President’s Message

It is indeed a privilege to present the Rio Hondo College Report to the Community for 2008, and to share highlights of a very successful year. I hope you will find the accomplishments described here impressive, especially our students’ success.

Since our founding in 1963, Rio Hondo College has been a vibrant institution, contributing to the economic health of the communities we serve. We are building upon a tradition of quality and commitment as we expand and improve the facilities on our hilltop campus as well as at off-campus sites strategically located in our region. These improvements are vital to maintaining a state-of-the-art educational environment, and are largely possible thanks to the voters who passed Measure A in 2004. As we build in the literal sense, we are also creating new partnerships and links to help leverage our resources and opportunities for students.

In 2008, we focused on several important initiatives, including strategic planning, development of new curriculum to reflect emerging needs of business and industry, and preparations for a regular comprehensive Accreditation Site Visit.

I am proud of the contributions of our faculty, including 22 new tenure-track teachers who joined us this year; our talented classified staff who help students apply, enroll, and take care of their educational business; and our committed administrative team.

I am also pleased to report that we established a multitude of new relationships with business and industry, as well as with regional healthcare institutions, to work together to prepare students to join the workforce as nurses, logistics managers, heavy equipment maintenance workers, environmental technologists and as teachers, peace officers and firefighters. Our free Cultural Arts ‘family-friendly’ performances enrich the local arts scene and integrate the college into the community. The second annual “Family Day” was a fabulous success, as was the automotive “Tune-In, Tune-Up” event. The first-ever Gala event, “Boots to Books” set the pace for broad participation in Foundation fundraising, and proceeds helped support scholarship programs for the new Veterans Service Center.

I encourage you to take advantage of every opportunity to visit, to enroll as a student, to volunteer as a member of an advisory committee, or to support the Rio Hondo College Foundation. I look forward to greeting you on campus.

Sincerely,

Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D.
Superintendent/President

Mission Statement

“Rio Hondo College is a collaborative center of lifelong learning which provides innovative, challenging, and quality educational offerings for its diverse students and community.”
Arts & Culture

Arts and Cultural programs contribute a breadth of opportunities for students who will become participants in the changing global arts community. Faculty and staff are committed to supporting arts education for transfer, economic development, and lifelong employment in an accessible and safe environment. We meet the needs of those wishing to create, consume, document, or analyze the arts.

The Arts & Cultural Program schedule included a full calendar of events, including student Original One Acts in the Black Box Theatre, where audiences enjoyed an evening of 10-minute plays performed, written and directed by theatre students. The Rio Hondo College Art Gallery presented More Than a Feeling, contemporary abstract paintings by Lester Monzon, Eric Sall, Kevin Wingate, and others in the fall.

Seussical and African Acrobats were included in the lineup of free “Family Friendly” series and performed to huge crowds of students, faculty, staff and community members. The Dance Program presented Works in Progress, which showcased faculty and student choreographic work. Esther Baker-Tarpaga of the nationally recognized Baker & Tarpaga Dance Project served as Guest Choreographer this new work.

The complete calendar is available at the Division of the Arts website at http://www.rio-hondo.edu/arts/index.htm.

Honor Transfer Students Move On With 92 % UCLA Acceptance

In 2008, 41 Rio Hondo College students were accepted to attend the prestigious Los Angeles campus of the University of California (UCLA). More than half of those students (24) participated in the Rio Hondo Honors Transfer Program, also known as the Transfer Alliance Program. Overall, RHC students who participated in the Honors Transfer Program achieved a 92 percent UCLA transfer acceptance rate, one of the highest in the state for such programs.

The Honors Transfer Program is an important avenue for already accomplished high school students to continue in an honors track. New Rio Hondo College students must have a high school GPA of 3.2 and enroll in English 101 in their first semester. Continuing students must have a GPA of 3.2 for all transferable college courses, and must have completed English 101 with an “A” or “B.” Students must take at least 12 units and at least one honors course each semester.

Rio Hondo College Transfer Institutions

- University of California Berkeley
- University of California Irvine
- University of California Los Angeles
- University of California Merced
- University of California Riverside
- University of California San Diego
- University of California Santa Barbara
- California State Polytechnic University, Pomona
- California State Polytechnic University, San Luis Obispo
- California State University Chico
- California State University Dominguez Hills
- California State University East Bay
- California State University Fresno
- California State University Fullerton
- California State University Long Beach
- California State University Los Angeles
- California State University Monterey Bay
- California State University Northridge
- California State University Sacramento
- California State University San Bernardino
- California State University Humboldt
- California State University San Diego
- California State University San Francisco
- California State University San Jose
- Azusa Pacific University
- Biola University
- Devry
- Hope International University
- Loma Linda University
- University of Hawaii at Manoa
- University of La Verne
- University of Southern California
- Whittier College

New Allied Healthcare Programs Provide Entry-Level Access to High Demand Jobs

Rio Hondo College is committed to making sure that our community has well-trained health professionals. Nurses have been graduating from our RN and LVN programs for years. Now, the College is offering entry level healthcare program for Certified Nursing Assistants, Home Health Aides, and Acute Care providers.

