



PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

AUGUST 2008

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

Welcome back for the beginning of our 46th academic year.

We are poised to serve an ever-growing student population as we accommodate always-changing construction and circulation patterns. Soon, South Drive will be closed for infrastructure improvements to the Physical Education complex. Our 'Traffic Alert' information program is in its second year. Posters, flyers and direct-mail post cards help spread the word about the best routes for students to get to class. In addition, the web site and our e-messages keep us all well-informed.

I am pleased with the progress made this past year with our Strategic Plan, especially because it facilitates the work of our Planning and Fiscal Council. Student Learning Outcomes are well developed and assessment tools identified. I encourage everyone to keep moving forward to implement, assess and revise SLOs as necessary to provide the most responsible approach to student learning.

Our Accreditation Site Visit is scheduled in mid-October. Much has been accomplished to date, and there is more to come. Look for large posted copies of our Mission/Values statement around campus, as reminders to us all as to our purpose. There will be four opportunities to learn more about our Self Study Report September 9, 16, 23, and 30 in the Board Room at 12 – 1 p.m. Each session will focus on one of the four standards and will serve as a review for members of the committee and as information for anyone who wishes to attend. Also, I would like to commend Claudia Guerrero for her outstanding work on the Self Study document. Claudia's name was omitted from our article in the July issue.

Facilities construction is going according to plan, and I am pleased to report that we will have an opportunity to celebrate another milestone September 9, with the groundbreaking for the Technology Building Renovation at 10 a.m.

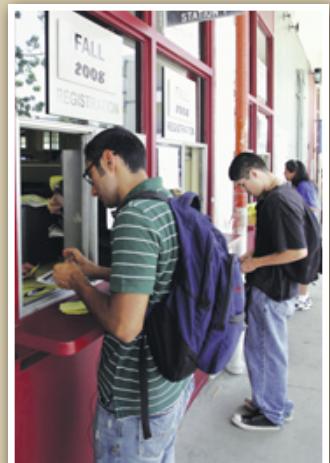
Have a great semester!

College Opens 46th Year to Eager Students Who are Taking More Units

Although the official first day of classes for Rio Hondo College's 46th year was Saturday, August 23, it was Monday, August 25 that signaled the beginning of classes for the majority of students who registered for the Fall semester. The College is experiencing an almost 4% increase in newly enrolled students as well as an increase in the overall units that are being taken by students.

Students were greeted by a variety of welcoming services, including water, maps and directions from volunteer staff driving the "Info Cart". In addition to outreach efforts directed to local high schools, the "Go Rio" program, which provides bus passes to Rio Hondo College students taking at least 12 units, made a return this fall. "Go Rio" passes are good on Metro, Norwalk Transit and Foothill Transit, Montebello Bus Lines and South Whittier's Sunshine Shuttle. The transit companies were all on site to give students information about how to plan their routes to the campus.

With construction activity in full swing, the President's Traffic Taskforce and the Program Management Team worked together to redirect traffic flow and mitigate inconvenience to the several thousand students who arrived on campus. President Ted Martinez, Jr. reported that by 8:15 a.m. eager students were on the campus



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August Board Meeting in South Whittier

The Board of Trustees and residents from the South Whittier community met in front of the Mayberry Park Senior Center to see an impressive display of Tai Crane Dojo of Mayberry Park, students who are instructed by Trustee Gary Mendez. After the demonstration, dinner was served and Dojo students received Rio Hondo College gift bags. The Rio Hondo College outreach team was on site to provide materials about the College to community members.



Trustee Mendez and the Board of Trustees recognized residents of South Whittier who have contributed to the success of the community: Mr. Butch Redman for his work as a volunteer and activist in South Whittier; Tim Rodriguez of Graves Middle School for his work in the community, and the Mayberry Park Staff for their hard work to offer quality programs and for generously hosting the Board Meeting.



