



Rio Hondo College Ranks in Top State, National Polls of Associate Degree Producers

Each year, *Community College Week*, in association with the U.S. Department of Education, releases its list of the Top 100 Associate Degree Producers in America. The report includes Top 50 lists for various degrees by disciplines and by populations served. *Community College Week* is a national, independent trade publication reporting on community colleges.

The 2009 report lists Rio Hondo College as 53rd in the nation for awarding associate degrees in all disciplines, total minority; 96th in the nation for all disciplines, Asian, and all disciplines, Hispanic. Additionally, Rio Hondo College ranks 9th nationally for associate degrees in Security and Protective Services (second in California); 13th in the nation for Family and Consumer Sciences/Human Sciences (fifth in California); 28th nationally for associate degrees in Criminal Justice and Corrections (third in California); and ranks in the top 100 for Nursing total minority.

"While these outcomes do compare Rio Hondo College with other community colleges," said Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., "they are important because they show us firsthand how we are doing in terms of helping our students reach the academic finish line. We hope Rio Hondo College will be included on even more of these important lists as a measure of institutional and student success. That's yet another good reason to pursue the addition of new degree programs for our students to pursue."

Rank for Awarding Associate Degrees



National Rank	Degrees Awarded
22	All Disciplines, Hispanic Students
53	All Disciplines, Minority Students
96	All Disciplines, Asian Students
9	Security and Protective Services
13	Family and Consumer Science/Human Services
28	Criminal Justice and Corrections

Rio Hondo College Celebrates Class of 2010 at 47th Commencement

Hundreds of friends and family members waited eagerly on the Rio Hondo College Soccer Field for the 47th Annual Commencement Ceremony to begin. Once the sea of caps and gowns were visible, their cheers of excitement made it clear how proud they were of the Class of 2010. Nearly 1,000 students received associate degrees.

The May event began with a welcome from Superintendent/President Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., who congratulated the graduating class for their hard work and success. Board of Trustees President, Angela Acosta-Salazar applauded students for making their education a priority and honored them for such dedication.

Rio Hondo College Vice President of Student Services, Henry Gee, then shared motivational stories about four graduates who overcame obstacles and persevered to reach their academic goals. Juan Sixto, Reanne Sanchez, Chito Jara and Lloyd Del Rosario were each asked to stand as their stories were read at commencement.

Others honored included graduate Evelyn Mercado, who as class valedictorian received the Marie I. Pellissier Award. Faculty member Dr. Manuel Baca was named a Fellow of the College for his years of service at Rio Hondo and his support of the State's community colleges. Baca received the Governor's appointment to the Board of Governors of the California Community College Board of Governors. He also serves as an elected Trustee of the Mt. San Antonio College Board of Trustees.

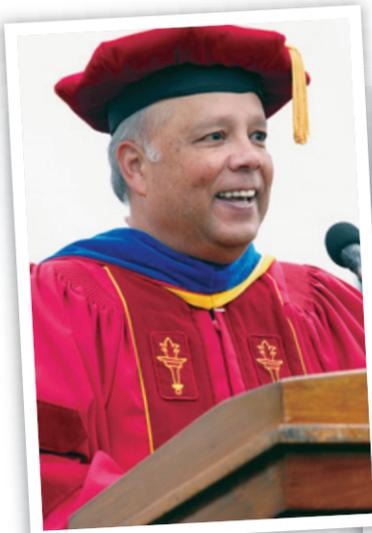
Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar, a special assistant to President Obama for Justice and Regulatory Policy for the White House Domestic Policy Council, served as the commencement speaker.

Cuéllar chose to speak to the graduating class about all the choices they have in life and encouraged them to reach for their dreams.

"There's no denying all of you worked hard to get here, and you have a chance at success that escapes many," he told

graduates. "And when you wake up tomorrow, you will confront a world as complicated and uncertain as it is beautiful."

Then it was time for each graduate's name to be called. Family members applauded and cheered as names were announced. Graduates held their degrees in triumph high in the air while others took photos capturing the special moment in their lives.



Clearly, Rio Hondo College is a premier institution.



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

Superintendent/President's Message

Rio Hondo College has been serving generations of students eager to take advantage of educational opportunities to prepare for transfer to four-year colleges and to pursue the latest career paths since 1963. In these difficult financial times, we are committed to serve as many students as possible and to find the most efficient and effective ways to keep the doors open. We are serving record numbers of students each and every semester.

It is important for our community to know that we received a Full Reaffirmation of Accreditation from the Western Association of School and Colleges Accrediting Commission. Student coursework continues to be fully transferable and our

students are completely eligible for Financial Aid. Accreditation is our official 'license' to do business and a mark of our academic, fiscal, and governance integrity as an institution of higher education.

We believe that our campus environment is important and conducive to learning, and are proud of the new facilities taking shape on our hilltop campus, a result of our community's good will and generosity in funding the Measure A facilities bond. This newsletter provides an update on college building construction projects and information about the exciting changes taking place on campus. We have inaugurated new electronic systems for students to apply, register and track their progress.

You'll also learn more about recent student and faculty honors and accomplishments as well as impressive athletic victories.

In addition to nearly 100 degree and career certificate programs available, Rio Hondo College sponsors a lively campus life for our students; opportunities to participate in 16 intercollegiate sports; to perform in vocal, musical, and theatrical arts; and to join an active student government, including many special-interest clubs.

Clearly, Rio Hondo College is a premier institution. As we enter our 48th year of service to our San Gabriel Valley communities, I invite you to explore your opportunities with us. I look forward to greeting you on campus.

32 'MESA' Students Transfer to Four-Year Universities

In the tradition of excellence that has come to define the Rio Hondo College math and science education, a total of 32 MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement) students will transfer to four-year-universities this year. Spread out among UC and Cal State campuses as well as out-of-state-institutions, all 32 Rio Hondo students will begin attending classes at their new universities in the fall.