Students may enroll in a one-semester program leading to a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) certificate.

RIO HONDO BY THE NUMBERS

1,000,000
Total number of students who have been served since the college opened in 1963

1,148
Degrees conferred on the Rio Hondo College Class of 2008
CNAs work under the supervision of a licensed nurse and provide assistance to patients with daily living tasks. This course meets Title 22 regulations in taking care of patients utilizing skills in basic care, emergency care and communication and prepares the student to take the California State certification exam.

Also new in 2008 is a Home Health Aid (HHA) Certificate. This eight-week course is designed for students who are already CNAs and wish to learn how to provide personal care in the home care setting for those who are unable to do for themselves.

Finally, there is the new Acute Care Certificate. This course is designed for students who are already CNAs and wish to learn the basic nursing skills and duties in the acute care setting. Additional emphasis will be on specialized acute care areas such as medical/surgical, orthopedics, pediatrics and obstetrics. The course runs for eight weeks and consists of a combination of 24 hours classroom instruction and 48 hours supervised clinical practice in the acute care hospital.

These new programs are a part of the comprehensive health occupations training the College offers in to help keep local healthcare facilities staffed and to provide access to rewarding career paths.

Unique Logistics Courses Serve Local Industry

In response to the growing need for well-trained logistics and supply chain professionals, Rio Hondo College, in conjunction with six area community colleges and with support from the State of California, has joined forces to form the Logistics Training Consortium of Southern California (LTC). The result is new cutting-edge educational and training opportunities for students, and a new pipeline to develop employees for distribution and logistics industries.

The development of this program was initiated as a result of the survey of industry and the workforce in the Rio Hondo College service area.

This career certificate attracted more than 25 students for the first two classes – Supply Chain Management and Logistics Management. The college will offer a series of classes leading to a Certificate of Skill Proficiency, allowing students to head out into this high demand job market.

Every one of these classes can also be delivered on-site at employer facilities as well as customized to meet the specific needs of local business and industry.

Environmental Technology Program Expands to Meet Needs and Opportunities

As a result of an Environmental Career Education Symposium titled “Educational Pathways to Green Jobs” hosted in 2007, Rio Hondo College officials are pleased to report that with the assistance and advice of industry advisors, data generated by the symposium and information from a regional survey have been integrated into the curriculum, resulting in a newly-configured Environmental Technology Program.

Students now have options to earn either an Associate Degree or Certificate. These redesigned programs of study were approved by Rio Hondo College’s Curriculum Committee, the Board of Trustees, and sent to the State Chancellor’s office in May.

Six existing Environmental Technology courses are being revised. The Environmental Biology Lab textbook has been revised and redesigned to incorporate newly designed laboratory exercises. Several courses were successfully offered in Fall, 2008. The evolution of the College’s Environmental Technology program is just one example of how Rio Hondo College is working with the community to create rigorous, relevant and excellent course offering that prepare students to excel in the workplace.

New Heavy Equipment Maintenance Program

Rio Hondo College is offering a series of specialized classes in Heavy Equipment Maintenance in response to the growing need for training in the San Gabriel Valley.

Heavy Equipment Maintenance technicians earn high wages in a variety of industries including construction, utilities, transportation, and municipal agencies.

The development of this program was initiated by Superintendent/ President Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., as a result of a review of the college’s curriculum last year, using a survey of industry and the workforce in the Rio Hondo College service area to identify employment opportunities in the region and to better assist the region’s employers to recruit trained employees.

The survey results indicate that the Rio Hondo service area has a diverse industrial base with rapidly growing industrial clusters which include Healthcare, Environmental Technologies, Transportation, and Logistics. In response to the results, the college will consider offerings for training in the following areas: Dental Hygienists and Dental Assistants; Environmental Engineering Technicians; Biological Technicians; and Heavy Equipment Mechanics.

RIO HONDO BY THE NUMBERS

518
Number of faculty members in 2008

112
Number of firefighters educated in 2008

22
Number of new faculty hired in 2008
Our Programs Serving the Public

Rio Hondo College Nursing Grads Ace Licensing Exams For R.N.s And Vocational Nurses — Rio Hondo College nursing grads are acing state licensing exams, making them eligible to enter the healthcare workforce and help alleviate nursing shortages. The College announced that the Board of Registered Nursing reported that more than 94% of Rio Hondo College students who attempted the National Council Licensure Examination-Registered Nurse (NCLEX) between July 1, 2008 and September 30, 2008 passed the exam. Simultaneously, the National Council Licensure Examination for Practical Nursing reports that more than 93% of the nursing graduates from Rio Hondo College passed the licensing exam.