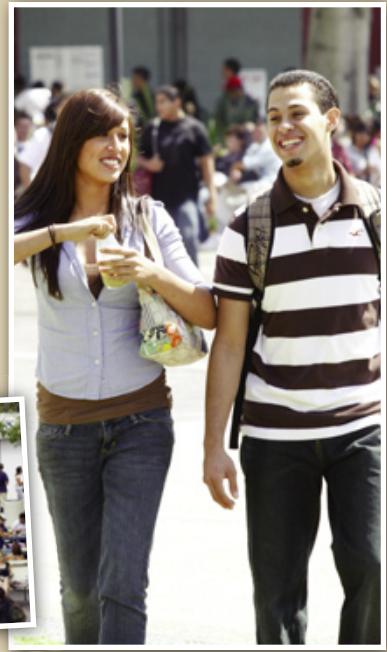
College personnel provided four presentations to the Board. Dr. Paul Parnell described the courses offered in South Whittier including Art, English, Public Safety, Spanish and Speech. There are also a variety of Community Services classes both credit and non-credit as well as several English as a Second Language courses.

Dr. Parnell also spoke about the progress that the College has made towards the upcoming site visit for the Reaffirmation of Accreditation, including presentation of the final Self-study document.

College Opens 46th Year *continued from previous page*

searching for ideal parking spaces. For those who were too late for prime upper campus lots, trams were running every five minutes to help ensure that their students would get to class. President Martinez boarded the tram, providing an opportunity to greet students and to learn how they were doing on their first day.

During the summer months, construction continued on major building projects, including the Library Learning Resource Center, the Central Plant and infrastructure projects. With maps available throughout the campus, on the website, and a mailing that went to all registered students about road closures and new routes, traffic flowed well throughout the day. The new Pedestrian Bridge in Lot A opened during the summer, facilitating access to the Upper Quad through the Technology Area.



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 turn out" 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 is a wonderful opportunity both for students and their families to become familiar with the Rio Hondo College campus," said Angela Acosta-Salazar, President of the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees. "Rio Hondo is here to serve our entire community and we know that education is a family affair."

"This event has become very important to the campus community," said Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent/President. "Our staff, managers, faculty, and students worked diligently to make this day very special for all who attend. It was both informative and fun."

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BOARD MEETING

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Russell Castaneda-Calleros shared the success of the 'Go Rio' program, including the fact that since the program started, three tons of vehicular emissions have been removed from the environment due to the use of public transportation by Rio Hondo College students. He reported that the College is also looking into the inclusion of the El Monte tram as a new partner in the program.



Howard Kummerman, Director of Grant Development, and Joshua Rosales, Research Specialist, reported to the Board about Institutional Benchmarks, using graphs to illustrate the progress of the College toward reaching institutional goals were approved by the Board of Trustees March.



The Board also approved budget augmentation for 2008-2009 for classified positions, and approved a variety of construction-related items.

The Board of Trustees also approved a wide range of consultant services; approved a grant award for High School Recruitment (HSR) Pilot Program Grant from First 5 LA in the amount of \$764,596; approved a Facilities Use Agreement with the City of Whittier Aquatics Center for use of its swimming pool, and approved an agreement for a student Media Preference Survey.

Fire Technology Academy Recipient of Santa Fe Springs Beautification Award

At the Santa Fe Springs City Council Meeting August 14, Rio Hondo College received a 2008 Beautification Award from the City for the Fire Technology Academy.

For more than 40 years, the Beautification Committee, comprised of residents in the City, has toured the community in an effort to locate and recognize homeowners and business owners that exhibit pride in the appearance of their property and a commitment to maintain it through meticulous landscaping.

"Rio Hondo College is honored to be recognized by the City of Santa Fe Springs," said Angela Acosta-Salazar, President of the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees. "Our collaboration with the City of Santa Fe Springs has always been very strong and this award for the renovation of the Fire Technology Building is a wonderful illustration of our win-win partnership."