Of the transfer students, 17 will attend University of California schools next year. Among them, three will attend UC Berkeley; four UCLA; three, UC Davis; four, UC Riverside; three, UC Irvine; and one each to UC Santa Barbara and UC San Diego. Thirteen

students will also make the transfer to Cal State Universities including six to Cal State Los Angeles; five, Cal Poly Pomona; and one each to Northridge and Fullerton. Additionally, one student will attend the University of Hawaii and one will make the transfer to the University of Alabama.

In addition to their stellar transfer achievements, several of these students also earned scholarships to aid in their continued education. Four were awarded the MESA NSF S-STEM Scholarship of \$10,500, one earned a scholarship from the Ensign Mayo Loan Fund worth \$8,000, and several others earned scholarships of \$200-\$500 from other organizations.

Rio Hondo College Students Transfer

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

Rio Hondo College can help you reach your academic goals - wherever they may be! For more information, contact the Rio Hondo College Transfer Center at (562) 463-4619 or by visiting www.riohondo.edu/students/transfercenter.

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR FUTURE NOW!

Enroll at Rio Hondo College in 5 Easy Steps

There has never been a better time to enroll at Rio Hondo College. Whether you are someone interested in earning a degree or certificate to make yourself more marketable in today's workforce or you know someone right out of high school, Rio Hondo College can help put you on the right path toward future success. Classes are in demand, so it is very important for you to start planning NOW to enroll at Rio Hondo College.

Enroll in 5 Easy Steps ...

- 1** **APPLY ONLINE** - Complete an application for admission at www.riohondo.edu by clicking the "AccessRIO" option from the left menu. Then, be sure to sign up for a RioMail account, which will give you your own personal email address at the College. Applying and signing up for these are not only easy to do, but FREE.
- 2** **TAKE YOUR ASSESSMENT TESTS** - Make sure to take your math and English skills assessment tests. While this will not affect your admission, it will help the College best place you in courses that match your needs and abilities.
- 3** **ATTEND AN ORIENTATION** - These orientations only take a short amount of time, but provide you with a lot of information on everything from how to register online for classes to meeting with counselors to help develop your educational goals. For more information, please call (562) 463-7226 or go online at www.riohondo.edu/admissions/assessment.
- 4** **REGISTER FOR CLASSES** - To ensure you are able to take the classes you want, be sure to get Steps #1 and #2 completed as soon as possible. You will register for your classes online at www.riohondo.edu by selecting the "AccessRIO" option from the left menu. There's even a computer lab on campus where you can get assistance with this process.
- 5** **PAY YOUR FEES** - You can pay your tuition fees online or in person, and once you do, you're all set!

Student Success Stories Class of 2010



LLOYD DEL ROSARIO is truly a hero. After serving his country as a Marine and protecting the freedoms we all value, in 2001, Lloyd decided he wanted to return to civilian life. However, he did not know what he wanted to do. During this time, his twin brother developed cancer. He did everything he could to help his brother through the difficult time. While supporting his brother through chemotherapy, he discovered his calling in life. He decided a career in nursing was what he wanted to pursue. He graduated with his associate degree in nursing and is looking forward to helping others, like his brother.



CHITO JARA has been described by those closest to him as their "role model, mentor and hero." Chito's journey was not always easy though. In his teen years, he put himself in challenging situations, and at one point, he was even incarcerated. Along the way, he started a family and realized that his children looked up to him, and he knew he wanted to be the father they deserved. He decided to make a change. He started taking classes up north at a community college there, and soon, he completed his first semester with all As. He decided to enroll at Rio Hondo College to continue his studies. Since his return, he not only maintained straight As, but he also managed to do so while working full time. Rio Hondo College is proud that Chito has been accepted to Cal State Fullerton, and he plans to study Business there.



REANNE SANCHEZ is one determined young woman. A single mother, she managed juggling work, school and raising her young daughter daily. While at Rio Hondo College, she received several scholarships, made the Dean's Honor Roll and maintained a grade-point-average of 3.65. While growing up, Reanne faced her share of obstacles, but she took control of her life and decided to go back to school so she could offer her daughter a better future. At Rio, she earned a certificate in forensic identification. She also graduated with an associate degree in administration of justice. She is truly an example of what a committed spirit can accomplish.



JUAN SIXTO understands the meaning of hard work. After graduating from Baldwin Park High School, Juan immediately started working to help support his parents. However, in his heart, he always dreamed of going to college. With the support of his parents, two years after high school, he enrolled at Rio Hondo College. Until he was on campus, Juan had never played the guitar. Relying on his strong work ethic, Juan practiced for perfection. Rio Hondo College is proud Juan graduated as a music major and was accepted as a transfer student at Cal State Northridge! There, he plans to pursue a degree in music education so he can work with young people and encourage them to find their own love for music.

College Enhances Campus Safety With New Resources

As part of a continuing effort to provide safe and secure learning environments, Rio Hondo College is implementing a series of important safety enhancements to benefit students, the campus community, and the communities the College serves. Although the College and its off-campus sites are public non-gated areas, Rio Hondo College is diligent in maintaining a high level of security for its students and employees. In addition to ongoing security patrols and related services, the College will be implementing the following:

- New "blue light" emergency, solar-powered phones are being installed in parking areas throughout the campus and will be activated during the fall semester. The blue light emergency phone system is also being installed in the new building under construction, the Campus Quad, and in the Observatory building as well as the baseball field.

- Emergency notification system: Beginning with the start of the 2010 academic year, students and faculty will receive emergency notifications via personalized voice, email and/or text messages. The service is

designed to reach thousands of recipients in minutes and will better ensure safety and communication at Rio Hondo College in times of emergency. Activation of this new system is possible only because the college has adopted its new AccessRIO student information system, made possible by Measure A facilities bond funds.

- Security cameras in the new Learning Resource Center will help deter theft and other crimes in high-traffic locations. Additional security cameras for parking lots and the Applied Technology outdoor repair yards are also anticipated.

- The Rio Hondo College web site provides security information and reports as required by law. The web site also provides breaking information on campus closures and/or emergencies.

"Rio Hondo College is confident and encouraged by our reputation for providing a safe environment," said Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent/President. "We continue to adopt new technology and methods as proactive efforts to further enhance the security of our campus, to help keep our students and community members as aware and safe as possible."