Rio Hondo College health care professionals are taking jobs in our community and regional medical centers in the San Gabriel Valley as well as the region at large. The College’s health care partners include Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital Whittier, White Memorial Medical Center, Whittier Hospital Medical Center, Beverly Hospital, College Hospital, Kaiser Bellflower, Kaiser Baldwin Park, Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, Rancho Los Amigos National Rehabilitation Center, Downey Regional Medical Center, Citrus Valley Health Partners-Queen of the Valley Campus, City of Hope Medical Center, Kindred of West Covina, Anaheim Health Care Center and Methodist Hospital of Southern California. Many of these newly licensed practical nurses will be working in these facilities to serve our community.

Fire Technology Program Develops Niche in Wildland Firefighting — Rio Hondo College’s Fire Technology program ranks fifth in size among all of the 107 California Community Colleges. The College currently offers three fire academies per calendar year, two EMT-I classes per year and a Type-II Wildland Hand Crew class on the campus. The academy also offers classes online.

Rio Hondo College also has a Fire Crew, formally known as “Crew 77” and deploys for 14-day rotations. This crew has helped in 17 different fires in California, Nevada and near the California/Oregon border in 2008.

Rio Hondo College Police Academy Largest in State — For more than 40 years, Rio Hondo College has played a key role in ensuring the safety of the community, training many of the police officers who serve residents throughout the District. In fact, 80 percent of Police Academy graduates are hired by cities in and around the San Gabriel Valley. The police academy’s reputation for outstanding curriculum and innovative training programs is well known and attracting more students than ever. The Academy is the largest community college-based police-training program in California. Since its inception in 1964, the Academy has trained more than 9,000 police officers. The Academy also provides an extensive ongoing program in Advanced Police Officer Tactics and Training.

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FACTS AND FIGURES

33,900
Students Served Annually

24
Average Age

STUDENT PROFILE

ETHNICITY

African-American ................. 4.0%
Asian/Pacific Islander ........... 11.2%
Hispanic ............................ 67.5%
Other Non-White ................. 2.0%
White Non-Hispanic .............. 15.3%

GENDER

Male ................................. 51.9%
Female ............................... 48.1%

STUDENT EDUCATIONAL GOALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
<th>%</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Transfer</td>
<td>6,823</td>
<td>47.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undecided</td>
<td>1,393</td>
<td>9.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>535</td>
<td>3.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>On Job Skills/Prof. Dev.</td>
<td>2,980</td>
<td>20.9%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Voc. Cert. or AA</td>
<td>896</td>
<td>6.3%</td>
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<tr>
<td>AA No Transfer</td>
<td>426</td>
<td>3.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Goal not listed</td>
<td>1,231</td>
<td>8.6%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

RIO HONDO BY THE NUMBERS

33rd
Ranking on the national list of “Top Community Colleges” awarding associate degrees in Criminal Justice

$1.1 million
Total amount of scholarships awarded
Transfer Center Provides Path To The Next Level

The Rio Hondo College Transfer Center offers comprehensive transfer information to students interested in furthering their education at a variety of public and private colleges and universities nationwide. The Transfer Center offers counseling, workshops, college fairs, college tours, application assistance and a complete reference library of information to assist students. In addition, the Transfer Center regularly invites representatives from several colleges and universities to provide one-on-one transfer assistance to students.

EOPS/C.A.R.E. Lend Special Support

The Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS) and Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (CARE) are program designed to go “above and beyond” to meet the special needs of students from low-income families with educational backgrounds which may have limited the access to postsecondary education. The programs provide counseling, academic support, workshops, peer advising and educational planning for students who meet the criterion for acceptance into the programs. In addition, EOPS/CARE offers Priority Registration and Financial Assistance (Book vouchers, fee waivers, scholarships).

General Counseling Helps Students Design Their Journeys

The General Counseling department at Rio Hondo College is a crucial element in the matriculation process for students at the College, offering students a variety of counseling options (in-person, online, walk-in and by appointment) and assists RHC students with the creation of a student educational plan and a road map towards meeting their academic and career goals. Assistance is offered in the following:

- Articulation
- Academic advising
- College success classes
- Career decision making
- Honors
- Transfer assistance
- Orientation
- Personal and Career counseling

General Counseling is available to all RHC students and they are encouraged to meet frequently with a counselor.

Career Development Center Explores Options And Possibilities

The mission of the Rio Hondo College Career Development Center (CDC) is to assist students with career and major decision-making, life planning and job preparation. The CDC provides counseling, workshops and an abundance of resources for students as they plan their career choices. Also, the CDC offers several unique computerized assessment tools (EUREKA, Myers/Briggs, COPS, etc.) that help students clarify their career aptitudes and interests.