The Rio Hondo Fire Technology site was renovated and expanded in 2007 with a Ribbon Cutting ceremony October 2007. The renovation created more usable spaces to accommodate increased classrooms and training areas. New irrigation was installed as well as new landscape design.

The City of Santa Fe Springs has recognized the transformation of this site and the beauty that it brings to the city. Rio Hondo College classified staff are responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the facility. According to Gus Gonzalez, Interim Director of Facilities, "Each of them plays an integral part in the receipt of this award and we are quite proud of our staff. They include Senior Ground Maintenance Workers Kalani Flores, Kevin Hill, Augie Luna, Richard Marino, Greg Romo and Ralph Romo. George Arsene, Lou Noriega, and Arturo Ochoa assist. Also pictured are George Lopez, Manager, Operations and Maintenance, and Gus Gonzalez, Interim Director of Facilities Services.



Rio Hondo Fire Technology Academy Coordinator Tracy Rickman, center, and Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr., Rio Hondo College Superintendent/President thanks members of the college grounds and maintenance crew for helping the Academy win the 2008 City of Santa Fe Springs Beautification Award. Crew members include Senior Ground Maintenance Workers Kalani Flores, Kevin Hill, Augie Luna, Richard Marino, Greg Romo and Ralph Romo. George Arsene, Lou Noriega, and Arturo Ochoa assist. Also pictured are George Lopez, Manager, Operations and Maintenance, and Gus Gonzalez, Interim Director of Facilities Services.

"The College is being re-invigorated by the *Building Access and Excellence* Building Program," said Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent/President. "An important goal is for the community to see that their Measure 'A' bond dollars are in the community, and that our facilities are well-kept. Our buildings are designed with the environment and budget in mind, while also being attractive. Their greatest value is that they enhance our presence in the community and showcase the educational opportunities Rio Hondo College offers."

The President Meets with Supervisor Don Knabe

Supervisor Don Knabe met with Rio Hondo College representatives at the South Whittier Off-Site Educational Center for an update on the proceeds and projects that resulted from Inaugural President's Gala. Knabe served as the Master of Ceremonies for the event last April. He received updates about the expanded veterans program at the College which include a veterans services office, an emergency loan program and a new newsletter.

Staff provided information about many new developments at the College, including work on the South Whittier Off-Site Educational Center.



Building Program Manager, Steve Massetti; Superintendent/President Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D.; Los Angeles County Supervisor, Don Knabe; Director of Government and Community Relations, Russell Castaneda-Calleros; Executive Director of the Rio Hondo College Foundation, Dr. Andy Howard.

Rio Hondo College “Wakes up” With Whittier Chamber of Commerce

More than 250 local business owners and employees came to breakfast in the Campus Inn August 13 for the Whittier Area Chamber of Commerce monthly networking event. The event was co-sponsored by the Rio Hondo College Foundation. More than 35 College employees participated and helped greet the visitors, many of whom serve on RHC advisory committees.



College President Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr., greeted the gathering, “It is always a pleasure to welcome the Whittier Area Chamber of Commerce to our hilltop campus. As you can see, we are making great progress here, and have the voters and you all to thank for passing Measure A in 2004! We are improving student access in many ways, as well as the learning environment.”

AWEsome Summer Enrollment

This was a landmark Summer at Rio Hondo College. The final headcount was 16,343, a 12 percent increase over 2007 as well as a 12 percent increase in units taken. Congratulations to the Rio Hondo College faculty, staff and administrators who helped so many students “Finish Faster!”

Office Move Advisory

As the renovation of the Applied Technology building gets underway and other construction projects throughout the campus begin, several offices will be moving into new digs. A map of the changes will be provided to all faculty and staff before school begins and signs will be posted throughout the campus. In an effort to make sure that everyone has this important information the following is a list of those changes.

