

Report to the Community 2014

# CREATING PATHWAYS TO STUDENT SUCCESS



RIO  
HONDO  
COLLEGE



# PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



It's not overstating to say that we've had an exceptional and unparalleled year at Rio Hondo College. In our continued commitment to serve our many diverse students, as well as the many communities from which they come, the College's staff and faculty have realized notable accomplishments. Through hard work and innovation, Rio Hondo College has substantially raised the bar on the educational opportunities students can expect to receive at a community college. For instance, our new Pathway to Law School Initiative, which began in fall 2014, provides an innovative way for underrepresented and first-generation college students to attend a top undergraduate university and their partner law school in California. Among a select group of 24 community colleges in the state, Rio Hondo College offers the only Pathway to Law School Initiative in the San Gabriel Valley region.

We also increased student support by adopting a Student Equity Plan that will target services where they are most needed and by signing the El Monte Promise Agreement that pledges Rio Hondo College leadership will play an even more active role in helping students from El Monte succeed and pursue higher education. We were pleased this year to welcome the Police Academy's 200th class and see our First-Year Success Center move into full swing.

All this and much more took place as the College prepared for its six-year accreditation review, an invaluable experience that led more than 100 Rio Hondo College staff, faculty, students and administrators to reflect even more deeply on its mission, accomplishments and planning process and to contribute to the preparation and writing process of this important report. We were delighted that the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges site team took positive action to reaffirm Rio Hondo's accreditation.

After the past years of State budget cuts, it was heartening for everyone in the Rio Hondo College community to see that Governor Jerry Brown's 2014-2015 budget included an 11.4 percent increase in funding for community colleges with a special emphasis on Student Success. Rio Hondo College knows it's not simply the responsibility of a community college to offer classes, but to ensure that the students served are learning and thriving in the best ways possible and becoming transfer-ready and preparing for the workforce.

## MISSION STATEMENT

Rio Hondo College is committed to the success of its diverse students and communities by providing dynamic educational opportunities and resources that lead to associate degrees, certificates, transfer, career and technical pathways, basic skills proficiency and lifelong learning.

## BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Norma Edith García**  
Trustee Area 1: El Monte

**Vicky Santana**  
Trustee Area 2: Pico Rivera; West Whittier

**Mary Ann Pacheco**  
Trustee Area 3: Whittier; South El Monte

**Gary Mendez**  
Trustee Area 4: Los Nietos; Santa Fe Springs;  
South Whittier; North Norwalk

**Madeline Shapiro**  
Trustee Area 5: East Whittier

**Jaime "JJ" Magallón**  
Student Member

**Teresa Dreyfuss**  
Superintendent/President

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## VISION STATEMENT

Rio Hondo College strives to be an exemplary California community college, meeting the learning needs of its changing and growing population and developing a state-of-the-art campus to serve future generations.

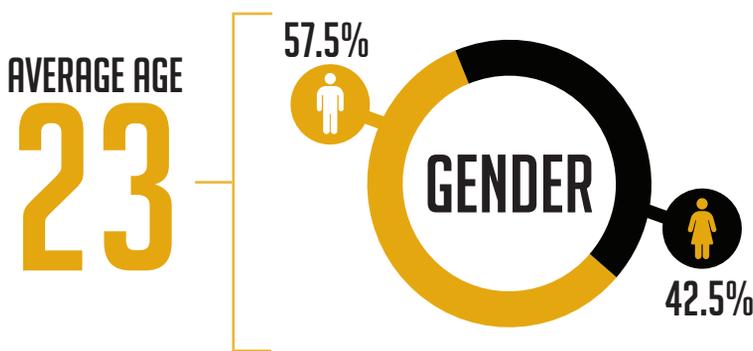


# 2014 HIGHLIGHTS

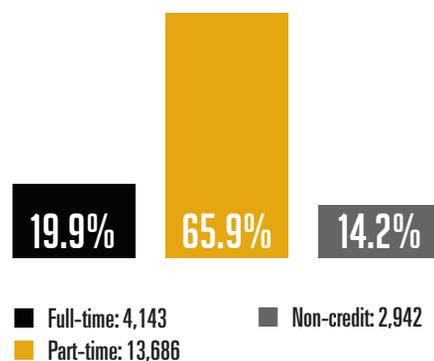
Rio Hondo College provides a high quality college experience to diverse communities through its comprehensive academic, career and technical programs. Each semester nearly 20,000 students, many of whom seek an associate degree, plan to transfer to a four-year university or earn a certificate, have access to a range of classes taking place at Rio Hondo's main campus, as well as its two educational centers, regional training center, and online. Each day, more than 1,000 employees, including faculty, counselors, classified staff, administrators and student workers assist students in attaining their educational goals by promoting rigorous academic standards, providing relevant courses and offering consistent student support.

Rio Hondo College is a Hispanic-serving institution with almost 70 percent of students identified as Hispanic/Latino/a, and a total ethnic minority student population nearing 90 percent.