Disabled Students Program & Services For All Abilities

The College offers support services for students who have disabilities through the DSP & S department. Resource rooms and specialized staff are available to assist students who have Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) verifiable disabilities. Program components include services for people who have learning disabilities or who are physically, psychologically, visually or hearing impaired. The program also serves individuals who have acquired brain injuries, developmental delays and other types of disabilities that cause educational limitations requiring academic accommodations. Tutoring services available.

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Number of police officers trained in 2008: 220
Total number of scholarships awarded to students: 2,250
The total number of hours students spent with representatives from transfer institutions in Fall 2008: 207
During fiscal year of 2007-08, shortfall of revenues from property tax and growth payments from state general apportionment contributed to an approximate $1 million deficit for Rio Hondo College. However, even with the deficit funding from the state, the College was able to maintain its enrollment growth and quality programs to serve the students. The College is fiscally sound with a more than adequate 7.1% reserve at fiscal year end.

**Finance Highlights**

The economic position of Rio Hondo Community College is closely tied to the State of California, as 81% of the total sources of revenue received by the District for fiscal year 2007-08 comes directly from the state apportionment and grants. The College continues to receive approximately $1 million funding to enhance basic skill programs, instructional equipment and materials, schedule maintenance to improve services to students for teaching and learning. Total revenue recognized during the year was approximately $84 million from general fund, including approximately $2.8 million from Federal sources, $68 million from state and $13.2 million from local sources.
I am pleased to provide the 2008 Report from the Citizens Oversight Committee. The Committee is charged with ensuring that all bond expenditures are done appropriately, prudently and in accordance with the law. Each year, we review in detail the expenditures as well as the performance of the College in meeting its Measure A obligations.

In 2004 the voters in the Rio Hondo Community College District passed Measure A, providing $245 million for the Building Access and Excellence building program. Each year an independent audit is conducted to verify the bond monies are being used in compliance with the law. Rio Hondo received an exemplary audit for the year ending June 30, 2008.

Vasquez & Company, LLP, our independent auditor, has reviewed all expenditures and concluded that they are all compliant with regulations. There were no deficiencies either in internal controls or financial reporting identified in scope of their work. The District has spent $48 million thus far and has already completed seven projects and broken ground on four more. The College has used the bond funds to leverage state funding for several of the projects.

Our committee wishes to hear from you with your questions or comments about the Building Access and Excellence Building Program. To make this possible, the college has created the Building Programs website, http://www.riohondocollege.info/. The site has up-to-date traffic as well as the latest information on the progress and schedule of the program.

It is a pleasure to serve this community as the Chair of the Citizens Oversight Committee and I look forward to celebrating our ongoing accomplishments together.

Thank you,

Michelle Yanez-Jiminez
Michelle Yanez-Jiminez, Chair
Creating a New Learning Environment for Rio Hondo College Students

As the Rio Hondo College Building Program Access and Excellence moves from design to construction phase for several major projects, the campus is transformed on a daily basis. During 2008, we saw a full range of construction-related activity across campus. Two projects completed in 2008 were the Maintenance Facility Project, which included replacement of the old maintenance garage, construction of offices and other improvements, as well as the installation of a new fueling facility for College vehicles. That facility was placed into use during the summer.

Another project completed and put into use in June, 2008 is the long-awaited Pedestrian Bridge, providing direct access from Student Parking Lot A to the Technology Quad. Another benefit of the bridge is the addition of several new disabled parking spaces in Lot A, to further enhance access for disabled students.

A major project continuing throughout the year, the Library and Learning Resource Center, certainly the most impressive project at 94,000 square feet. By the end of 2008, the project actually looked like a building, with walls, roof, windows and a 'topping off' ceremony during the summer. The walls had been completed, the roof was constructed, windows were installed, and interior work had progressed rapidly, with framing, drywall, plumbing and mechanical systems underway. It is anticipated that this eagerly-anticipated building will be occupied in mid 2009.

The other projects continuing in construction throughout 2008 are the Central Plant and Infrastructure projects. Because infrastructure project construction provides the pipes and valves for heating, air conditioning, water and sewer, as well as gas and electric service conduit, construction involves closing and trenching roadways, sometimes referred to as 'the big dig.'

Thanks to excellent planning, staging, and communication coordinated by the President's Office and the Facilities Department, the campus experienced various road closures throughout the year with minimal disruption to traffic flow. As a result of good signage, traffic control, electronic and mail messages to our stakeholders, traffic and parking problems were largely mitigated, helping students get to class. These projects will be completed in Spring 2009 and will bring a much needed boost in energy efficiency to the campus as well as improved vehicular circulation.

The Board of Trustees directed the Program Management Team and the College Administration to design another project in conjunction with the Student Services Building, a new Student Union Building to house a food services facility and several student activities. It will be located just to the West of the Student Services Building and together they will form the Student Services Complex. It is anticipated that the Student Union Building will be submitted to DSA for review in the spring.

