



# START RIO...GO ANYWHERE

## MEDIA RELEASE

3600 Workman Mill Road / Whittier, CA 90601

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### ***Renowned California Sculptor's Sept. 23 Talk Will Launch Rio Hondo College's 2015 Fall Lecture Series***

**WHITTIER** – Renowned sculptor Mario Chiodo – whose works have been praised for their focus on social issues and display of deep human character and emotion – will present a free master artist lecture at 3 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 23 at Rio Hondo College's Wray Theater, 3600 Workman Mill Road, Whittier.

The talk, which is open to the public, is being hosted by the Division of Arts and Cultural Programs as the part of Rio Hondo College's 2015 Fall Lecture Series.

Based in Northern California, Chiodo is known for sculptures that celebrate noted humanitarians, including his massive "Remember Them: Champions for Humanity Monument." The 60,000-pound sculpture spans 1,000 square feet of Oakland's Henry J. Kaiser Memorial Park.

Chiodo also created the "Path of Thorns and Roses" sculpture at Virginia's Contrabands and Freedmen's Cemetery that honors African-American slaves' struggle for freedom, and a bronze sculpture of labor leaders Cesar E. Chavez and Dolores Huerta unveiled this March in downtown Napa.

"Talks by artists such as Mario Chiodo enrich our learning environment and generate a meaningful dialogue among our campus community," said Rio Hondo College Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss. "I believe his focus on humanitarianism will especially resonate with our students."

The 2015 Fall Lecture Series continues Oct. 15 with celebrated syndicated cartoonist and satirist Lalo Alcaraz and concludes Nov. 5 with LGBT rights scholar and activist Dr. Ronnie Sanlo.

"Each of these talks opens our community to a different take on diversity, helping to deepen discussions of who we are and what we value," said Board of Trustees President Madeline Shapiro. "That sort of rigorous discussion is an essential part of the higher education experience we provide at Rio Hondo College."

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*Rio Hondo College, located in Whittier, California, 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. For information on the College or its programs, please call 562-692-0921 or visit [www.riohondo.edu](http://www.riohondo.edu).*