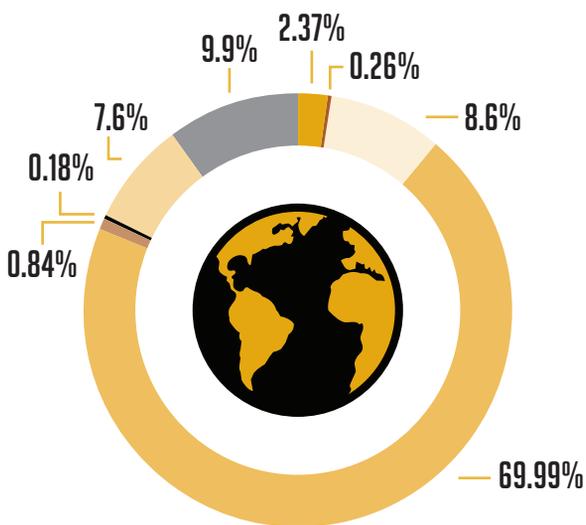
## STUDENT PROFILE



## ENROLLMENT STATUS

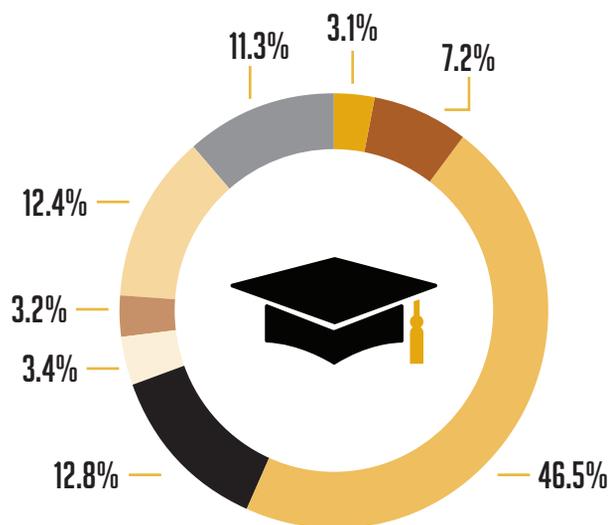


## ETHNICITY PROFILE



- African-American: 2.37%
- American Indian/Alaskan Native: 0.26%
- Asian: 8.6%
- Hispanic: 69.99%
- Multi-Ethnicity: 0.84%
- Pacific Islander: 0.18%
- Unknown: 7.6%
- White Non-Hispanic: 9.9%

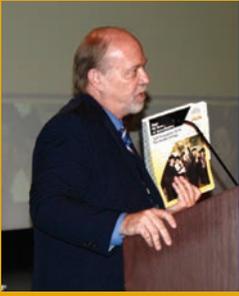
## STUDENT GOALS



- Vocational Degree/Certificate: 3.1%
- 2-year Associate Degree: 7.2%
- Associate & Transfer to 4-year: 46.5%
- Transfer to 4-year w/o Associate: 12.8%
- 4-year College Student Concurrent: 3.4%
- Educational Development: 3.2%
- Career Development/Job Skills: 12.4%
- Undecided on Goal: 11.3%

*Community College Week* rated Rio Hondo College in 2014 as one of the Top 100 Associate Degree Producers in the areas of minority-serving, Hispanic-serving, family and consumer sciences/human science, and protective services, including homeland security, fire and law enforcement.

## Accreditation Process

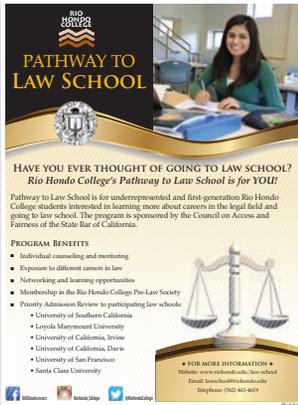


In the summer, Rio Hondo College submitted the Accreditation Self Evaluation 2014 Report as part of its application for reaffirmation of accreditation. Members of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges site team visited the campus in early fall to complete this important review process. The six-year accreditation process provided the valuable resources and structured opportunity for the College to reflect on its mission, accomplishments and planning process with regards to its educational quality and

institutional effectiveness. The Commission took positive action to reaffirm Rio Hondo's accreditation, thanks to the more than 100 faculty, staff, administrators, students and Board of Trustees who were deeply involved and engaged over the last two years in the preparation of the development of the Self Evaluation Report.

On the last day of the visit, Dr. Willard Lewallen, Superintendent/President of Hartnell College, who served as the visiting team chair, delivered the Exit Report. During his opening remarks, Dr. Lewallen lauded Rio Hondo College for its student-centered approach, collegiality, inclusiveness, sensitivity to diversity and equity and great sense of pride. On behalf of members of the visiting team, he recognized the College's openness, candor, cooperation, assistance and hospitality during their visit.

## Community Colleges Pathway to Law School Initiative



Rio Hondo College became one of 24 California community colleges to offer an innovative pathway for students interested in pursuing careers in the legal field and attending law school. The new Pathway to Law School Initiative, which launched in fall 2014, provides an innovative way for underrepresented and first-generation college students to attend one of the region's top undergraduate universities and their partner law schools. Students in the program can transfer credits

in prescribed courses and will receive individual advisement, mentoring from law school advisors, financial aid counseling and LSAT preparation. The State Bar's Council on Access and Fairness chose Rio Hondo College for this groundbreaking initiative based on its strong leadership, student success indicators and high transfer rates to UC schools for students of color. Participating law schools are USC Gould School of Law, University of San Francisco School of Law, UC Davis School of Law, UC Irvine School of Law, Santa Clara University School of Law and Loyola Law School.



# GOAL 1

## Excellent General Education and Associate Degree Completion

Rio Hondo College will provide excellent instruction in general education and major requirement courses leading to increased student degree completion and successful university transfer.

The 2014-15 Rio Hondo College Catalog included **1,152** courses and offered **49** associate degree programs and **56** certificate programs of study.

### 51st Commencement Ceremony



In May, more than **1,100** Rio Hondo College students petitioned for associate degrees and a record **524** graduates walked across the commencement stage and heard an inspiring speech from the Hon. Hilda Solis, the former U.S. Secretary of Labor who started her career in public service by serving on the College's Board of Trustees. The Rio Hondo College Fire Academy graduated **67** cadets at the Academy's Santa Fe Spring headquarters; the Wildland Fire Academy Class 16 graduated **46** firefighters and the Basic Fire Academy Class 82 graduated **21** firefighters. As well, **81** students graduated from the Certified Nurse Aide Programs, **19** graduated as Licensed Vocational Nurses, and **80** graduates received Associated Degrees in Nursing.

Rio Hondo College has exceeded its goal of creating **16** associate degrees for transfer by fall 2014 to a total of **18**.



### NEW Associate in Science Degree for Transfer (AS-T)

- ▶ Administration of Justice for Transfer
- ▶ Business Administration for Transfer
- ▶ Early Childhood Education for Transfer
- ▶ Physics for Transfer

### NEW Associate in Arts Degree for Transfer (AA-T)

- ▶ Anthropology for Transfer
- ▶ Art History for Transfer
- ▶ English for Transfer
- ▶ History for Transfer
- ▶ Journalism for Transfer
- ▶ Political Science for Transfer
- ▶ Spanish for Transfer
- ▶ Studio Arts for Transfer
- ▶ Theatre Arts for Transfer

# GOAL 2

## Preparing Students for Cutting Edge Careers

Rio Hondo College will provide instruction in career and technical education, leading to certificates, degrees and job placement/job enhancement.