The College also awarded design contracts for Landscaping at various facilities, including the Campus Quad. A preliminary design has been completed and was presented by the Program Management Team to various student groups as well as staff and faculty for review. As a result, suggestions were incorporated into a revised design that includes a great deal of open space for student gatherings as well as distinct areas designed for seating and gatherings in the shade.

For the most up-to-date information visit the building programs website at http://www.riohondacollege.info/.

Also in 2008, the College began a major renovation of the Applied Technology Building, which consists of a major interior renovation and the installation of new equipment and facilities. This project began during the summer and is anticipated to be completed in early 2010. The project has been segmented into several phases, allowing the contractor to perform work in one area of the building while the occupants continue to use the other areas.

Several projects have been designed in 2008, or are in the process of being approved for construction by state agencies. We anticipate receiving approval by the Division of the State Architect for the Administration of Justice Building early in 2009 and that construction will begin soon thereafter. DSA approval has been received for the South Whittier Educational Center which is a three-classroom off-site facility, developed in conjunction with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. The Physical Education Complex, which is anticipated to enter construction in early Spring 2009 was approved by DSA for construction. However, because it is partially funded by the state, construction may be delayed depending on the state budget. It is hoped that construction will begin in 2009.

The Student Services Building is also under review by DSA. It is anticipated that approval will be received during the spring, with construction slated for summer.
Measure A is a facilities and equipment bond measure for the District adopted by the Board of Trustees and passed by voters on March 2, 2004. The district was authorized by Measure A to issue $245,581,122 general obligation bonds (the “Series A Bonds”). The independent audit performed by Vasquez & Co., LLP found that for the items tested, Rio Hondo Community College District has properly accounted for the expenditures of the Series A Bonds.

Further, it was noted that the funds were not used for salaries of school administrators or other operating expenditures.

In 2008, the Building Access and Excellence program has broken ground on several projects, as well as begun work on several others. The overall program is on track and on schedule.

**Completed Projects**
- New Sidewalks Along West Drive
- Remediation And Renovation Of The Applied Technology Building Portables
- Installation Of New Outdoor Furniture
- Santa Fe Springs Regional Public Safety Training Center Phase II
- Building Panels Connections
- Pedestrian Bridge
- Maintenance Facility Addition

**Projects Under Construction**
- Learning Resource Center
- Central Plant
- Infrastructure Project
- Applied Technology Building Renovation and Remodeling

**Approved Projects**
- Santa Fe Springs Regional Public Safety Training Center Phase III
- Physical Education Complex
- Terrace Walks
- South Whittier Educational Center

**In Design**
- Campus Quad
- Administration Of Justice Building
- Student Services Building
- Student Union Building
- El Monte Educational Center

**Bond Funding**

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$245,000,000</td>
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<table>
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<th>Year-to-Date June 30, 2008 Expenditure</th>
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<table>
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<table>
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<tr>
<th>Total Bond Expenditure as of June 30, 2006</th>
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<td>$12,000,000</td>
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**Lot A Pedestrian Bridge**
Citizens Oversight Committee

Standing (left to right) Ernesto Zumaya, Gustavo Camacho, Carlos Jackson, Rob Lawe, John Lopez, Diana Villalba
Seated (left to right) Juanita Gonzales, Bob Archuleta, Michelle Yanez-Jiminez, Steven Valdes, Ted Martinez, Jr. Ph.D.

Asuncion Guzman and Joseph Yu (not pictured)

Rio Hondo Community College District Construction Timeline

Building Access and Excellence

A New Learning Environment for Our Students.
Men’s Wrestling Pins Second Conference
The Roadrunner wrestling team won its second straight Western State Conference title this year. The season featured hard-fought wins over traditional powerhouses, Moorpark and Bakersfield Colleges, to nail down the back-to-back championships. Sophomores Rick Bernal (125 lbs.) and Diego Martinez (149 lbs.) were selected First Team All Conference in their respective weight classes for the second time, while freshman Billie Rivera earned Second Team honors at heavyweight. Bernal and Martinez also qualified for the State Championships in Fresno with Diego earning All American honors by placing 4th in the State. In addition to his accomplishments on the athletic field, Martinez excelled in the classroom. He was selected to the 2007 Academic All American Wrestling Team for his efforts on and off the mat. In 2008, Martinez became the eighth wrestler to be named Athlete of the Year at Rio Hondo College.

Women’s Tennis Nets Third Consecutive Conference Title for Five out of Seven
The Rio Hondo College Women’s Tennis Team are Foothill Conference Champions—again! The RHC Tennis Team under Coach Karen Unger have been the Conference Champions the last five of seven years. This championship is their third in a row. Although the players may change, these Roadrunners continue a tradition of excellence.

Men’s Soccer wins the Foothill Conference Championship
The Men’s Soccer Team won the Foothill Conference for the sixth time in a row. Coach Orlando Brenes was named Coach of the Year and Alex Ponce was named conference MVP.