New GREEN Program Helps Local Businesses Become Just That

As part of its priority to build local partnerships within the area it serves, Rio Hondo College launched its GREEN PROGRAM (Giving Rio Hondo Environmental Education to our Neighbors) in March. The program, which is designed to offer five free workshops to local businesses to help them

run more environmentally friendly and efficiently, will run through Spring 2011.

Organized by Rio Hondo College professors, students and graduates of the Environmental Science Program, the GREEN PROGRAM offers free educational workshops, seminars, "train the trainer" sessions, certifications and evaluations to local busi-

nesses that participate.

The five focus areas for the workshops include: Health and Safety Management, Hazardous, Solid and Universal Waste Management, Transportation and Handling of Hazardous Materials, Water and Storm Water Management and Energy Efficiency and Environmental Sustainability.

These workshops can save a company hundreds of dollars in State Required Training and Certifications, Environmental, Health and Safety Evaluations, Energy Use and Waste Disposal Costs, and Federal, State, and Regional Non-Compliance Fees. In addition, local businesses that complete the GREEN PROGRAM workshops will receive College certificates to post for clients and regulatory agencies to see. Participants completing the entire series will also receive a program certificate from the College. So far, the GREEN PROGRAM has completed its Health and Safety Management workshop for more than 120 participants representing 35 different companies from the cities of Whittier, Santa Fe Springs and others. The remaining workshops are scheduled to run throughout this month until spring.

This GREEN PROGRAM is funded by the Small Business Administration with an ap-



propriations grant secured by Congresswoman Linda Sanchez of the 39th District. For more information about the GREEN PROGRAM or to find out more about an upcoming workshop, please call (562) 463-7501.



Professor Honored for Impact on Former Student's Life

Professor Vann Priest has taught physics to hundreds of students at Rio Hondo College over the past 10 years. This year, he received special recognition from the University of California at Irvine (UCI), and a former student, for the special impact his teaching has made.

In his experience teaching physics to Rio Hondo College students, Priest was used to fielding similar questions from his students when dealing with the challenging subject. That was, until Nicole Mi walked into his classroom.

"I loved going to Rio Hondo College," she said, "but Professor Priest, I think he changed

my life. I learned so much from him. He helped prepare me for my future goals and helped me become a better student."

After attending Rio Hondo College for two years, and taking numerous physics and science courses, Mi was ready to transfer. She applied and was accepted into the UCI this past year. A junior, she is majoring in civil engineering. One day, she hopes to be a licensed professional engineer.

When Mi transferred, Priest really did not expect her to stay in touch. He knew the



demands of her course load would keep her busy. However, one spring day, Priest received a letter in the mail that was "completely unexpected," he said.

It was from the Dean of Undergraduate Education, Sharon Salinger, at UCI. The letter explained how once a year, successful first-year transfer students were asked to name the instructor or person at their community college who had had the most significant impact on their academic performance and success-

ful transfer to UCI. Mi had identified Priest as that individual.

The letter invited Priest to join Mi at an "Educator Recognition Reception" dinner, which was held at UCI in May. As part of the honor, Priest's name was also added to UCI's web "wall of fame" at www.uci.edu/walloffame.

"Seeing her become the person she is today," said Priest, "it's almost like watching someone grow up and then one day, they are fully grown. For a long time, I saw her as my student, now with her level of expertise and comprehension, I see her as my peer."

New for Fall 2010!

Rio Hondo College faculty keeps the curriculum fresh and updated, finding ways to include new approaches and timely subjects. Here's a sampling of new classes to be offered during the Fall 2010 Semester.

- ▶ Advanced Athletic Training
- ▶ Exploring Authors: The Works of the Bronte Sisters
- ▶ Exploring Authors: The Works of George Elliot
- ▶ Exploring Authors: The Works of Mary Shelley
- ▶ Introduction to College Survival
- ▶ Online Newspaper Production
- ▶ Positive Psychology
- ▶ Self Defense
- ▶ Survey of Motion Picture, Radio and Television (online)
- ▶ The Mathematics of Money
- ▶ Theory of Coaching

For more information, check out the Fall 2010 class schedule at www.riohondo.edu



South Whittier Educational Center to Open August 23

The South Whittier Educational Center (SWEC), a 3,200 square-foot satellite center classroom building made specifically for community use, is scheduled to open this month.

The facility, which will be located on the L.A. County "STARS" Administration Facility Campus in South Whittier, was developed in conjunction with the L.A. County Sheriff's Office and has been a priority for the Board of Trustees and administration. The Center will offer a variety of teaching programs to the community and will offer classrooms and a courtyard for student and staff use. There will also be a renovation of the former Gold Star Restaurant, which will serve as three additional classrooms.

As for the curriculum that will be offered at the Center, a taskforce, made up of Rio Hondo College administrators and faculty, was formed to prepare classes, schedules and operating budgets in anticipation of the Center's Fall 2010 opening.

The class schedule at the new Center will be as follows:

- Intermediate Composition for Developing Writers (ENGL 35) on Tuesdays/Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:55 p.m.

- Information Systems & Computer Applications (CIT 101) on Mondays/Wednesdays from 9:40 to 11:05 a.m.
- Career Exploration and Life Planning (COUN 151) on Tuesdays/Thursdays from 9:40 to 11:05 a.m.
- College Composition and Research (ENGL 101) on Mondays/Wednesdays from 11:15 a.m. to 12:40 p.m.
- English as a Second Language (ESL 010) on Tuesdays/Thursdays from 5:25 to 6:50 p.m.
- Basic Mathematics (Math 020) on Tuesdays/Thursdays from 9:30 to 10:55 a.m.

- Elementary Algebra (Math 050) on Tuesdays/Thursdays from 11:15 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.
- Introductory Psychology (PSY 101) on Mondays/Wednesdays from 9:40 a.m. to 11:05 a.m.
- Public Speaking (SPCH 101) on Mondays/Wednesdays from 11:15 a.m. to 12:40 p.m.