### Police Academy

Police Academy Class 200 began in August under the leadership of the Academy's new director, Walter Allen III, a 1976 graduate of Rio Hondo College's Police Academy. The class involves more than 1,000 hours of Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) approved law enforcement training. Students are trained in 42 learning subjects, including constitutional law, criminal law and use of non-lethal force. They learn to handle domestic violence, mental health and human trafficking situations. The Rio Hondo College Police Academy, one of the largest college-based police academies in California, has enhanced its training program after extensive consultation with local police chiefs on what they need in new officers to best serve today's communities.



### Collaborative Crisis Scenario

For the second year, the Division of Health Science and Nursing and the Division of Public Safety participated in the Collaborative Crisis Scenario to test students' knowledge and readiness in emergency situations. Performing and visual arts students acted as accident victims while other students responded to the crisis simulation according to their field of study that ranged from nursing, emergency medical training, law enforcement, firefighting, journalism, performing and visual arts.



### Wildland Fire Academy

In January, recent graduates of the Rio Hondo College Wildland Fire Academy were deployed to help combat the devastating Colby Fire in Glendora, spending 13 days battling and ultimately helping to contain the fire with skills acquired at the Academy.



# GOAL 3

## Innovative Instruction and Opportunities in Basic Skills

Rio Hondo College will provide effective instruction in basic skills leading to increased completion of Basic Skills Sequences.

### Student Equity Plan

The Board of Trustees unanimously adopted a Student Equity Plan that delineates how the College will target services over the next three years for students most in need of support. The plan, developed through an intensive collaborative process, identified effective strategies and critical programs and services necessary for students to reach their goals, and to help them build stronger campus connections and transfer options to four-year colleges and universities. As part of the plan, Rio Hondo College will strengthen recruitment of students of Hispanic and Pacific Islander descent to better match the demographics of its service areas; efforts will also target students of 25 years and older, a group that also faces the greatest challenges, as well as disabled students, foster youth and socioeconomically disadvantaged students. The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office is providing funds to implement the plan.



### First-Year Success Center

Rio Hondo College's First-Year Success Center that opened in fall 2013 completed a full year of providing first-time college students with necessary resources to thrive in their most crucial year. The Center, created via the Student Success Initiative, ensures that these new students declare a program of study and develop a comprehensive educational plan. First-year students are also provided with counseling, registration and financial aid help, and can attend First-Year Welcome Days and First-Year Success Seminars.

### Counseling 105

This year, the College offered Counseling 105: Orientation and Education Plan, a new nine-hour course to assist first-time college students with their educational planning.

### Summer School

During its five different summer school sessions, Rio Hondo College offered nearly 500 sections of classes, ranging from alternative energy technology to foundation courses such as English, math and reading. Evening and online courses enhanced accessibility even further.



# GOAL 4

## Lifelong Learning, Partnerships, Responding to Community Needs

Rio Hondo College will meet the lifelong learning needs of the community.

### El Monte Promise Foundation Agreement

In March, Rio Hondo College was represented at the signing of the El Monte Promise Foundation Agreement, which states that the College will partner with the El Monte community and its K-12 schools to help children reach their full potential. The Promise Foundation aims to work closely with partners and the community to help make college an affordable and realistic option for El Monte students and their families. As part of the agreement, students already enrolled at Rio Hondo College who meet the Transfer Guarantee Requirements are assured admission to UC Irvine. Students who graduate from the El Monte Union High School District are guaranteed to be first in line to register for classes if they complete an assessment and orientation, and work with counselors to develop an educational plan.



### CTE Career Exploration Academy

Middle school students from the El Rancho Unified, Little Lake City, Mountain View and Valle Lindo school districts participated in this year's weeklong Career and Technical Education (CTE) Academy to gain hands-on knowledge of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) subjects. Students delved into such subjects as basic automotive maintenance, crystal radios, small engines, solid rockets, biofuels and basic electrical theory to develop science skills that will serve them for years to come.



CTE also hosted a seminar, "Internal Combustion Technology Using Small Engines" for middle- and high-school students, a Common Core-CTE Instructional Material Alignment Workshop.



# GOAL 5

## Student-Centered Climate

Rio Hondo College will promote a student-centered climate that contributes to increases in retention, persistence and improves student success through collaboration that values diversity.

### Just Us Girls



Rio Hondo College launched a new program designed to foster connections that contribute to the academic and personal success for women with an all-day event in October. Just Us Girls promotes relationship

building, networking and mentoring opportunities among female students and their counterpart campus professionals.

### March In March



Three Rio Hondo College students participated in the annual "March In March" in Sacramento, where they had the opportunity to meet with state legislators and advocate for specific bills and budget

items related to the students; another 50 students participated in the "Classroom to Capital" march and educational rally. The event aims to unify all students from the California community college system and give students the tools they need to mobilize and make a difference through the legislature. Also, in April 13 nursing program students attended the American Nurses Association/California Lobby Day in Sacramento.

### Regional High School Counselor Breakfast

Rio Hondo College hosted the Regional High School Counselor Breakfast for about 100 counselors from 25 local high schools. The counselors toured new campus buildings, including the First-Year Success Center and PE Complex, and learned about the Associate Degree with a Guarantee for Transfer program, the Student Success Initiative, and other programs that create a pipeline for local graduates toward college completion.

### Forensics Speech and Debate Team Goes East



Members of the award-winning Forensics Speech and Debate team traveled to the East Coast to

perform a lecture on debate and critical thinking at Princeton University. Students Steven Villescas and Juan Guerrero joined Forensics Program Coordinator and Communications and Languages Instructor Libby Curiel in presenting the lecture, "Representation, Context and Latino Attitudes."



### Foster Youth Support

In the spring 14 Rio Hondo College students attended a Transitioning Age Foster Youth retreat that emphasized health and well being. In the fall, a new campus club called Leaders for Change formed to advocate for current and former foster youths. The College's Foster and Kinship Care Education program in 2014 provided more than 800 hours of educational services for foster parents and relative/kinship caregivers and others who work in the foster care community. Foster youth students at Rio Hondo College receive such services as priority registration, counseling and life skills workshops and mentoring.

# GOAL 6

## Meeting the Region's Educational and Training Needs

Rio Hondo College will respond to the region's educational and workforce needs.

