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President's Message



Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

We have been hoping for some definitive information regarding the State budget.

It is regrettable that we have nothing certain to report at this time except that the Legislature has determined that student fees will increase by no less than an additional \$10 per unit effective Fall semester, 2011 – an increase from \$26 per unit to \$36 per unit beginning in fall, 2011. The student fee increase will not apply to Summer, 2011. Fortunately, the Federal government is maintaining the current maximum Pell Grant level of \$5,500 but has eliminated the year-round Pell Grant provision.

Budget projections include scenarios of cuts between \$400 and \$800 million for the upcoming fiscal year (2011-2012). However, these are only scenarios. If you would like to learn more about the projected impact of the potential scenarios, you may review the information prepared by the Community College League of California at www.ccleague.net/district-budget-impact. Please remember that community

college districts are independent entities – our solutions to budget cuts may differ from projections made by others.

Please be advised that our goal continues to be to maintain class offerings at the present level as long as possible. Toward that end, I encourage everyone to be cost-conscious and diligent in order to preserve employment and our academic programs.

Our Leadership Planning Retreat is a good example of the way we integrate planning processes. Approximately 80 members of campus constituency groups came together to review institutional accomplishments and to set goals and objectives for the coming year. This year, they were joined by the members of the Leadership Academy cohort.

I appreciate everyone's role in the planning process, which helps us identify priorities and to forge the most effective and efficient ways to sustain our institutional integrity during these difficult times.

Commencement is rapidly approaching. It is our annual opportunity to celebrate our students and their success. My thanks and appreciation to all who work collaboratively to make this important ceremony such a flawless event.

Women's Basketball Team Hosts Basketball Clinic to Benefit Whittier Boys & Girls Club

Rio Hondo College and the Boys and Girls Club of Whittier hosted a basketball clinic Saturday, April 16 to benefit local children. The clinic took place from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The free clinic was available for all children.



Board Meeting

The Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees held its regular monthly meeting April 13 on the College campus.



Computer Information Technology Professor Dr. Shin Liu made a presentation to the Board of Trustees regarding the annual Imagine Cup Competition. For the past three years, Computer & Information Technologies (CIT) students have participated in Imagine Cup, which is sponsored by Microsoft. The only community college participating, Rio Hondo College students submit their class projects to the software competition. In 2009, Dr. Liu highlighted how Rio Hondo College students were selected as National Finals in the competition. She also introduced the 2011 Imagine Cup team, made up of Rio Hondo College students, to the Board of Trustees.



Student Spirit Displayed at Weeklong RiOlympics

Opening Ceremonies kicked off the 11th annual RiOlympics at Rio Hondo College on April 12. The theme "Gladiators" encouraged student club members on campus to participate in the weeklong schedule of friendly competition and excitement.

Students from more than 25 clubs participated this year in mental and physical challenges and competed for points. Monetary prizes were given to the team with the most points for challenge victories, spirit shown and more. The first place team was Stop Genocide Club, who won \$600 to benefit their club projects.

Rio Hondo College hosts education leaders from China

Sixteen college presidents from Yunnan Province visit CTE programs

Rio Hondo College hosted sixteen education leaders from China on Tuesday, March 22. The visiting group included CEOs of colleges and vocational schools from Yunnan Province of China.

"The purpose of their visit was to see first-hand the successful community college career technical education programs at Rio Hondo College," said Computer Information Technology professor, Dr. Shin Liu, who coordinated the visit.

The group was greeted by Rio Hondo College President/Superintendent Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., and CTE Dean Mike Slavich and all CTE professors. CTE professors gave presentations to their programs to the delegates at the board room. After the presentation, the group was led by Dean of CTE, Mike Slavich and Dean of Nursing, Connie Austin, toured the Nursing Simulation Center and Automotive Technology classes where they learned about the Health Occupation and technology programs at the college.



Rio Hondo College's CIT department prepares students to be valuable, productive workers in the business world. The areas of focus of CIT department are Office worker and Information Technology Professional. Students apply current technology into their projects and submit their class project for the software competition. Sponsored by Microsoft Corporation, Rio Hondo student have participated for the Microsoft software design competition, Imagine Cup, for the past three years. Four teams of Rio Hondo College's CIT department were selected as National Finals in 2009.

Rio Hondo College's Technology offer various programs that train students in the high demand skills and prepare them for employment in current or emerging occupations including automotive, Architectures, Drafting and GIS. The automotive program work with American Honda and Robert Bosch to provide students updated job Trainings.