Baseball Springboard to Higher Education
The Rio Hondo College Baseball Team has a reputation for producing Division One players, several of whom have gone on to professional baseball careers, largely due to Coach Mike Salazar and his philosophy about the game. Players benefit from Salazar’s belief in preparing players with the skills and discipline it takes to succeed in baseball and in life. His team has intensive weight training, a study hall for academics, and a commitment to success. These students have the skills to play baseball and the quality of character that makes good men.

In 2008, all six second-year players transferred to four-year schools, making this year a 100% transfer year for the baseball team. On average nearly 90% of the Rio Hondo College baseball team players transfer to four-year schools.

Men’s and Women’s Cross Country
Men’s and Women’s Cross Country both made the state tournament for the first time in school history. Men finished 4th overall and women finished 15th. The women won the Foothill Conference title as well.

Coach Karen Unger has been named Coach of the Year twice in the last three years and takes real pride in transforming individual players into a team of winners. Several members of the team are winners both on and off the courts. Three of the top players transferred from Rio Hondo College to four-year institutions. All will be going to University of California campuses, one to UCLA and two to UC Santa Cruz.
Student Success Stories

Among Rio Hondo College’s class of 2008 are some incredible students. Here are a few examples

Michelle Carcamo

In 1993 Michelle Carcamo enrolled in Rio Hondo College, but without counseling she was discouraged by her experience. She re-enrolled because she was encouraged to do so by some Rio Hondo College students that she met at her son’s day care. She came back to Rio Hondo and was able to begin her education with basic reading, writing and math. She joined Alpha Gamma Sigma (the Honor Society), received Financial Aid, and joined the Extended Opportunity Program & Services (E.O.P. & S). Despite other challenges which included moving and the illness of her mother, Michelle graduated with an Associate Degree in Administration of Justice—five years after she began her education at Rio Hondo College.

Ana Fonseca

Ana Fonseca is also an Extended Opportunity Program & Services student. She has achieved great heights academically, including maintaining a 3.5 and above GPA and making the Dean’s list every semester at Rio Hondo. What makes Ana’s story so special is that she did all of this as a mother of two who also became homeless during the Fall semester. Ana did not give up; she applied for scholarships and kept going. One of those scholarships was awarded to her by Congresswoman Hilda Solis and Monterey Park City Councilman Anthony Wong. Despite all of the challenges Ana graduated with an Associate Degree in Business Administration.

Cristy Killeen

Graduation was very special for Cristy Killeen who suffered through a 12-year addiction to methamphetamines, which lead to several arrests, jail sentences, and a three-year prison term. As a part of changing her life, Cristy enrolled in Rio Hondo College where she was hired as a student worker in the President’s Office. Despite her fears, she found that the President’s staff welcomed her with open arms and encouraged her to be successful. After she got her first A she was unstoppable. With a lot of support, Cristy graduated on the Dean’s Honors list with a 3.8 G.P.A. Graduation was truly a miracle, and the best day of her life.

Diego Martinez, Exemplary Student/Athlete

Rio Hondo College transfer student Diego Martinez is a stellar example of the scholar-athlete. He is the first in his extended family to attend a four-year institution and to pursue a math and science degree.

Diego was nominated for the 2008 Jet Propulsion Lab Undergraduate Scholars (JPLUS) program by the Rio Hondo College math and science faculty in recognition of his outstanding academic accomplishments and his potential to make original contributions to his field of study. As a result of this nomination, Diego received a $500 scholarship and was eligible to compete for the prestigious Cal Tech/JPL Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) worth $6,000. Additionally, he was named Outstanding Student in Physics. He is majoring in mechanical engineering at the University of California, Santa Barbara.

Diego’s accomplishments do not end in the classroom. He was also selected as Male Athlete of the Year for 2008, having wrestled for Rio Hondo College for two years and achieving first team All Western State Conference honors. He placed in every tournament in which he wrestled, losing by one point to the state champ in the semi-finals of the state tournament. He has been recruited by several institutions to continue his wrestling career.

Rio Hondo College salutes Diego Martinez for his outstanding accomplishments. He received a commendation from the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees as an outstanding student and athlete.

RIO HONDO BY THE NUMBERS

- 99 Total number of Registered Nurses graduated in 2008
- 12 The number of holiday baskets provided to families by RHC students and staff in 2008
- 2,880 Number of students in 2008 who participated in the GO RIO Program
A Career Built at Rio Hondo College

The Honorable Maria Valdez, U.S. District Judge, Northern District, Illinois

“The education I received at Rio Hondo provided me with the foundation I needed to succeed at UCLA and the University of California Law School. Some of the best teachers I ever had were at Rio Hondo. I loved my years there!”

Rio Hondo College alumna, Maria Valdez made history when she was appointed the first Latina Federal Judge in the Midwest. Judge Valdez attended Rio Hondo College in the early 1980s, majoring in Political Science.