### Rio Hondo College Joins Efforts to Bolster Adult Education



Through the Rio Hondo Region Adult Education Consortium (RHRAEC), the College collaborated with three member school districts and three additional partner school districts to submit the first regional comprehensive plan to the state under Assembly Bill (AB) 86. AB 86 mandates all K-12 adult schools and community colleges form regional adult education consortia so they can work together to offer adult education courses and services. To comply with the guidelines of AB 86, the RHRAEC focused on five primary adult education areas: classes for

immigrants; adult basic education; adults with disabilities; short-term career and technical education and apprenticeships. In the plan, K-12 adult school leaders and College officials jointly created five taskforces that were comprised of faculty, staff and administrators that brought expertise in the five aforementioned adult education areas. The taskforces helped to identify current adult education gaps, strategies to address these gaps, and resources needed to implement these strategies, which are all included in the plan.

### Award to Nurture STEM Teachers

Rio Hondo College was selected among 10 community colleges to receive \$120,000 to help improve recruitment and training of future teachers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). The grant was awarded by the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to assist colleges with teacher preparation programs. Rio Hondo College will use the grant to provide students with opportunities to be teacher assistants in STEM courses, develop internships and work-experience options, and promote teaching as a career pathway for students in Career and Technical Education courses. California's demand for new math and science teachers is expected to grow significantly in the next decade.

### Public Safety

The Rio Hondo College Public Safety Division graduates among the most Associate of Science degrees at the College. Furthermore, the Public Safety Division hosts basic academy and professional regional training centers for law enforcement, fire technology, wildland fire, homeland security and emergency medical technician programs. The division is currently ranked the "Number One" community college in the state in awarding protective services and homeland security degrees and certificates.



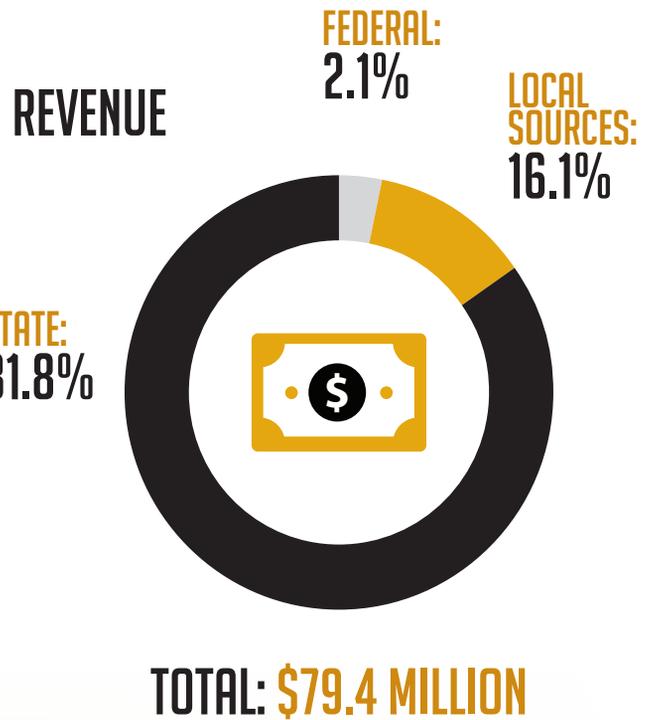
# GOAL 7

## Maintain Fiscal Solvency

Rio Hondo College will act responsibly, ethically, efficiently and in an accountable manner, including actively seeking outside sources of funding, to preserve fiscal solvency.

With the state economy continuing to improve, the state budget has been more favorable toward Rio Hondo College as Governor Jerry Brown's 2014-2015 budget reduced community college deferrals from \$592 million to \$94 million. Even though the cash deferral does not affect the state apportionment, it provides the cash to smooth the College's operations needs.

The economic position of Rio Hondo College is closely tied to the State of California, with 81.8 percent of the total District general fund revenue coming from the state apportionment, state categorical program and grants. Total revenue during the year was approximately \$79.4 million, including about \$1.7 million from federal sources, \$65 million from the state and \$12.8 million from local sources.



### Measure A Bond Funds

To ensure Measure A Bond Funds have been expensed properly and effectively according to the project list approved by the voters of the College building program, Rio Hondo completed an independent financial and performance audit executed by accounting firm Vasquez and Company LLP.

The external audits conducted on Rio Hondo College's Measure A Bond Funds showed all funds were properly accounted for with no deficiencies in the internal control and no instances of noncompliance were reported. Total bond expenditures at fiscal year-end were \$4.2 million. Bond year-to-date expenditure since inception is \$158 million as of June 30, 2014.

#### Citizens' Oversight Committee:

**Bottom (left to right):** Chair Verna De Los Reyes;  
Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss;  
Vice Chair Fernando Centeno  
**Top (left to right):** Andrew Morago;  
Christian Diaz; Amber Salazar;  
Dr. Joe Rivera; Deborah Pacheco;  
Dr. Francisco Hidalgo



# GOAL 8

## Provide Outstanding Leadership, Faculty and Classified Staff

Rio Hondo College will recruit, hire, develop and evaluate highly qualified and diverse administrators, faculty and classified staff.



### **Professor John Frala Joins the State's Green Team**

Rio Hondo College Professor John Frala was invited by Governor Jerry Brown to sit on his newly formed Green Team, an advisory group dedicated to creating the California Hydrogen

Highway, a planned series of hydrogen refueling stations. The state has committed \$200 million to create 59 hydrogen-fueling stations by 2016. Of the 55 members of the Green Team, Frala is the only representative from a community college.



### **Fran Cummings Honored as Distinguished Faculty**

Biology Associate Professor Fran Cummings was the first recipient of the College's Distinguished Faculty award, bestowed upon her by colleagues. Beyond her teaching

successes, Cummings was recognized for her work in revamping lab curriculum, in coordinating Student Learning Outcomes and in mentoring instructors. Her leadership was hailed through her work with the Senate Executive Committee and Academic Senate.



### **Mark Matsui Receives Exemplary Service Award**

Rio Hondo Director of Disabled Students Programs & Services Mark Matsui received the R.J. Scuderi Exemplary Service Award from the California Association for Postsecondary

Education and Disability (CAPED), recognizing his exemplary service to the organization and to the individuals the organization serves. Matsui, a member of CAPED for more than 30 years, has made notable strides in helping to strengthen programs for disabled students at Rio Hondo College and across the state.