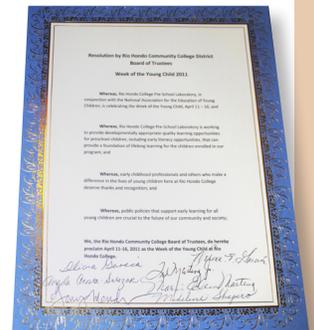
CTE Faculty at Rio Hondo College works with Industry leaders to assure students are using correct and accurate information. All CTE program are advised by Industry Advisory Committees for current industry trends.

The delegation was interested in Rio Hondo College's CTE program and eagerly asked questions about those areas.

Board of Trustees Pass Resolution Supporting 'Week of the Young Child'

Numerous studies have shown how important a child's early years are in providing a foundation to their success later in school and in life. At Rio Hondo College, nearly 100 preschool-age children are served daily at its Preschool Laboratory.

At its Board of Trustees Meeting on April 13, 2011, the Board of Trustees voted to pass a resolution to celebrate in conjunction with the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the "Week of the Young Child," which runs from April 11-16. The week, which has been celebrated nationally since 1971, was designed to emphasize how important a child's preschool years are to their overall development.



At Rio Hondo College, all preschoolers are between the ages of 3- and 4-years-old. Throughout the week, they participated in fun events, such as Crazy Hat Day and Bicycle Safety Day. The Preschool Laboratory serves children of Rio Hondo College students, faculty and staff as well as the community.

Faculty Advancement Recognized at Board of Trustees Meeting

Board of Trustees President, Maria Elena Martinez recognized Rio Hondo College faculty who were advanced by the Academic Rank Committee, during the April 13 meeting. Each faculty member who advanced was presented with a certificate in recognition of this important career milestone.

Those honored included:

Professor

Pam Boyd, Health Sciences & Nursing
Linda Brown, Arts & Cultural
Mary D. Clark, EOPS
Frances Cummings, Math and Sciences
Elaine Hemenway, Mathematics
Suzanne Tang, Health Sciences & Nursing
Julius B. Thomas, Counseling & Student Development
Steve Tomory, Career Technical Education



Associate Professor

Ada Brown, Arts & Cultural Programs
Kelli Florman, Public Safety
Lydia Gonzalez, Mathematics
Kelly Lynch, Behavioral & Social Sciences
Ann Mansolino, Arts & Cultural
Juan Mora, Behavioral & Social Sciences
Jill Pfeiffer, Behavioral & Social Sciences

Assistant Professor

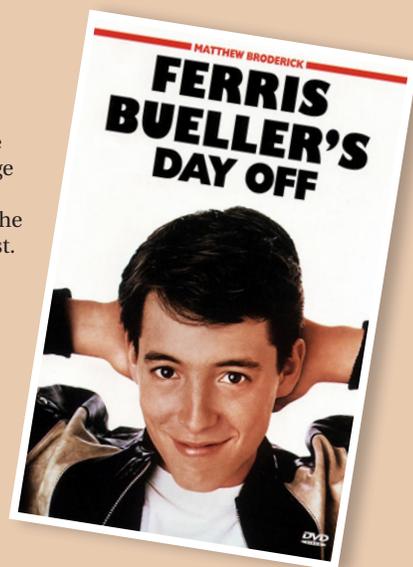
Patricia Luna, Health Science & Nursing
Robert Miller, Arts & Cultural
Ronald Reeder, Arts & Cultural
Jeronimo Ribaya, Math & Sciences
Lorraine Sfeir, Communications & Languages
Bianca Urquidi, Physical Education

'Ferris Bueller's Day Off,' Outdoor Cinema, Food and Fun Entertain Families at Rio

Rio Hondo College and Outdoor Cinema Food Fest presented a free movie night on the soccer field on April 16 for the Rio Hondo College community. The 1986 classic hit, "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" was featured on a 52-foot screen that stood three stories tall, making it the largest outdoor movie screen experience to be had on the west coast.

In addition to the film, gourmet food trucks were also present to create the ultimate picnic experience. Attending food trucks included Munchie Machine, Vesuvio, Kabob N Roll, Lake Street Creamery, Louks to Go and Dante's Fried Chicken.

"There is no better way to spend time than with your family," said Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent/President of Rio Hondo College. "This event not only provides a relaxing evening out for families, but it also offers the community we serve an opportunity to visit and enjoy a family-friendly event on our campus. We appreciate the coordination effort by the Division of Arts and Cultural Programs."



MESA Students Receive New Laptop Computers from California Connects

A total of 100 Mathematics, Engineering, Science, Achievement (MESA) students at Rio Hondo College were awarded laptops as part of a statewide program designed to increase digital literacy rates among underserved communities in California. The laptops, which are also being distributed to students at 32 other community colleges throughout the state, come fully equipped with state-of-the-art technology provided by many of today's top communications and technology companies, including Hewlett Packard, Microsoft, AT&T and Insight Technology Solutions.