- Applied Technology Offices-Room T-123
- El Paisano Newspaper-Room B-112
- GEAR UP program-Room CI-166 G&H
- Marketing and Communications -Room CI-165A
- Print Shop-Room L-11
- Grant Development and Management-Room L-400C
- Audio Visual -Room L-13D
- Flex Office-Room L-203
- Institutional Research and Planning-Room L-403
- MESA Program-Room S-223
- Veterans Affairs-Room CI-166 F&K
- Trio, Upward Bound and Student Support Services programs-Room CI-165

The Library Building will now be housing the following departments in these new locations:

- The Print Shop-Room L-11
- Grant Development and Management-Room L-400C
- The Audio Visual -Room L-13D
- Institutional Research and Planning-Room L-403
- The Flex Office-Room L-203

The Campus Inn Building will now be housing the following departments in these new locations:

- Veterans Affairs-Room CI-166 K
- The Trio, Upward Bound and Student Support Services programs-Room CI-165
- The GEAR UP program-Room CI-166 G&H
- Marketing and Communications -Room CI-165A

The Applied Technology Building will now be housing the following departments in this new location:

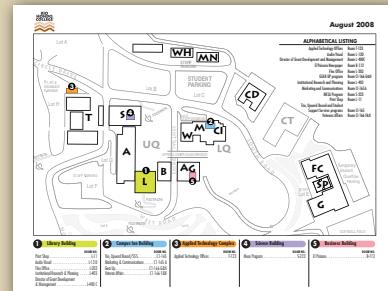
- The Applied Technology Offices-Room T123

The Science Building will now be housing the following departments in this new location:

- The MESA Program-Room S223

The Business Building will now be housing the following departments in this new location:

- El Paisano Newspaper-Room B112



Your patience and understanding is greatly appreciated as Rio Hondo College continues towards its goal of *Building Access and Excellence*.

Rio Hondo College Offers Book Rental Program



According to Henry Gee, Vice President of Student Services, Rio Hondo College will be offering students the opportunity to rent their books for 35% of the cost of buying the books. This is a huge advantage for students who are struggling to cover the costs of their textbooks. This program has been a collective effort from staff, students and Follett Corporation, which runs the Rio Hondo College Bookstore.

“There is still work to be done,” said Vice President Gee. “Eventually we would like rental books to be offered for every core class on campus. This is a great start and I am confident that as more faculty members become aware of the program we will be able to offer more books.”

The book rental program is just one of the ways that Rio Hondo College is trying to help students with the rising costs of textbooks. Last year the bookstore agreed to participate in a guaranteed buyback program. The bookstore would pay students 50% of the cover price of their textbooks as long as the textbook would remain the same for a minimum of three years. Several faculty members have already agreed to participate in the program and it continues to be a success.

Cristela Soloria Ruiz, Rio Hondo College Student Trustee, has been active in trying to get the program instated and is pleased that it will begin this year. “I think that this is a great program and I will be working with the ASB to make sure as many students as possible are aware that it is out there. Several of us have already visited classes to talk about the program,” said Soloria Ruiz. “College can be very expensive, especially textbooks, I think that this program is a great way for Rio Hondo students to be able to continue their education without so much financial pressure.”

Current courses that have rental textbooks are GEOL 150, HIST 1224, MGMT 101, BIOL 101, BIOL 111 and BIOL 120. This program is sponsored by the Associated Student Body Government and the Academic Senate. For information on how to participate, please contact Carrie Robinson at the RHC Bookstore at 562-692-0921 ext. 7343 or via e-mail at riohondobkstr@fhg.follett.com.



Elizabeth F. Coria Director, Financial Aid

Elizabeth Coria comes back to her Whittier roots as the Director of Financial Aid at Rio Hondo College. She was raised locally and is a graduate of Pioneer High School. She received a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration at Whittier College, and a Master's Degree in Management at the University of Redlands.