The Center is located at 14307 Telegraph Road in Whittier. A grand opening celebration for the new facility is scheduled for September 10. For more information on the Center or to enroll there, please call (562) 941-2356.

For more information on these classes, contact Jennifer Lee at (562) 463-4606.

Continuing Education Classes

- Medical Transcription (SWEC 101), available as an online course on Wednesdays/Fridays.
- Introduction to Microsoft Word (SWEC 103), available as an online course on Wednesday/Fridays.

For more information on these classes, contact Jennifer Lee at (562) 463-4606.



The South Whittier Educational Center will be located on the Los Angeles County "STARS" Administration Facility Campus in South Whittier

New Learning Resource Center Becomes the 'Heart of the Campus'

To celebrate the completion of the long-awaited Learning Resource Center (LRC), the College hosted a grand opening and ribbon-cutting for the large new facility in August. The beautiful new LRC is a two-story, 94,000 square-foot facility that houses new reference, resource and educational spaces, distance learning and other classroom space, as well as a multi-media resource center that can be used by all members of the Rio Hondo College community.

The grand opening and ribbon-cutting event included a welcome by Superintendent/President, Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., remarks by others involved in the project, a student representative, musical entertainment as well as construction highlights for the \$40.7 million project. Informational tours of the two-story building were held after the ribbon-cutting so participants could get up-close and personal with the new facility and all it has to offer.

Part of Rio Hondo's Building Access and Excellence building program, the LRC, which was approved for construction in 2004, is the program's first major classroom building to be completed. The Building Access and Excellence program was designed to improve facilities and learning environment for Rio Hondo students.

"The Learning Resource Center is one of several recent facilities improvements at Rio Hondo College, but it is truly a 'signature' building for the campus and central to the enhanced learning environment," said Dr. Martinez. "We are pleased with the outcome and commend those involved in the two-years of planning and construction. Of course, we are most appreciative to our community for their support in passing the Measure A facilities bond that made it all possible."

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LRC Earns 'Green Building' Certification

The new Rio Hondo College Learning Resource Center, one of the major buildings on the Rio Hondo campus, recently achieved a Silver LEED certification from the Green Building Certification Institute (GBCI). The College received official word of the certification in late April. Along with 10 certificates for team members involved with the planning and construction of the LRC, the GBCI also provided Rio Hondo College with a plaque recognizing this accomplishment that will be prominently displayed in the building.

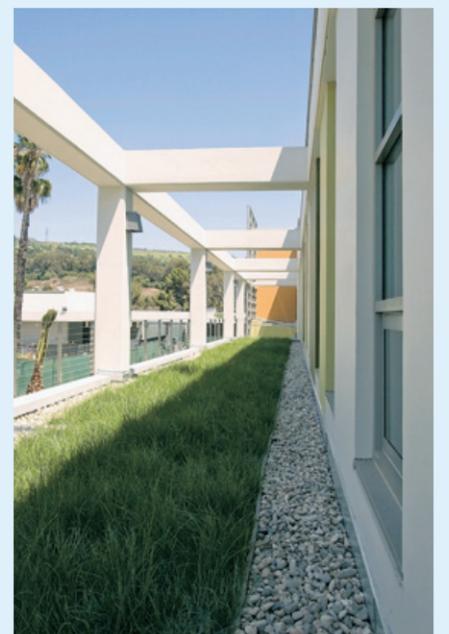
The award is the culmination of the project team's efforts to implement the U.S. Green Building Council's (USGBC) program for new sustainable buildings; LEED for New Construction. The LEED

NC rating system identifies performance standards that the College has followed during design, construction and on-going occupancy of the facility. The program's credits provided guidelines followed by the College and their design team to create environmentally sound, efficient, healthy and affordable spaces and supportive environments for a productive workplace. The Learning Resource Center was evaluated in five categories; Sustainable Sites, Water Efficiency, Energy and Atmosphere, Materials and Resources, and Indoor Environmental Quality.

Buildings evaluated under this system are assigned points for how well they meet each criterion. The number of points the project earns determines the level of LEED Certification the project receives;

the four LEED levels being, from highest to lowest, platinum, gold, silver and certified. The LRC earned 35 points exceeding the minimum of 33 points to achieve the Silver rating.

"The LEED evaluation process is a very thorough and strenuous one. To earn a Silver LEED certification is a great achievement for any institution," said Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent/President. "We are quite pleased to have earned a Silver LEED certification, and are especially pleased to boast such a beautiful, and environmentally conscious, building such as the Learning Resource Center. Not only does this new facility provide an enhanced learning environment for our students, it is environmentally responsible as well."



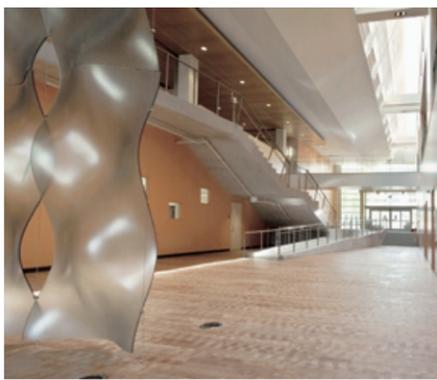
Measure A Building 'Access & Excellence' Program

In early 2004 Rio Hondo College began a major modernization and facilities construction program aimed at improving the Rio Hondo campus, image and surrounding community. At the start of the program, the administration developed a master plan to define the goals, budget, quality and schedule of the improvements to be made. The community expressed its support for the improvement program later that year by voting in favor of Bond Measure "A" to provide \$245 million in facilities funds - money that is separate from the general fund and can only be used on construction-related expenses.

Since then much progress has been made. Projects such as the Pedestrian Bridge, the Santa Fe Springs Regional Public Safety Training Center and the new Maintenance Building have been completed, while still more have passed the design phase and are currently under construction. It is an exciting time at Rio Hondo as the master plan forged more than six years ago comes to fruition and the Bond funds voted on by the community have begun to make great strides toward making Rio Hondo a better place.

