



Subject: I am Inspired by our Students

Dear Faculty Colleagues,

First, **thank you** to all of you who already support the Rio Hondo College Foundation.

I want to tell you why I am glad to increase my support for the Foundation. It reminds me of what my parents did for me.

My father left Guatemala in 1972 and came to U.S. with 20 dollars in his pocket. He found work, and overstayed his work visa. In 1973 my mother swam to cross the border, and my siblings were driven across by people willing secretly to help my family enter the United States. Two years later, I was born in Los Angeles. Due to the laws in effect at that time, my birth as a US American enabled my whole family to gain citizenship. Today, my siblings have all graduated from college and have successful careers.

Through their own hard work and perseverance, and with the help of others, my parents were able to achieve a brighter future for our family.

Here at Rio Hondo, our students are also overcoming hardships through hard work and perseverance, and with the help of others.

We have heard our students' moving stories. Many have experienced **poverty, illness and loss**. Some are **Dreamers**. Some are returning to college for a fresh start in life.

I am inspired by our students.

Just as my parents gave a lot to provide a brighter future for me, I give to the Foundation to provide a brighter future to others.

Please join me in supporting the Foundation this year. I began at a lower level, and have now increased my giving to the President's Circle level (Unrestricted gifts totaling of \$1,000 and above).

But the most important thing is to participate! I would love every faculty member to participate. Choose the level that works for you this year. You can give via check, credit card, etc., and the easiest way is through payroll deductions.

Just find the link on the Foundation's Faculty/Staff giving page to pledge your support.

Or if you have any **questions**, call Cynthia Nickell Ext 7065 (cnickell@riohondo.edu) in the foundation office. She can verify the level at which you are giving right now, and help you identify your next level. I look forward to thanking you for your gift.

And, on that subject, ***thank you for everything you do to help our students succeed!***

Have a great day.

Gerson E. Montiel

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Guided Pathways Liaison

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