As she begins her new appointment, Elizabeth says, "Rio Hondo College is giving me the opportunity to serve my community and make a difference. As Financial Aid Director what better position could I fill where I could make a difference in a student's ability to accomplish educational goals?"

Most recently, Coria served as Administrator, Student Financial Services at Chaffey College, where she was responsible for the management and supervision of Financial Aid and Cashier's Office including offsite locations. She had also served Chaffey as Interim Financial Aid Supervisor and as Cashier's Office Supervisor. She has experience as an adjunct instructor there as well. Other prior experience included service as Financial Manager for ComNet Communications.



Longtime Dean of
Physical Education,
Ellie Bewley retires.

Rio Hondo College Dean Ron Christie Presents Photo Perspective on China

To commemorate both the Summer Olympics in China as well as Whittier's Sister City program with Changshu China, The City of Whittier Cultural Arts Commission and Sister City Committee is displaying *Impressions of China: The Photographs of Ron Christie*. The exhibit will be in the Whittier City Hall lobby August 8 through October 10.



Three educators from Whittier area schools traveled to Whittier's Sister City - Changshu in the Jiangsu Province of China in 2006 to conduct the "Changshu English Summer Camp" for approximately 90 public school teachers. The American educators included Ron Christie, Dean of Business and Economic Development at Rio Hondo College, Richard Gebhard, Principal of East Whittier Middle School and Raquel Gasporra, Principal of Orange Grove Elementary School.

They covered a variety of topics from American culture, history, politics, art, music, religion, sports and education. Christie, an avid fine-art photographer, documented his impressions of this fascinating country with his camera.

"I tried to record and convey my impressions of a very different culture," said Christie. "I consider myself an artist with a camera with a simple yet challenging mission; to illustrate the elements and principles of design (balance, texture, shape, repetition, color, light/shadow, etc.) with the subject matter that I discover. China presents a wealth of opportunities to do just that."

Changshu, "a place of all time harvest" is a county-level city under the jurisdiction of Suzhou, and is located in the south-eastern part of eastern China's Jiangsu Province as well as the Yangtze River Delta.

"This show reflects my perceptions of Changshu and Shanghai and I am hopeful will make the country and its culture more accessible for those that come to the show," said Christie.

Ron Christie has been a Dean at Rio Hondo College for three years.

Congresswoman Hilda Solis Keynotes GEAR-UP Opening Ceremonies

Rio Hondo College GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) hosted the Opening Ceremony for the Summer Residential Program at the Campus Inn. Congresswoman Hilda Solis was the featured speaker, sharing with students the importance of higher education and encouraging them to keep focused on a better future.

The GEAR UP program is a discretionary grant program designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. GEAR UP is structured to serve an entire cohort of students beginning no later than the seventh grade and following them through high school. Rio Hondo College has been tracking the success of the GEAR UP students and monitoring all aspects of their education starting at Madrid Middle School and now at Mountain View High School in El Monte.

The Summer Residential Program provides the opportunity for 50 GEAR UP students from Mountain View High School to live in the dormitories on the UC Irvine campus while taking an intensive Geometry and Algebra II readiness program. This experience is a key component of the GEAR UP program because it



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GEAR-UP

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allows the students to get a sense of what life is like on a college campus. The program lasts five days and is intended to intensify the interest in and understanding about the collegiate experience.

"Rio Hondo College and the Mountain View School District have made an investment in these students," said Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D. Superintendent/President. "If that investment makes post-secondary education a reality for them—then it has all been worth it. I am very grateful that Congresswoman Hilda Solis, a former member of the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees, will be here to help inspire and encourage our youth to stay in school."



4th Annual Rio Hondo College Golf Tournament Scheduled!



New Staff Introduced, Workshops Galore, and College Updates Focus of Fall FLEX 2008

Staff had an opportunity to meet 37 of the newest members of the Rio Hondo College employee family, learn more about the 'state of the college', and selected from among 20 Breakout Sessions August 22, the official kick off of the beginning of the College's 46th academic year.