COMPLETED PROJECTS

LEARNING RESOURCE CENTER: One of the focal points of the massive undertaking, the Learning Resource Center houses a modern library, training and meeting rooms, writing and reading labs and a media center. The completion of the project has provided students and faculty alike with new state-of-the-art facilities to teach, learn, and progress in.



PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE: A popular project, the pedestrian bridge was completed and connects Parking Lot A with the campus at the Applied Technology Building courtyard. Its completion improved mobility, allowing both faculty and students to cross above Circle Drive safely.



APPLIED TECHNOLOGY BUILDING: Another project that has been completed is the modernization of the Applied Technology Center. The existing 40,000-square foot facility has been renovated and expanded to meet the curriculum requirements for training tomorrow's automobile technicians. New equipment, including dynamometers and vertical lifts, have been installed along with welding, painting and engine performance diagnostic units. The completed facility provides the ability to train students in alternative fuel technologies such as hybrids, electric and future hydrogen powered vehicles.

CENTRAL PLANT: A new facility sure to enhance the experience of the entire Rio Hondo community, the recently completed Central Plant provides new cooling towers, new chillers and new boilers



to upgrade the campus HVAC system. The plant also allows for future expansion as Rio Hondo College continues to grow and flourish.

CAMPUS WIDE INFRASTRUCTURE: A campus-wide improvement, the Infrastructure project included upgraded utilities throughout the campus and installed new electrical service and new feeds. It also provides chilled and hot water lines, installed new communications and fiber optics, as well as installed a new gas service.

CURRENT CONSTRUCTION

THE CAMPUS QUAD RENOVATION: A central location on the Rio Hondo Campus, the Campus Quad is currently being constructed to improve paths for pedestrians and serve as an easy connection between campus elevations. The Quad will include native and drought tolerant plants and stairs and ramps that will improve the experience of walking on the Rio Hondo Campus.

ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE BUILDING: A "gateway" project for Rio Hondo, the three-story Administration of Justice Building will provide distinct functions on each floor to serve both cadet and non-cadet students as well as house the appropriate faculty offices to serve the needs of students. In addition, the building will include a weight training and shower/locker facility and an assembly area, which will be used for formation of drills and outdoor training.



STUDENT SERVICES BUILDING: One of the largest undertakings at Rio Hondo, coupled with the Campus Quad and Students Union Building projects, the Student Services Building is being constructed in the upper campus and will house the offices of service programs for Rio Hondo. The building will also hold the offices of such departments as Financial Aid and Counseling.

STUDENT UNION BUILDING: Located in the upper quad area, the Student Union Building will house the Student Union offices, the Activities Center, the new Campus Dining Commons and an outdoor space for dining. Along with the Campus Quad and Student Services Building, the Student Union Building is sure to enhance the experience of students and faculty alike at Rio Hondo.

IN DESIGN

PHYSICAL EDUCATION COMPLEX: Sure to enhance Rio Hondo's physical edu-

cation curriculum, the new Physical Education Complex will include a 41,000 square-foot space that will include an area for weight training, a new competitive swimming pool and an adjacent instructional pool, team rooms, a new locker facility and staff offices. In the tradition of Rio Hondo's green building, the facility will also seek Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) certification upon its completion.

"BLUE LIGHT" EMERGENCY PHONES: In an effort to ensure the safety and well-being of Rio Hondo students, employees and visitors, plans are underway to install emergency phones in various locations around the campus to provide a means of communications directly to the campus security force in case of an emergency. After study and review sessions involving civil engineers, faculty members and students, approximately 27 locations have been chosen around the campus to install the state-of-the-art phone systems.