After law school, Valdez worked as an attorney for the Office of the Federal Public Defender in Los Angeles and Santa Ana. Later, she worked for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund in Chicago where she gained notoriety by leading an effort to require the legislature to redraw district boundaries that would be more representative of the growing Hispanic population of Illinois.

J. Röbertô came to Rio Hondo College in 2001 to pursue his goal of becoming a photographer. He studied under Chris Acuna-Hansen a member of the Visual Arts faculty and then joined El Paisano and La Cima magazine. There he and Wendy Carrera worked as editors in chief in 2003 advised by John Francis. Another very important person in Röbertô success at Rio Hondo College was Julius Thomas, his counselor in the Transfer Center Program.

“Rio Hondo College is a very special place for me,” said J. Röbertô Chavez. “It was a pivotal time—John Francis, Chris Acuna-Hansen and Julius Thomas were so supportive of my achievements at school, dreams and goals that I had.”

In 2003, both Röbertô and Wendy received more than 14 awards for the newspaper and the magazine at the Journalism Association of Community Colleges (JACC) competition in Sacramento and were named students of the year among other awards and scholarships. One of those scholarships was from the National Association of Hispanic Journalists, which enabled Röbertô to travel to New York and tour the New York Times and other media outlets.

Röbertô has exhibited his work in Europe and the United States and winning awards throughout the world. Rio Hondo College is very proud of his accomplishments and pleased to be a part of his educational foundation in the arts.

Evan Longoria

Hits a Home Run In Tampa Bay

Evan Longoria was a four-year letterman in baseball at his high school, St. John Bosco. As a senior he was a first team All-Sierra-League selection and continued his education at Rio Hondo College. Under the tutelage of Rio Hondo College head Coach Mike Salazar, he earned first team All-State honors and was offered a scholarship by Cal State Long Beach.

Evan, who just completed his rookie year at third base for the Tampa Bay Rays, was hired on a $17.5 million, six-year contract, a deal that could be worth up to $44.5 million over nine seasons. Taken third overall in the 2006 amateur draft, Longoria appeared in just six Major League games before agreeing to the contract, and helped Tampa Bay get to the 2008 World Series. Evan Longoria was selected as the American League Rookie of the Year for 2008.
Second Annual Family Day Judged “Just Right”
Prospective students and their families were welcomed to a college preview at the Second Annual Family Day/Día De La Familia Saturday, August 2. Organizers hoped to increase the number of participants in 2008, and that goal was met as a result of community advertising via the Rio Hondo Community newsletter in July and telephone calls to students who had already applied to the College. The crowd of 300 guests, plus nearly 100 administrators, faculty and staff on hand to greet the guests was “just the right turnout” according to Rachel Garcia, who coordinated logistics. Zolita Fisher and Mike Munoz co-chaired the large committee.

Designed to welcome prospective students and their families to the campus, the event featured a program fair to showcase opportunities for academic preparation and transfer, career and technical training, and to participate in student life.

Participating divisions, programs and student units included Electronics, Heavy Equipment Maintenance, Automotive Tech/Advanced Transportation Tech, Business and Applied Technology, Drafting, EOPS/CARE, Mathematics, Engineering Science Achievement (MESA), DSP&S, Fitness Center, Arts and Cultural Programs, Career Development Center, Health Science/Nursing, Financial Aid, Assessment Center, Admissions and Records, Outreach Program, Associated Student Body/Inter Club Council, Honors Transfer Program, Registration, Student Support Services & Upward Bound, Child Development Center, Police and Fire Academies, “GO RIO,” and Communication and Languages. In addition, there were opportunities for children to have their faces painted, and stations for kettle corn and water.

There were workshops, campus tours, a continental breakfast, lunch, musical performances from Seussical and activities for children and child care for ages 3 –13.

This event has become very important to the campus community. Our staff, managers, faculty, and students worked diligently to make this day very special for all who attend. It was informative and fun.

Tune-In, Tune-Up Puts Rio Hondo College in Community Service
On a cloudy Saturday in October, 150 local motorists lined up to receive free emissions testing and if, necessary a coupon for emissions-related repairs, thanks to Rio Hondo College automotive students.

The Tune-In, Tune-Up event took place at Whittier Narrows Regional Park. It was a result of a $282,000 grant, thanks to the work of Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis which established a partnership among her office, Rio Hondo College, East Los Angeles College and community organizations in the San Gabriel Valley. This partnership, coordinated by Rio Hondo College’s Russell Castaneda-Calleros, was designed to provide a free roadside emissions test event, along with follow-up smog-related repairs to become state compliant as needed.

Congresswoman Solis, Rio Hondo College President Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr., and other sponsor representatives were all on hand to greet participants.