### **Dr. Mariano Zaro Presents at Hispanic Literary Conference**

Renowned poet, writer and Rio Hondo College Spanish Instructor Mariano Zaro was among an elite group of writers, poets and literary professionals to host sessions

at the XIII Congreso Internacional de Literatura Hispánica conference in Colombia in March, a gathering of authors, professors and others who exchange ideas and discuss new literary movements and theories in Spanish literature. Dr. Zaro serves as faculty co-advisor to the Rio Hondo College Creative Writing Club and has been instrumental in developing and promoting the Associate of Arts for Transfer degree for Spanish.



### **Dr. Sondra Moe Elected President of California Community College Early Childhood Educators**

Dr. Sondra Moe, professor of Child Development, was elected president of

California Community College Early Childhood Educators (CCCECE), which is an active stakeholder regarding early childhood education statewide policy and workforce development. Dr. Moe continued her affiliation with Partnerships for Education, Articulation and Coordination through Higher Education (PEACH) which, as part of the First Five Los Angeles Early Care and Education (ECE) Workforce Consortium, works to align and articulate community colleges' and universities' curricula for more effective transitions of ECE students from two-year to four-year programs.



### **Dr. Jodi Senk Appointed Coordinator, El Monte Educational Center**

Rio Hondo College Professor Jodi Senk, who also serves as coordinator of the

Fitness Specialist Certificate Program, was appointed coordinator of the El Monte Educational Center. Jodi also graduated from Pepperdine's Organizational Leadership program, earning her Ed.D. In addition to teaching, Dr. Senk developed a new CTE Certificate in the area of Community Health Worker for Rio Hondo students.

# GOAL 9

## Meet Technological Needs

Rio Hondo College will meet the ever-changing technological needs required to support the educational process and to enhance student access and success.

### Online Education Initiative

Rio Hondo College was named a pilot college with the California Community Colleges Online Education Initiative (OEI), which seeks to improve student success rates in online courses statewide and places Rio Hondo on the forefront of online teaching pedagogy. The OEI will engage its chosen 24 pilot colleges in the launch and implementation of a sophisticated online education system that will increase student access to online courses throughout California as well as improve student retention and success rates. The OEI aims to dramatically increase the number of California Community Colleges students who obtain college associate degrees and transfer to four-year colleges each year by providing online courses and services. The OEI is an initiative of the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office, funded by the California legislature in support of Governor Jerry Brown's Online Education Initiative proposal.

### New and Improved Website Launched

The new and improved Rio Hondo College website launched in June, providing easier web navigation for all students, faculty and staff. Users now have one-click access to applying, campus events, news and announcements, and much more. The process of comprehensively improving the presentation of information, as well as updating the website's look, was realized through the commitment of a wide range of students, faculty and staff who participated in the process.



### Educational Planning Software

Rio Hondo College integrated Educational Planning Software to create an Online Orientation System, making orientation completion easier for entering students. This also created online Assessment Testing, which improves assessment options for incoming students. This also developed a process that allows first-time college students to develop an Abbreviated Education Plan before starting school.



# GOAL 10

## Enhance and Provide Outstanding Learning Environment

Rio Hondo College will design, modernize and maintain a physical infrastructure, both on and off site, that meets the changing needs of students, staff and the College's instructional and student support programs while valuing and enhancing the aesthetic beauty of the College.

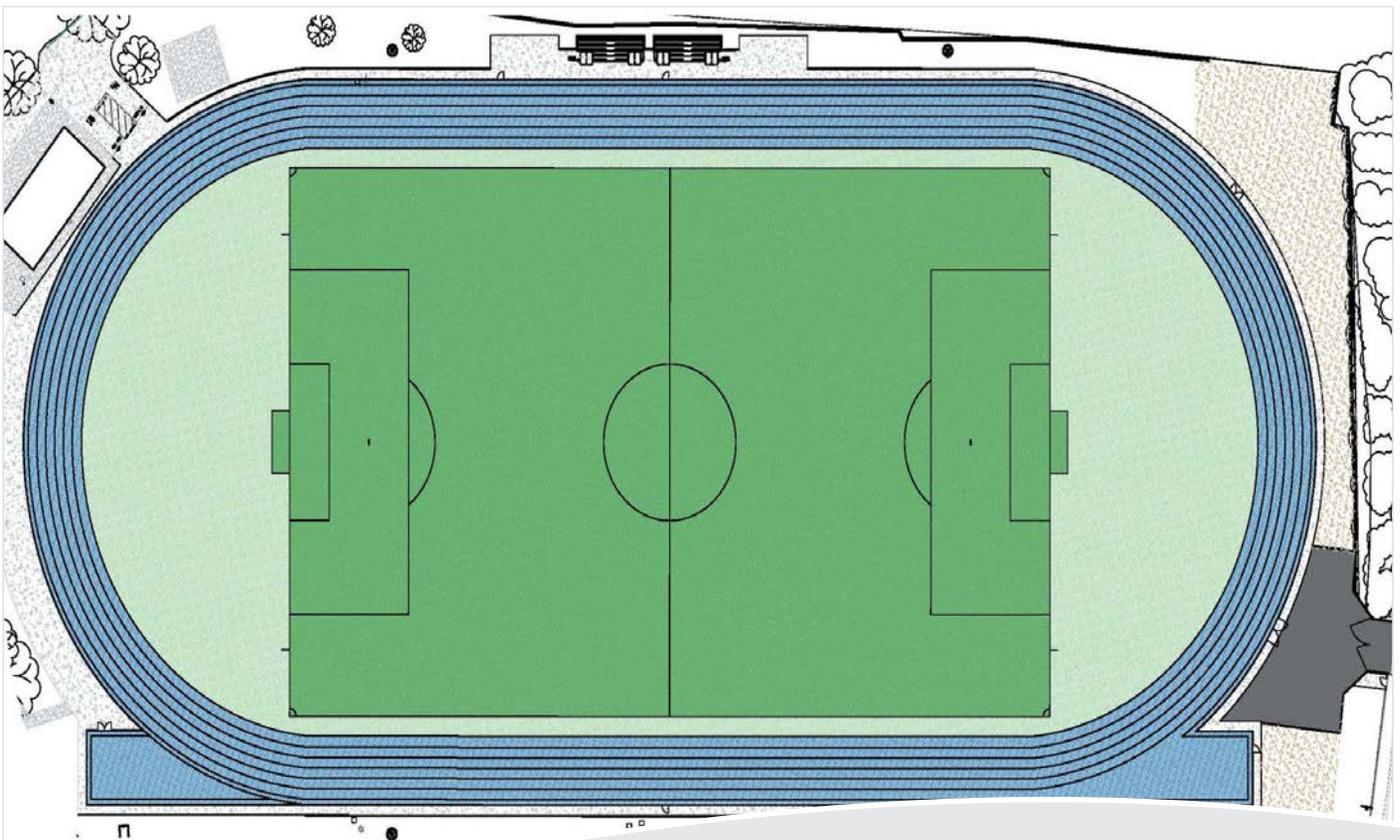
Rio Hondo College entered into a final phase of a major \$245 million facilities bond construction program modernizing the campus for 21st Century teaching and learning. Among the projects completed this year or in the planning pipeline through the Measure A Bond Construction Program are the following:

### **Soccer Field Renovation Project**

The Soccer Field project is scheduled to kick off in March 2015 with an anticipation of completion in December 2015. The brand new 72,000 square-foot NCAA Regulation Artificial Turf Soccer Field will feature a six-lane synthetic track, bleachers with 132 ADA accessibility seats, a state-of-the-art scoreboard and stadium lighting and new restroom facilities.

### **PE Complex & Softball Field Retaining Wall Guardrail Project**

In December, more than 513 linear feet of Cal Trans specified guardrail was installed on the west side roadway of the existing Gymnasium and the new PE Complex Men's and Women's locker rooms. The installation of new guardrails completes the original PE Complex project and achieves the Division of the State Architect (DSA) Certification for the project.



# GOAL 10 Continued

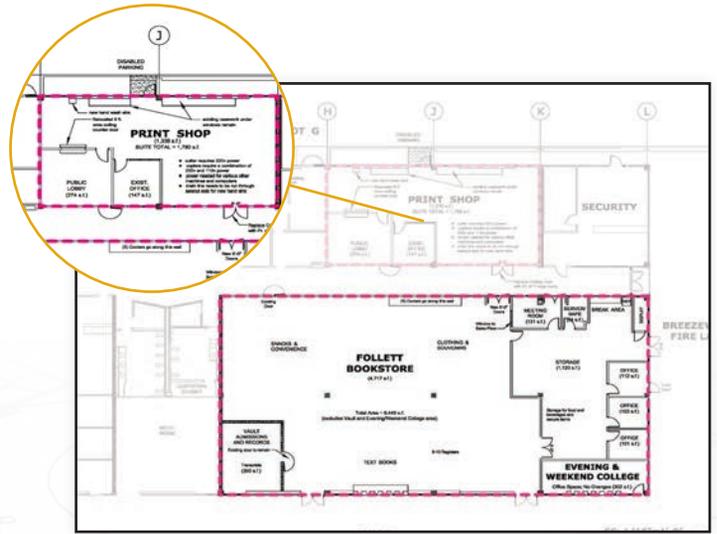
## Enhance and Provide Outstanding Learning Environment

### Bookstore

A new College bookstore is in the design and planning phase. With its new location planned for the former Admissions Office, its size will increase from 4,109 square feet to 6,682 square feet.

### Print Shop

Design plans are also being created for a new print shop to be housed in the Administration Building. The current 937 square feet print shop in the basement of the Library Tower will almost double in size in its new location to 1,760 square feet. Construction will start once the design drawings are reviewed and approved by the Division of State Architect.



### Veterans Memorial



The new Rio Hondo College Veterans Memorial will be unveiled with a ribbon cutting on May 20, 2015.

The memorial, recognizing past, present and future College veterans,

will feature a concrete monolith capped by a brass plaque and adorned along one side with five discs representing the five branches of the U.S. military services. The site at the campus' mid-quad area will also feature three flags, for the United States, California and Rio Hondo College, as well as a reflection bench. Rio Hondo College has a long history of supporting the academic and career success of its veterans and their families.



### Campus Security Cameras



Throughout the year the College continued to bolster its campus security to enhance safety for students, staff and visitors. A security consultant evaluated the main campus and the education centers and made recommendations for placement of security cameras. Security cameras are

most effective in deterring crime when used in conjunction with campus signage stating cameras are in use. Security cameras will be located at parking lots, perimeter of buildings and in the quad areas.

# GOAL 11

## Provide Engaging and Rewarding Campus Life

Rio Hondo College will provide students and employees with an engaging and rewarding campus life.

### Soccer Student Success



The men's soccer team finished its season as Foothill Conference champions and its coach Orlando Brenes was honored as the conference's Coach of the Year. Women's Soccer Coach Jennifer Tanaka was also selected as Coach of the Year and the women's soccer team placed second in the Foothill Conference and was selected for a Team Academic Award from the National Soccer Coaches Association of America, one of three community college teams in the nation to receive this honor. Sophomore Katelyn Oshima was named a 2014 CCCAA scholar athlete. This year as well 88 percent of graduating women's soccer players transferred to four-year universities.

### Latino Heritage Fiesta



Poncho Sanchez and His Latin Jazz Band took the stage at the Second Annual Latino Heritage Fiesta at Rio Hondo College in September during Hispanic Heritage Month. This event was a collaboration between Arts & Cultural Programs and the Associated Students. Emmy-Award winning journalist and Telemundo Reporter Dunia Elvir kicked off the Fiesta by sharing the importance of contributions by Latinos to the cultural and economic life of California. Elvir, whose son attended Rio Hondo College, also shared her personal story about how higher education has added value to her life. The Fiesta, free and open to the public, celebrated Latino culture through a fun day of art, music and dance and many special guests.

### Student Artists Success

The California Teachers Association (CTA) selected student Andres Abedoy as a recipient of the 2014 Cesar E. Chavez Memorial Education Awards Program for commemorating the principles by which the late civil rights leader conducted his life. Abedoy's artwork was put on display in the CTA Headquarters in Burlingame and featured in the *California Educator*.

In the spring, five Rio Hondo College art students – Art Vasquez, Alexandro Vergara, Jared Chavez, Carol Sun and Danielle Cansino – showed and sold their work at the annual "Kilnopening.edu 2014" exhibition at the American Museum of Ceramic Art in Pomona. This prestigious exhibition serves to underscore the importance of college-level ceramics programs. This is the first time that all Rio Hondo College students who applied for the show received acceptance.