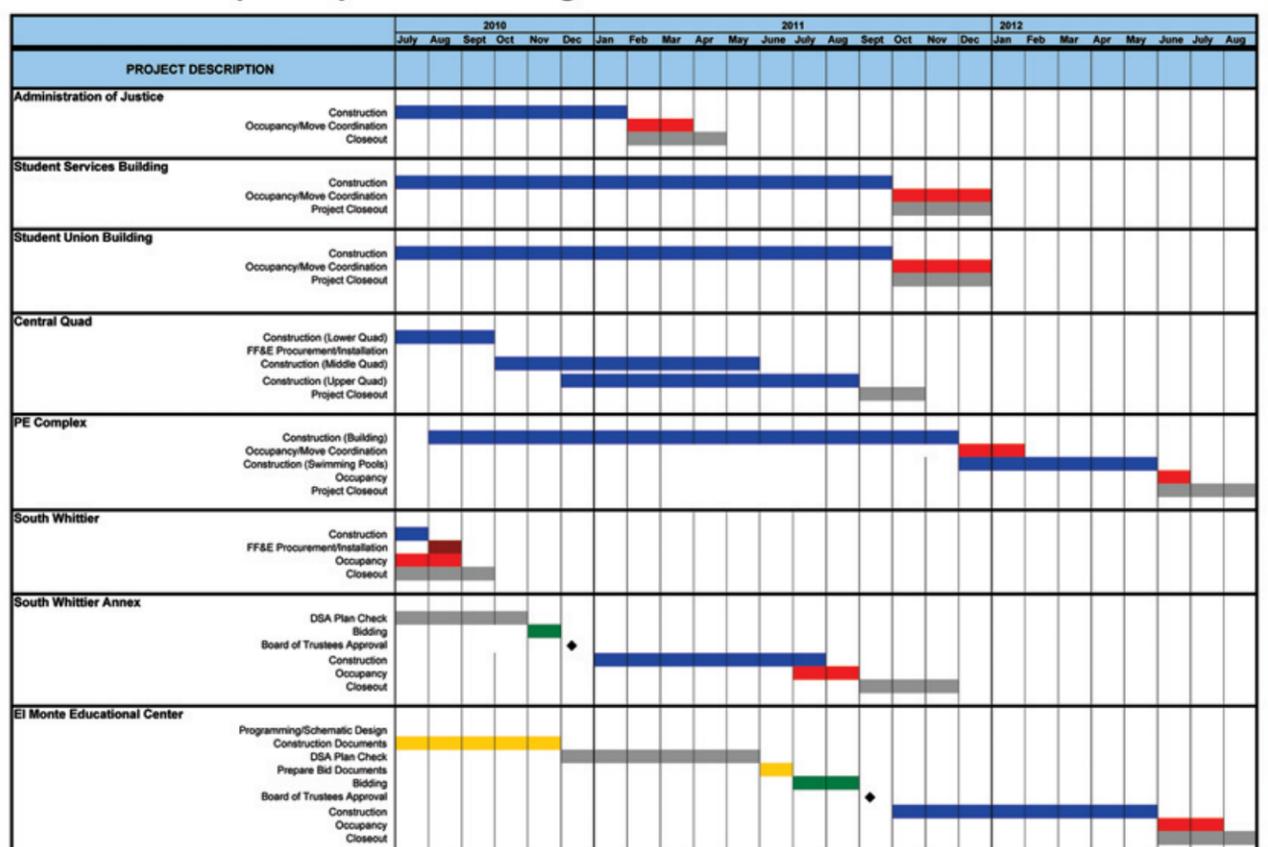
COMMUNITY PROJECTS

THE SOUTH WHITTIER EDUCATIONAL CENTER: One of the many ways Rio Hondo works to aid and support its communities, the South Whittier Educational Center will offer a new satellite center classroom building, bringing Rio Hondo College classrooms to South Whittier. Located on the L.A. County Sheriff's Department "STARS" Administration Facility Site, the Center will be used to offer a variety of teaching programs to the community and will offer classrooms and a courtyard for student and staff use. The site is located at 14307 Telegraph Road in Whittier.



EL MONTE EDUCATIONAL CENTER: With a concept and design similar to that of the South Whittier Educational Center, the El Monte Educational Center project aims to construct a new building structure with four Rio Hondo Classrooms, a courtyard, two offices and restrooms. The site of the new classroom facility is on Tyler Avenue in El Monte.

Rio Hondo College
Measure "A" Capital Improvements Program Schedule



Three New Building Program Projects Create A New Campus Hub

Quad Plaza Project Reworks Landscape, Includes Student Services Complex Buildings

Once the infrastructure projects and Learning Resource Center building were complete, the campus was 'prepped' for the next phase in the building project. Tons of earth was removed in December and January, literally laying the 'groundwork' for the beginning of construction of the long-awaited Student Services Building and the Student Union Building, as well as the renovation of the College's Central Quad Plaza.

During this phase of construction, pedestrians are using detour routes through Campus. Demolition of the old pedestrian ramp and the lower quad is nearly complete.

The Student Services Building, which will house the offices of student service programs, will consist of three floors, each having a distinct function with departments such as Student Financial Aid, Counseling, Admission and Records, Veterans and several federal, state and local programs and more. The 35,000-square foot project is expected to be completed in June 2011 and has a projected cost of \$12.5 million.

An adjacent companion building is the new Student Union Building, which will also be located in the quad area, and will house the Student Union Offices, the Activities Center, a new Campus Dining Com-

mons and an outdoor space for dining. The 12,000-square foot project is expected to be completed in October 2011 and has a projected cost of \$7 million. The former student union facility, known as The Putnam Center, was demolished to make way for the new Learning Resource Center.

The renovation of the Central Quad Plaza will provide expanded opportunities for student and faculty interaction, new areas for outdoor dining and additional space for organized functions. The 170,000-square foot project is expected

to be completed in Fall 2011 and has a projected cost of \$3.75 million.

These three projects are all part of Rio Hondo's Building Access and Excellence building program. Completed projects include the Learning Resource Center, the pedestrian bridge, Campus infrastructure, central plant, and construction of the Santa Fe Springs Regional Public Safety Training Center. The Building Access and Excellence program was designed to improve facilities and learning environment for Rio Hondo students.



Student Services Building, viewed from Parking lot B



Campus Quad near the Learning Resource Center



Student Union Building and the New Upper Quad

Rio Hondo College Foundation Past President Sylvia Southerland Receives Prestigious Award

Sylvia Southerland received the Distinguished Service Award from the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees in recognition for her outstanding contributions to the community. Southerland formerly served as President of the Rio Hondo College Foundation and currently serves as Immediate Past-President on the Foundation's Executive Board. She has served on the Board for approximately 13 years.

A 30-year employee with Southern California Edison, Southerland is currently the Regional Public Affairs Manager for the communities of Downey, La Habra Heights, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, Whittier, Norwalk and La Mirada. Her responsibilities include the management of all phases of company/customer business as well as political and civic activities that establish and maintain positive relationships with civic, community, business and government leaders.

As a member of the Rio Hondo College Foundation, Southerland has supported the College and its students by advocating for Rio Hondo College both at Southern California Edison and throughout the community. In her time with the Foundation, Edison has provided \$100,000 for scholarships for green jobs, which was matched by the Osher Foundation, creating a \$150,000 endowment for Rio Hondo College Student Scholarships. Edison has also supported all three of the President's Galas and is a major sponsor of the Foundation's Annual Golf Tournament.

"Rio Hondo could not be the exemplary institution it is without the generosity and support from our community," said Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent/President. "Sylvia has and continues to play an integral part in developing such important support, and we take pride in acknowledging her dedication to the College and to the communities we serve."



Arts and Culture Performances Spotlight Student Talent

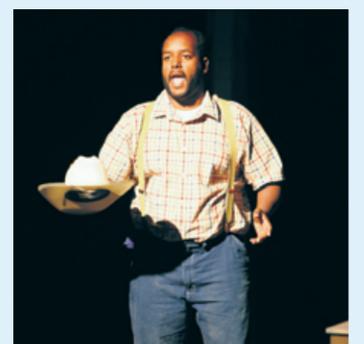
Over the 2009-10 year, the College's Division of Arts & Cultural Programs showcased a multitude of talent in the areas of art, lecture, music, theatre, dance and family events. All performances and events were free and open to the public.

