to share that students from the “United Friends of the Children” visited SWEC earlier this year.
- In addition to the data that was provided by Rio Hondo’s Research department, Dr. Fernandez conducted her own survey amongst the students at SWEC to determine how many classes students are taking, their means of transportation, what they like most about SWEC, and testimonials from students. She pointed out that many students responded that they would like to see more classes offered at SWEC.
- In response to Dr. Fernandez’s survey of transportation for students to SWEC, Toby Chavez spoke about Congresswoman Linda Sanchez and Supervisor Gloria Molina’s support of the Sunshine Shuttle. He suggested that we try to gain more support in order to re-route the shuttle to SWEC. He mentioned that many Cal High and Frontier students use the shuttle and would benefit from taking classes at SWEC. Gary Mendez added that he would like to support this request and recommended that the Board write a letter of support.
- Russell – safety proposal
- Lilia Torres-Cooper requested a map of students to see where students that attend SWEC live and how far they are traveling.
- Dr. Fernandez also shared the spring schedule of classes at SWEC which indicates the increase of courses and efficient use of time and space given the fact that only one classroom and one computer lab will be available for use during Spring 2012.
- Gary Mendez added that space has been maximized at SWEC and the next step is to look at adding more class offerings.
- Toby Chavez recommended more outreach to 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade students

**SWEC Administration Office & Annex project – Jim Sinsheimer, Project Manager**

- Jim Sinsheimer reported that there will be 3 additional classes at SWEC once construction is complete with the Annex project. Each class will hold 44 students.

- Construction plans also include an informal lounge which will hold a couple of vending machines.
- One of the current classrooms is being converted into an office space for staff.
- Completion of the office and annex is expected \_\_\_\_\_
- Gary Mendez added that he's looking forward to the expansion and office space for staff. He is very pleased to hear that there will be an area with a conference table and that the classroom will be able to accommodate small meetings.

### **Feedback from the committee members**

- Jacqueline Cardenas shared that she is very impressed with the classes offerings and level of dedication that the staff has placed at SWEC. She offered her auditorium at Los Nietos Middle School if Rio Hondo is interested in community outreach projects.
- Kara Medrano shared that Daisy Pizana can be contacted at the Congresswoman's office to discuss grants.
- Toby Chavez shared with the committee that he hopes to one day see a fully functioning Rio Hondo campus at the STARS Center.
- JoAnn Delgado shared with the group that the Community Resource Center has non-credit classes available and would like an update on how the non-credit classes are going. Gary Mendez said that the Board is in support of expanding the non-credit classes.
- Russell Castaneda-Calleros expressed his gratitude to all of the high school partners.
- Gary Mendez expressed his thanks and shared with the committee a few of his goals for his term on Rio Hondo College's Board. Those goals include:
  - Increasing advocacy for alternative scheduling. He mentioned that working people need a flexible schedule of classes. A non-traditional schedule is not easy to incorporate but he is hopeful that we can work toward that goal. An example would be a Friday night accelerated program.
  - Looking to incorporate satellite feeds from the main campus.
  - An outdoor patio outside of the South Whittier Education Center.
  - Outreach
    - Encouraging the college to give more information to middle school children.
    - Partnering with and involving more non-profits
    - Counseling students and teaching students to more efficient and effective with college coursework.

### **Walk Through at the Construction Site – Jim Sinsheimer, Project Manager**

- Committee members had the opportunity to view the changes taking place at the Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 a.m.

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Handouts:

- Agenda
- Arts & Cultural Calendar
- Let's Talk College brochure
- GREEN Program schedule
- Honors Transfer brochure
- SWEC Advisory Committee PPT handout
- SWEC Course Offerings – 2 year summary
- SWEC Spring 2012 Course offerings
- Fall 2011 SWEC Survey
- SWEC Spring 2012 Class schedule mailer

**RIO HONDO COLLEGE  
SOUTH WHITTIER EDUCATIONAL CENTER ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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Thursday, May 3, 2012, 9:00 a.m.  
SWEC Annex – Room 107

**Present:**

Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr., Superintendent/President, Rio Hondo College (RHC)  
JoAnna Downey, Interim Vice President, Academic Affairs  
Russell Castañeda Calleros, Director of Gov't & Community Relations, RHC  
Jim Sinsheimer, Program Manager, RHPMT, RHC  
Dr. Jennifer Fernandez, Coordinator/Counselor at SWEC  
Dr. Robert Holcomb, Asst. Dean of Student Success & Retention  
Joe Duardo, Former Trustee, WUHSD  
Elvia Torres, SPIRITT Family Services  
Dr. Mary McNeil, Los Nietos School District  
Jerry Blackburn, President, Aerospace Legacy Foundation  
Jake Alarid  
Jacqueline Cardenas, Los Nietos Middle School  
Lilia Torres-Cooper, Whittier Union High School District

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr. at 9:06 a.m.

**Welcome remarks & Self Introductions** – Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.,  
Superintendent/President

- **Dr. Martinez** introduced himself, thanked everyone for attending, and thanked the committee for allowing Rio Hondo to information on what the South Whittier Educational Center is currently doing. He asked the committee to take the information and share it with their colleagues and the community.
- Everyone in attendance introduced themselves.