# RIO HONDO COLLEGE FOUNDATION



The mission of the Rio Hondo College Foundation is to secure financial assistance for scholarships, programs, equipment and projects that meet the needs of the College's growing student population. The Foundation secures alternative funding through contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations and organizations to assist the College in meeting its commitment to student success.

## RIO HONDO COLLEGE FOUNDATION BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### Executive Committee

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Development & Marketing  
Coordinator



The Rio Hondo College Foundation "A Taste of Rio," restaurant and wine tasting fundraiser raised more than \$45,000 for student scholarships and programs. The event brought together dignitaries, community members and College staff to support the Foundation and Rio Hondo students. The grand prize "Fund-a-Need" drawing directly funded two \$750 scholarships for entering and transferring students.

## A TASTE OF RIO SPONSORS 2014

### Cognoscente - \$10,000 +

Del Terra

### Connoisseur - \$5,000

Southern California Edison

### Aficionado - \$2,500

Atkinson, Andelson, Loya, Ruud & Romo  
Bank of the West  
Westberg + White Architects  
Keenan & Associates  
Follett Higher Education Group  
California Community Foundation

### Appreciator - \$1,500

Vasquez & Company LLP  
Liebert Cassidy Whitmore

### Taster - \$500

Halbert Hargrove Investment Advisors  
Whittier Mailing Services  
David & Jazquelyn Brearley  
Gary Van Voorhis  
Whittier Union High SD  
Ran Graphics

## SCHOLARSHIPS

### 2014 Scholarship Awards Reception

**\$183,660** total 316 scholarships awarded to **262** students

### 2014 Grants & Scholarships

- ▶ AAUW-American Association of University Women, Whittier
- ▶ Assistance League of Whittier
- ▶ Associated Student Rio Hondo College
- ▶ BVR Scholarship
- ▶ Charles and Bonnie Isaacs Memorial Scholarship
- ▶ CBI Grant
- ▶ City of El Monte CDBG
- ▶ Claudia Arrevillaga Guerrero Memorial Scholarship
- ▶ Diane & Maurice Meysenburg Scholarship
- ▶ Dr. & Mrs. Walter C. Jones Scholarship
- ▶ Dr. Alex A. Sanchez Presidential Scholarship
- ▶ Greg Garza Memorial Scholarship
- ▶ Jeanne McAndrews Bilar Memorial Scholarship
- ▶ Kaiser Permanente Nursing Scholarship
- ▶ Osher Initiative for CA Community College Students
- ▶ RHC CalWORKs Scholarship
- ▶ RHC Faculty Association Scholarship
- ▶ RHC Fire Academy Scholarship
- ▶ RHC Follett Bookstore Scholarship
- ▶ RHC Mgmt/Conf Council Scholarship
- ▶ RHC Veterans Service Center Scholarship
- ▶ Rotary Club of Whittier Scholarship
- ▶ Rotary Club of Whittier Community Grant
- ▶ Southern CA Edison STEM Scholarship
- ▶ Southern CA Edison STEM Scholarship Project
- ▶ Stephen Masto Fire Academy Scholarship
- ▶ The Helen and Joelene Amaya Memorial Scholarship
- ▶ Wetsman Family Anthropology Scholarship
- ▶ Yoshio C. Nakamura Scholarship



# LOOKING AHEAD

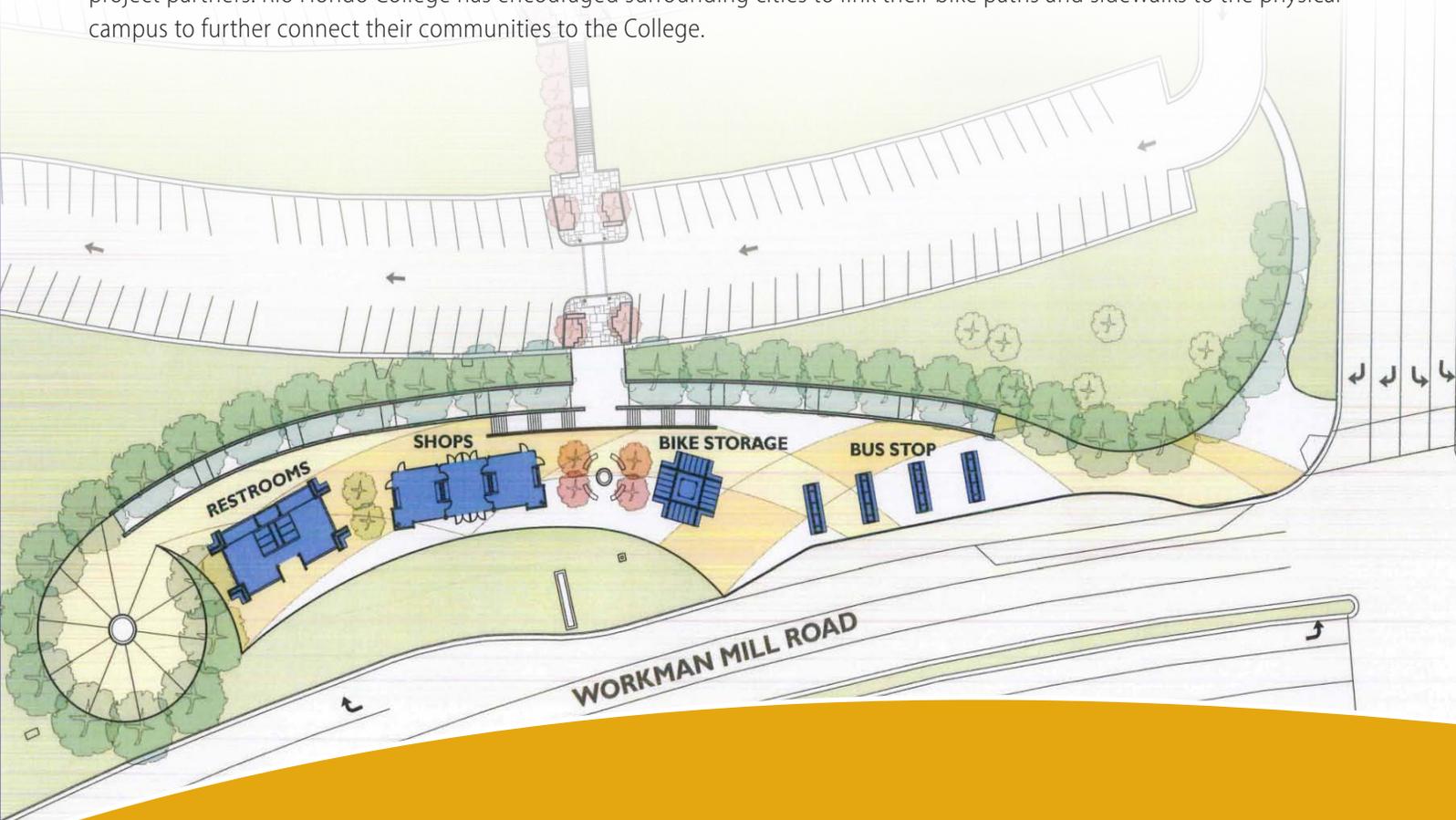
Rio Hondo College has an exciting future ahead as the College continues to evolve to meet the ever-growing needs of its students and surrounding communities.