The laptops were available thanks to California Connects, a federally-funded statewide program designed to increase digital literacy and broadband access among underserved communities. California Connects is funded by a \$10.9 million Broadband Technology Opportunities Program grant from the U.S. Department of Commerce's National Telecommunications and Information Administration. Approximately 3,000 students at community colleges throughout the state have earned laptop computers by agreeing to train others over the coming months. Rio Hondo College's 100 MESA students will be provided hands-on training through the Microsoft IT Academy Program, enabling them to educate others on how to gain access to and navigate the internet, utilize it for essential tasks such as securing gainful employment, exploring higher education opportunities, accessing health and finance resources, engaging with social networks and advancing their general quality of life.



Ultimately this effort will increase the number of broadband Internet users in California by more than 61,000 individuals by 2013. California Connects will be distributing a total of 3,000 laptops to MESA students at community colleges statewide. Over the next three years, a total of 5,800 laptops will be distributed.

For more information about California Connects and their efforts, visit www.CAconnects.org.

Dance Collective Performs at Southwest Regional American College Dance Festival

The Rio Hondo College Dance Collective was given the opportunity recently to display its talents at the 2011 Southwest Regional American Dance Festival, which was held in Long Beach. Ten members from the Dance Collective performed Joel Smith's *Sonata in G* at the festival and received praise for their strong skills and overall performance.

According to Rio Hondo College Dance Program Director, Alyson Cartagena, the Dance Collective not only received praise and feedback from the festival's judges, but also received accolades from the other 30 participating colleges and universities as well.

"It is wonderful for instructors from other colleges and universities to see and acknowledge the great work our students are doing," said Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., Rio Hondo College Superintendent/President. "In this case, these are the colleges and universities our students are hoping to transfer to ... to receive such praise definitely shows our team is on the right track."

Two Rio Hondo College Students Receive PTK Honors

Congratulations to Honors Students Carolyn Vera and Samuel Lopez on being named to the 2011 Phi Theta Kappa All-California Academic Team, which is sponsored by the international honor society, Phi Theta Kappa.

Phi Theta Kappa, two-year college presidents, and community college state associations co-sponsor All-State Academic Team recognition programs in 32 states. All-State recognition programs are most often held in the state capital with legislators, education leaders, and corporate leaders attending. All-State Team members receive special recognition including medallions, certificates, and oftentimes stipends and scholarships.

Each two-year college in California may nominate two students per campus to the All-USA Academic Team. Students from California nominated to the national team comprise the All-California Academic Team. Nominations are based on outstanding academic performance and service to the college and community.

Spring Sports Update

- Women's Tennis won the Conference Championships with an undefeated 8-0 record. This is Coach Karen Unger's 6th Conference Championship in her 10 years with the team (See photo below).
- Women's Track & Field Athlete Kim Dominguez is currently ranked No.1 in the conference and #7 in the state in the 5,000 meter run and carries a 3.81 GPA.
- Baseball is currently ranked No. 1 in both the state and the pacific baseball polls. Their record of 25-2 overall and 16-2 in conference are both state leaders. Player Andrew Mistone is ranked #1 in the state in both batting average (.472) and slugging percentage (.750).



'Writes of Spring' Celebrates Written Word

With featured performances by guest writers, faculty and students, Writes of Spring: A Celebration of Writers and Writing took place Wednesday, April 27 and Thursday, April 28 in Rio Hondo's Wray Theatre. The annual two-day event featured readings of works by both students and guest speakers.

Performances and presentations began each morning at 8:05 and finished each afternoon at 2:30 with a *River's Voice* Reading. *River's Voice*, a journal of art and literature published at Rio Hondo College as a joint effort of the Communications and Languages Division, Arts and Cultural Programs Division, ASO, and ASB, features original work by students, faculty, staff, and alumni of Rio Hondo College in five genres: poetry, short story, memoir, one-act drama, and visual art.

The schedule for this year's two-day festival included:

Wednesday, April 28

- 8:05 a.m. Andrew Utter (theatre)
- 9:40 a.m. Alex Espinoza (fiction)
- 11:15 a.m. Liza Bakewell (language/linguistics)
- 12:30 p.m. River Deep Student Film Festival
- 2:30 p.m. *River's Voice* Reading and Pizza Party

Thursday, April 29

- 8:05 a.m. alurista (poetry)
- 9:40 a.m. Ruben Martinez (fiction/journalism)
- 11:15 a.m. Jack Grisham (memoir/chaos)
- 12:30 p.m. River Deep Student Film Festival
- 2:30 p.m. *River's Voice* reading

All events were free and open to the public. For more information on the Writes of Spring Festival, including artist backgrounds, please visit www.riohondo.edu/commlang/writes/index.htm