**SWEC Annex project update** – Jim Sinsheimer

- Jim was very excited to announce that the SWEC Annex construction project is complete. SWEC now has a total of 5 classrooms available for use.
- The SWEC administration office has been moved back to their permanent location in the main SWEC building.
- Construction projects on the Rio Hondo main campus are still in progress. Most major complexes have been completed. This includes the Student Services building, Student Union building, and Administration of Justice building.
- The PE complex construction project is nearing completion.
- The El Monte Educational Center is also underway and should be completed by the end of this year. Upon completion of the El Monte Educational Center, Rio Hondo will have three sites available.

## Course Offerings & Services at SWEC – Dr. Jennifer Fernandez

- Dr. Fernandez reported that Rio Hondo's institutional research and planning department was able to pull specific data regarding SWEC and the students that attend SWEC. Last semester, Dr. Fernandez surveyed some of the students at the SWEC campus but now the data is more concrete. She shared the following data and statistics:
  - 78.5% of students take classes at SWEC and another RHC location, while 20.7% of students take classes only at SWEC
  - There are more female students taking classes at SWEC
  - The median age of students taking classes at SWEC is 20 years old
  - Hispanic student population continues to grow and remain the highest of all ethnic groups
- Dr. Fernandez further explained that the computer lab is now fully functioning all day with uninterrupted time. She mentioned students often visit SWEC just to use the computer lab because it's closer to home, rather than driving to the main campus.
- Dr. Fernandez shared a SWEC Resource Guide with the committee. The guide was created and improved to give students a better understanding of the resources and policies at SWEC. The guide includes information on assessment, faculty resources, copy machine, food/snacks policy, etc.
- Dr. Fernandez presented the committee with a handout on the various course offerings at SWEC within the last 2 ½ years. Special attention was given to the increase in course offerings despite the fact that in Fall 2011 and Spring 2012 only one classroom and one lab was available for use during construction. Dr. Fernandez further advised the committee that SWEC now has 4 classrooms available and one lab which is why an additional 10 courses can be offered since Spring 2012.
- Dr. Fernandez reviewed the general education requirements and transfer requirements with the committee by providing checklists that counselors use when meeting with students. She reported that SWEC is fulfilling the needs of all students by representing all general education categories. This includes basic skills courses and English 101 "prep" courses. Dr. Fernandez explained the ease of offering more courses in humanities and social sciences because of the traditional classroom style. She is hopeful that a science lab could be offered in the future. The classroom style at SWEC currently cannot accommodate any physical science courses but she is happy to report they were able to accommodate a physical education course; PE 140, Walking for Fitness.
- Dr. Fernandez provided additional handouts to the committee; 6-week Summer 2012 schedule and Fall 2012 schedule. She also noted that assessment testing is offered on the first Friday of every month and counseling and student support staff is on hand to provide assistance.
- Jerry Blackburn asked if SWEC can incorporate Kids College courses at SWEC. Dr. Fernandez said SWEC has offered continuing education courses at SWEC

but not specifically Kids college. She mentioned this would be something she'd like to explore further.

### **Special Grant Update**

- Dr. Martinez informed the committee that Rio Hondo continues to seek external funds during these tight budget times. He was happy to share with the committee that Rio Hondo was notified of a five year grant award from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to help students move into STEM fields of study. He provided the committee with a fact sheet on the NSF STEM Grant and communicated how important it is to begin linking STEM with students as early as middle school.
- Dr. Mary McNeil talked briefly about Los Nietos School District's partnership with Chapman University for STEM. She agreed there is a need to channel students and localize the program/partnership. She is open to exploring the idea of Los Nietos School District working with Rio Hondo and or Chapman University to provide a means to channel students from K-12, to community college and onto the 4-year university with STEM.

### **Community Education Forum Update**

- Russell Castaneda-Calleros gave an update on the community education forums which have been taking place since March. The committee was invited to attend the next forum scheduled for May 17 at 7 p.m. at Cal High School. He said the forums were initiated to help Rio Hondo solicit input from community members and parents on the programs and services that Rio Hondo needs to prioritize. Four other forums have already taken place with very good turnouts. He encouraged the committee to spread the word about the last forum by inviting parent leaders in high schools, middle schools, and elementary schools.

### **Feedback from the committee members**

### **Walk Through at the Construction Site – Jim Sinsheimer, Project Manager**

- Committee members had the opportunity to view the changes taking place at the Center.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

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### **Handouts:**

- Agenda
- Report to the Community 2011
- President's Update – April 2012

- Student Services e-newsletter – April 2012
- Community Ed Forum Flyer
- SWEC Resource Guide
- SWEC Summer 2012 semester schedule
- SWEC Fall 2012 semester schedule
- SWEC Course Offerings – 2 ½ year summary
- IRP SWEC Enrollment & Demographics data
- SWEC Computer Lab hours bookmark
- Fact sheet on NSF STEM grant