## Rio Plaza

With its future location at the base of the College at Workman Mill Road, The Rio Plaza shares a dual vision: beauty and function. The new public face for Rio Hondo College will provide an attractive and functional multi-transit/information area. It will serve as a welcome center for students and guests as they arrive at and depart from the campus. The open plaza's contemporary architecture will mirror the aesthetic developed on the main hilltop site. A bus stop area will feature shade cover, hydration stations, bicycle lockers and restrooms.

A curved, accessible ramp and staircase will connect the Rio Plaza to the Tram Stop, which will be moved to the lower section of Parking Lot 1. Short-term visitor parking will also be located in Parking Lot 1, so visitors can gather information or course schedules without going up the hill. Additional drop-off and pick-up parking spaces will be located near the Tram Stop.

College leadership has collaborated with the cities that it serves as well as transit agencies that come to the College, to gain project partners. Rio Hondo College has encouraged surrounding cities to link their bike paths and sidewalks to the physical campus to further connect their communities to the College.



## Library Tower Seismic and Code Upgrades Project



The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office has approved Rio Hondo College to begin preliminary plans for the seismic and code upgrades of the Library Tower ("L" Tower). This is a priority project on the College's Five Year Capital Construction Plan. The project's code upgrade phase will be funded almost entirely by the State of California bond. Westberg + White Architects are working with their team of engineers to design the building's seismic and code upgrades that will strengthen the building structure to current earthquake codes. Other code upgrades will improve ADA accessibility, energy and fire safety. The building's interior will feature new elevators and fire alarms, and electrical, lighting, heating and cooling and data systems; the modernized building exterior will include contemporary glass panels.

## Science Building Remodel

Over ten years ago Rio Hondo College received a State Bond Fund to remodel the Science Building, in particular to update the classroom laboratories. The College has designated bond funds to begin with the remodeling design in 2015.



# STUDENT SUCCESS PROFILES



## PAOLA DE LA O

Paola De La O's father passed away 12 years ago, leaving her mother to raise a family of three in Aguascalientes, Mexico. Looking for a better life and future for her family, Paola's mother brought her and her younger sister to the United States. Moving to a new country without her father, and with different customs and a different language, was not easy.

Paola knew that the only way to help her family and to help others with similar challenges was by going to college. She took it upon herself to participate in the high school college preparation program GEAR UP. She enrolled in as many workshops as possible, keeping her eyes on the prize of attending a four-year university. During her senior year at El Monte's Mountain View High School, she discovered the hard truth that her status as an undocumented student would disqualify her for any type of financial aid assistance.

Paola overcame her life challenges with steadfast determination to pursue "The American Dream" and to give back to her community. She started her college journey at Rio Hondo College by taking only a few classes during her first two years, based on her financial ability. After the passing of the California DREAM Act, she was able to qualify for the Board of Governors Fee Waiver and enroll in more courses. This helped Paola become more involved in student organizations such as Students Without Borders, and to serve as the club president for One in Christ. As president, she coordinated trips to serve the homeless and help others with disadvantages.

This year Paola received an associate degree in Child Development and a preschool teacher certification. She will attend Cal State Dominguez Hills to pursue a bachelor's degree in psychology.



## DAVID RIOS

David Rios' biggest challenge in life was learning to cope with a physical disability at the age of 22 that forever changed his life.

David grew up in the City of La Puente and graduated from Nogales High School in 2002. Shortly after, he began working warehouse jobs while becoming heavily involved in gang life. This lifestyle led to his incarceration. He was released in 2006, but only three months out, he was shot five times and paralyzed from the chest down with a T-4 spinal cord injury.

David spent the entire first year after the shooting on the streets in his wheelchair, still living the gangster life. But one day he had an epiphany: a man in a wheelchair had no place running the streets. David decided then to change his life, to get off the streets and pursue a college degree. With this clear goal in mind, David opened the door to higher education and eventually enrolled at Rio Hondo

College, with the goal of one day transferring to a four-year university.

This year David received an associate degree in social sciences and transferred to Cal State Los Angeles. "I consider Rio Hondo College my home," David said. "I will forever be grateful for the connections and resources I have gained while being a student here."



## SANDRA LUCERO

At the age of 47, Sandra Lucero made the hard decision to go back to college. Coming from an extremely dark place in life where domestic violence and addiction were pervasive, drugs had become her escape as they numbed Sandra from the physical, mental and emotional pain she endured in her abusive relationship.

One day, Sandra found herself at her worst, feeling defeated, unwanted and depressed. Taking a long hard look at herself, she realized how disconnected she was from her two daughters and their lives. In this moment Sandra decided to become the best “ME” she could, not only for her children, but also for herself. She enrolled in the Angel Step Inn Youth and Family Services program in Pico Rivera to recover and become sober.

With the support of her family and sober sisters, Sandra realized her dreams were attainable if she was willing to pursue them. Upon graduating from the Angel Step program, she enrolled at Rio Hondo College, even though she knew nothing about financial aid or about any other programs offered at a community college.

As a single mother student of two teenaged daughters, on a very limited income, Sandra worried how she could ever afford school, but with the help of great counselors she learned about financial aid and the EOPS & CARE programs. She became determined to earn a degree so that she could eventually give back to her community.

After her first semester, Sandra suffered a heart attack. Through her resiliency, she overcame this setback too. At the age of 50, she graduated with an associate degree in drug studies with a 3.9 GPA, and with a degree in general studies with an emphasis in social behavior and self-development.

**RIO HONDO COLLEGE**  
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