Highlights from the year include:

- Doppelganger, Art Exhibit
- Under the Stars, Art Exhibit
- Gregorio Luke, Lecture Series
- Michael Duncan, Lecture Series

- The Halloween Magic-Lantern Show, Theatre
- The Diviners, Theatre (pictured)
- Evening of Dance, Dance
- The Understudies - Ten West, Family Event
- The Story of the Frog Belly Rat Bone, Family Event

For more information on the 2010-11 calendar of events, please call the Cultural Events hotline at (562) 908-3492.





AccessRIO Helps Students Connect to Their Info and College Resources, Better, Faster

In the spring, Rio Hondo College launched its AccessRIO Student Information Program, thereby eliminating waiting in lines or using touchtone phones to register for classes. With the new program, everything may be accomplished with a computer from any location. Moving thousands of student information paper files to the electronic system was accomplished over a three-year period and now provides students with faster access to their educational information and resources.

The transition to utilize the new AccessRIO program has been relatively smooth. As with any massive data transformation and shift to a new system, users had questions and some preferred assistance as

they learned the new ropes. Rio Hondo College President and administrative team staffed "Registration Help Centers" to provide help adding classes, finding open classes, and completing the registration process for the new semester. Computer labs with technicians also provided assistance.

New online services at Rio Hondo College this year include:

■ **CCC APPLY** - From a direct link on the www.riohondo.edu website, prospective students are able to apply to Rio Hondo College online, virtually eliminating the need to wait in line or deal with paper applications. Used by many California Community Colleges, CCC Apply helps make the application process easier for new and current students who are returning after an absence.

■ **ACCESSRIO STUDENT INFO PROGRAM** - This offers online resources to students and staff in the areas of admissions, registration and student records.

AccessRIO allows students to accomplish their educational objectives

online, when their schedule allows. Available 24 hours/7 day a week, this gives students the opportunity to search for open classes, add or drop classes, view wait lists for full classes, check their student email accounts - and much more.

■ **ENROLLMENT AND DEGREE VERIFICATION** - Provides students with an efficient way to verify their enrollment, and degree accomplishments. Designed to provide faster and more secure service when students need to provide evidence of enrollment and degrees awarded, the system is managed by the National Student Clearinghouse while also maintaining the confidentiality and privacy of student records.



What's Next?

Rio Hondo College will soon add an internal 'intranet' portal (AccessRIO Portal) for students and employees to use to communicate. Another online service to be offered soon is DegreeWorks, a way for students and their counselors to better chart and assess their degree paths and progress.

Community Participates in Web Focus Groups

The Rio Hondo College website will also be undergoing modification, with streamlined channels for various external and internal users. In order to best meet the needs of those users, the College held a series of community-based focus groups to assess preferences for web content and navigation.

The groups included: business/professional community representatives; adults who are not current Rio Hondo College students; high-school juniors; and current stu-

dents. Additionally, employees of the College who have had, or who may have a role in the development/management of area-specific portions of the web site participated in a similar session to provide content management input and to experience the data collection process. A second session for employees will be held in the fall.

Once the data is analyzed, the College will have a road map to use in making design, content and navigational decisions for a revamped web site.



Student Jared Lodico Earns JPLUS Honor, Headed Toward UCLA

When exploring the demographics of community colleges it becomes very clear that student populations are diverse, especially when it comes to age. Rio Hondo students, being of no exception, often range in age from early adulthood to senior citizens. But few students find themselves at Rio Hondo College at as young an age as Jared Lodico, who first began taking classes at Rio Hondo at the age of 13.

He enrolled in the College's Dual Enrollment Program (DEP). "The DEP was great. It allowed me to enroll in Rio Hondo classes while still in high school. Those classes really helped me to find what I was good at and wanted to do with my future."

For his first two years at Rio Hondo, Jared paced himself, enrolling only part-time in Rio classes, but by his third year,

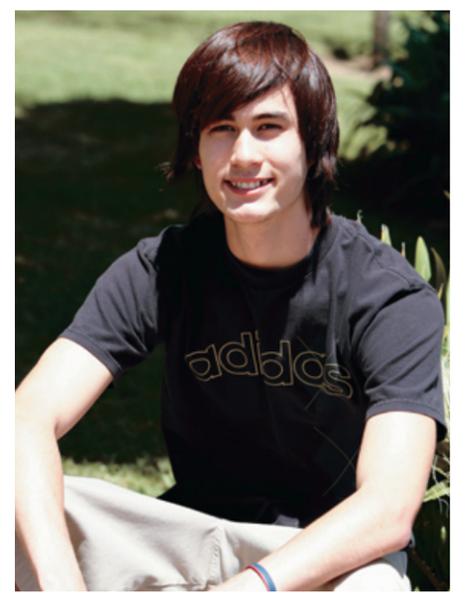
Jared began attending Rio Hondo full-time, earning his Associate Degree in Liberal Arts by age 16.

"Jared is an exceptional student and has been a joy to teach," said Rio Hondo Physics Professor, Vann Priest, Ph.D. "I often forget that he is much younger than nearly all of his peers. His intellectual maturity combined with his work ethic and his inquisitiveness makes him one of the best students I have ever had."

That intellectual maturity and work ethic has also earned Jared recognition outside of the Rio Hondo community. In May, Jared was named a Jet Propulsion Laboratory Undergraduate Scholar (JPLUS). The honor is bestowed upon students who have attained stellar academic achievement and have demonstrated the capacity to make original contributions to their

field of study. Only about 25 to 30 students, from 30 community colleges surrounding the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, are awarded the honor each year. Nominated by Dr. Priest, Jared is now eligible to take part in a unique training program that will prepare him to apply for a summer research fellowship at either Caltech or the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) in Pasadena.

Now, at the age of 18, Jared has completed his general-education courses at Rio Hondo College and is ready to attend the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) in the fall to further pursue his interest in physics. He will enter as a junior. He was also recently selected to receive one of 40 major scholarships UCLA offers entering transfer students. He hopes to one day become an alternative energy sources researcher.



