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Rio Hondo College Creates Center to Aid Adult Students

WHITTIER – Rio Hondo College’s Career Development Center has been renamed the Center for Career and Re-Entry Services (CCRS) to reflect a new role in providing comprehensive support for students age 25 or older who are returning to college or just beginning their higher education journeys.

Rio Hondo College’s enrollment includes nearly 1,000 such adult re-entry students who have been in the workforce for at least five years.

“We wanted to create a place on campus where our adult re-entry students will feel at home and where their diverse educational needs can be met in a thorough and efficient manner,” said Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss.

Adult students who begin or return to college face a number of challenges that include financial responsibilities, childcare issues and finding a balance between school, work and home.

“Our center is uniquely equipped to help our re-entry students succeed as they pursue their educational goals through a combination of services and support based on our deep understanding of their specific challenges,” said CCRS Coordinator Belen Torres-Gil, a counselor and professor at Rio Hondo College.

Along with the name change, the College has hired two new staff members to work with adult students, with plans to expand their ranks as the re-entry student population grows. The center will offer adult re-entry students:

- Individualized counseling for educational and career planning
- Assistance with their College application, registration and financial aid
- Use of a dedicated computer lab and career library
- Job preparation assistance, including resume help and strategies for interviewing and job searches
- Free career assessments and interpretations
- Access to CCRS’s job and internship board
- Assistance with using social media for professional networking purposes

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.

“I’m thrilled we are targeting our services to ensure our adult students have a haven on campus where they can share their challenges and receive a hand in determining how best to move forward with their education,” said Board of Trustees President Madeline Shapiro. “Programs like the Center for Career and Re-entry Services embody the essence of ‘community’ in community college.”

Rio Hondo College will host a career success conference for adult re-entry students from 5 to 7 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 7 in the campus’ Mid Quad.

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