Congresswoman Hilda Solis presents a check to Rio Hondo College Superintendent/President Ted Martinez, Jr. Ph.D. for the Tune-In, Tune-Up Program.

Other Tune-In, Tune-Up programs have been completed throughout California. On average, each Tune-In, Tune-Up event annually removes 3,000 tons of carbon monoxide, 300 tons of hydrocarbons, and 150 tons of nitrogen oxide from the air. Tune-In, Tune-Up allowed Rio Hondo College students to partner with local repair shops to perform these tests, which enabled students to gain valuable hands-on experience that can lead to future employment while simultaneously improving air quality in Los Angeles County. Another Tune-In, Tune-Up event is planned for the late spring.
Club Rush Helps Students Connect With Campus Life

The Student Services Fair/Club Rush helps clubs on campus recruit new members and students learn more about their opportunities to participate. Fourteen clubs turned out to recruit new members:

- Alpha Gamma Sigma (Honors)
- Artists Creating Theatre
- BBQ Club
- Campus Light
- Catholic Newman Club
- Gay Straight Alliance
- Honors Transfer Society
- Musicians for Cultural Unity
- Parents in College
- Psychology
- Student Advocacy Club
- Tri Omega (Administration of Justice)
- Veterans Club
- Vocal Arts Alliance

Special activities included free pizza to students who paid their College Service fees on the first day of the two-day event, and the next day featured BBQ hot dogs, and chips to students who paid their CSF.

September 11 was dedicated to the memory of 09-11-2001. A fire truck and police car were displayed in the quad and a wreath in memory of those who lost their lives, was placed nearby a list of those who died that day. There was also a moment of silence at 11 a.m.

GO RIO Program Speeds Into Third Year

The GO RIO Program is well into its third year of operation, helping our students get to campus. All full-time students will have the opportunity to pick up a GO RIO pass that is accepted by our transit partners.

Partners include Metro, Foothill Transit, Norwalk Transit, Montebello Bus Lines, and the Sunshine Shuttle. To help keep the program running for two more years, the student body voted in the Spring ASB election to assess a flat $3 fee on each student to help cover the rising operational costs.

Even with the new fee, which became effective during the fall semester, GO RIO is still the “Rio Deal” given that full-time students will be able to have ultimate access to all five bus lines that would normally cost more than $700. Furthermore, even students who do not have a GO RIO pass can enjoy the benefits of GO RIO since it has contributed to fewer vehicles brought to campus, less demand for parking, and improved air quality.
Rio Hondo College Foundation Grows Support For Students

The Foundation is a private 501 (c) 3 non-profit corporation governed by a Board of Directors composed of community leaders representing business, government, and philanthropic organizations. The Foundation is supported by the generosity of our community, awards from private foundations, and contributions from the business community. In 2008, the Foundation awarded more than $150,000 in student scholarships.

In 2008, the Rio Hondo Board of Trustees approved the following projects for the Foundation:

- The development of a Regional Health Occupational Training Center
- The building of a Memorial Wall for the 23 alumni of the Rio Hondo Police Academy who have fallen in the line of duty
- An all-weather soccer field and track
- A Fine Arts Complex
- Support for the Learning Resource Center
- Increasing the scholarship endowment

The 2008 Inaugural President’s Gala, “Boots to Books” was held in April at the Pacific Palms Resort. More than 300 guests attended and enjoyed a gourmet dinner, fine wines and silent and live auctions. Los Angeles County Supervisor, Don Knabe not only acted as the emcee for the event but also served as auctioneer for the live auction. The Gala raised more than $230,000 to help veterans make the transition back to college. Rio Hondo College has now established a Veterans Service Center. Funds generated by the Gala are being used for scholarships and emergency loans for veterans.

The theme of the Second Annual President’s Gala will be “A Turning Point in Healthcare Education.” The Gala theme will focus on developing programs to meet the critical shortage of nurses and other healthcare professionals. The Gala will be held on April 18 at the Pacific Palms Resort.
President’s Circle Donors

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- Doug Lopez, VAL Development
- Judge Carlos Rodriguez, Community Representative
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- Reanna Thompson, Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital

District Representatives

- Dr. Andy Howard, Executive Director, Rio Hondo College Foundation
- Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr., Superintendent/President, Rio Hondo College
- Angela Acosta-Salazar, Board of Trustees, Rio Hondo College
- Connie Austin, Administrator/Manager, Rio Hondo College
- Terry Keller, Faculty Representative, Rio Hondo College
- Liz Chavez, Classified Representative, Rio Hondo College
- Deborah Duran-Wade, Foundation Staff

If you are interested in contributing to support Rio Hondo College and our students, please call the Foundation Office at (562) 908-3476, for more information.
VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Five Themes to Guide Rio Hondo College

- Increase Student Success
- Foster Academic Excellence
- Increase Enrollment
- Foster Collaboration Among All Stakeholders
- Sustain Fiscal Accountability