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- ▶ Online courses follow the same semester calendar, registration process and registration cost as on-campus courses
- ▶ You communicate with your instructor and classmates via email and/or through online discussions

FIND OUT MORE AT

<http://www.riohondo.edu/eservice/index.htm>

Faculty Profiles: Here's A Brief Introduction To Some Of Rio Hondo College's Faculty Members

■ KATHERINE LOPEZ

Katherine Lopez, M.S.N., P.H.N., R.N., has always had a passion for helping others and because of that, decided teaching nursing was the perfect profession for her. She has taught for the Vocational Nursing and Associate Degree Nursing programs at Rio Hondo College since 2005. She lectures on nursing fundamentals, orthopedics, gerontology and genitourinary. She also instructs a variety of clinics for both programs.

Kathy is the first person in her family to graduate from college. She received her bachelor's degree in Nursing from Azusa Pacific University, and a master's degree in Nursing, with an emphasis in education, from the University of Phoenix.

Kathy previously worked for Intercommunity Hospital in Covina, Methodist Hospital of Arcadia and Mt. San Antonio College. She has also been a National Association of Hispanic Nurses (NAHN) member since 2002. She serves as co-board member for membership for the Los Angeles Chapter. In addition to being affiliated with NAHN, she also belongs to The Sigma Theta Tau Society.

"I love the opportunity to introduce my students to the world of nursing," she said. "It is incredibly rewarding to work at Rio Hondo College and do what I do."

■ MATTHEW PITASSI

Matthew Pitassi understands that math-

ematics can be academically challenging, but likes nothing more than seeing his students grasp the subject. Currently, Pitassi is a full-time Mathematics Instructor at Rio Hondo College and has taught here since 2006. He currently teaches Beginning Algebra, Intermediate Algebra, Statistics and Pre-Calculus.

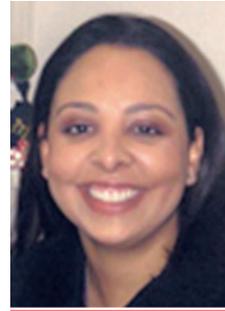
Matthew received both his bachelor's of science degree in mathematics and his master's of science degree in applied statistics from Cal State Long Beach.

Prior to his teaching at Rio Hondo College, Matthew worked in public education for eight years at both the middle and high school levels.

Matthew said he appreciates his students' hard work above everything. "I enjoy seeing students make the sacrifice of time and effort to accomplish their academic goals, especially in mathematics. Math is hard, but it can be rewarding for those who are willing to work for it."

■ RON REEDER

Ron Reeder, an accomplished artist, decided to teach art because he wanted to share his experience and passion for art with students. An assistant art professor at Rio Hondo College, he began teaching here in the Spring of 1989. Over his tenure at Rio Hondo, Ron has taught Two-and Three-Dimensional Design as well as Drawing, Introduction to Art, Gallery Design



Katherine Lopez



Matthew Pitassi



Ron Reeder



Shelly Spencer

and Mural Production among others.

Ron earned an associate degree from Rio Hondo College in 1969 and then received his bachelor's of arts and master's of arts degrees from Cal State Fullerton.

Ron has taught on several other college campuses, such as Cal State Fullerton, Marymount Weekend College, Fullerton Community College, East Los Angeles Community College and Cerritos College.

Ron clearly has a passion for art and teaching art to his students. "Like most teachers, I love seeing the students connect with the subject," he said. "That is so exhilarating to see that light come on in the students and to see them progress. There is nothing better."

■ SHELLY SPENCER

Shelly Spencer believes there is no better feeling than helping students along their

academic paths. An assistant biology professor at Rio Hondo College, she has taught here since 2006. She currently teaches human anatomy and human physiology.

Shelly received her associate degree in liberal arts from the University of Hawaii at Honolulu Community College and both her bachelor's of science and master's of science degrees in biology from Cal Poly Pomona.

Prior to her teaching at Rio Hondo College, Shelly taught a variety of courses at various institutions such as Cal Poly Pomona, Mt. San Antonio College and the Western Graduate School of Nursing.

Shelly said working with students is her favorite part of teaching. "The opportunity to help students reach their academic goals by helping them get to the next level provides me with tremendous satisfaction."

Roadrunner Teams & Athletics Show Might

The 2009-10 season was outstanding for Rio Hondo Roadrunners! Highlights include:

TEAM ACHIEVEMENTS

Baseball

- Made State Finals for the first time in College and Conference History
- Finished No. 3 in the state
- Took second place in the Foothill Conference
- Made sixth straight playoff appearance

Softball

- Took third place in Foothill Conference
- Made a 13-game improvement over previous year

INDIVIDUAL ACHIEVEMENTS

- Brittany Gallegos, Softball - First Team All Conference
- Analina Laezza, Softball - First Team All Conference
- Alyssa Ramirez, Softball - First Team All Conference
- Ciara Campos, Softball - Second Team All Conference
- Vanessa Chavez, Softball - Second Team All Conference
- Victor Soto, Baseball - First Team All Conference
- Alley Lovino - Dancer of the Year
- Destiny Padilla - Dancer of the Year
- Willie Lopez, Men's Soccer - MVP Foothill Conference
- Alex Marin, Women's Soccer - MVP Foothill Conference

COACH OF THE YEAR

- Karen Unger, Women's Tennis

STUDENT ATHLETES OF THE YEAR

- Christina Jacobo, Women's Volleyball - Female Student Athlete of the Year
- Maurice Cole, Men's Basketball - Male Student Athlete of the Year



Interim Athletics Dean Selected

Steve Hebert was recently selected to serve as Interim Dean of Physical Education for Rio Hondo College. He will be replacing Rory Natividad, who accepted a position at El Camino College in Torrance.

Hebert has served as the Head Coach for the Men's Basketball team since 2001. In that time, he has also served as a full-time professor, teaching classes such as Personal Health and Contemporary Issues in Sports and Athletics. He has also participated in several committees (Curriculum, Academic Senate, Academic Services Subcommittee, Foothill Conference Voting Rep) while working at the College and currently is President Elect (2011-2013) of the Executive Board for the California Community College Men's Basketball Coaches Association.

Prior to working at Rio Hondo College, Hebert served as the Athletic Director for Don Lugo High School in Chino. He has worked in the California public education system since 1985.



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