The morning began with an early continental breakfast during which time a PowerPoint presentation introduced new faculty, staff and administrators. Thanks to Rachel Garcia, Sylvia Viramontes and Alice Tirre for their teamwork to capture photos and produce the slide show.

Katie O'Brien, Staff Development and FLEX Coordinator opened the morning's general session. Members of the Governing Board were introduced, followed by Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr., College Superintendent/President, Beverly Reilly, Academic Senate President, and Lisa Sandoval, CSEA President, who provided a welcome and introduced new administrators, faculty, and classified staff, respectively. Dr. Martinez recognized Jennifer Fernandez, RHC Faculty Association President and Ernesto Zumaya, ASB President.

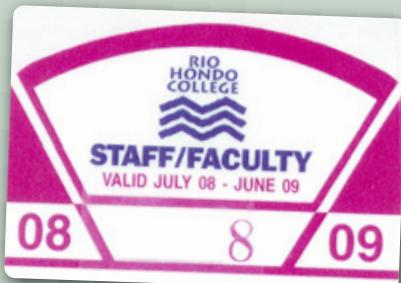
Dr. Martinez presented highlights of our accomplishments for 2007-2008, and the goals established for the coming year as part of the "State of the College" presentation. Campus updates followed, focusing on the approaching Accreditation Site Visit in October, and on Construction and Parking.



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Announcing A New Generation of Staff Parking Permits

Tired of the 'old' look in staff parking permits? Wonder if someone parking in a staff permit lot is really eligible to do so? Rio Hondo College Parking Services is announcing distribution of new parking permits for all faculty and staff. The new stickers inaugurate a transition to a system of re-issuing parking permits on an annual, fiscal-year basis.



According to Interim Director of Facilities Services Gus Gonzalez, "Our goal is to provide the greatest possible number of parking places for authorized faculty and staff. This new system will help us keep better track of the permits we issue, thereby reducing the number of unauthorized permit users, and maximizing available staff parking on our campus."

The new annual renewal system for parking permits is in its 'pilot' stage. Faculty who have been off campus during the summer months will have an additional 'transition' week to comply with the requirement to display the new parking sticker.

Gonzalez urges everyone to complete a new Vehicle Registration Card so Parking Services staff can process and issue new parking stickers. Flex Day offered an opportunity for faculty and staff who had not already done so to turn in their new Vehicle Registration Card.

As the conclusion of the Spring semester approaches in 2009, all faculty and staff will receive new Vehicle Registration Cards and new permits for the 2009-2010 fiscal year.

FLEX 2008 *continued from previous page*

Breakout sessions covered an infinitely wide range of topics:

- CPR/AED Training:
- Accreditation Update
- Construction/Parking Update
- "Get Healthy, Get Fit! Rio Hondo Fitness Center Orientation
- Becoming Sensitized to students suffering from PTSD
- Legislative and Advocacy Update
- Race & Ethnicity: More than just skin Color
- Tradition of Faculty Leadership
- Adapting Your Garden to Xeriscape
- Access Rio-Implementation Overview
- "Meet the Press – Who to Call and What to Do when the Reporter Calls or the Camera Crew Comes to your Door."
- Be a YouTube Star!
- Curriculum 101
- Misconceptions about Arab Muslims and Middle Easterners
- A brief History of Writing
- New Academic Senator Orientation: The Senate and the Numbers
- Recent Ideas on Working with Second Language Students – Notes from TESOL 2008
- Green Schools: Increasing Student Performance by Improving Environmental Aesthetics
- What can you do with a Chicana/o Studies Degree?
- Certificates and Degrees: Meeting the New Mandates

The traditional All Staff Lunch in the Upper Quad was hosted by the President's Office and the RHC Foundation. Everyone was treated to "Classic Sounds" with DJ Jerry Harr.

Division and Department meetings followed, providing specific information for each operational unit for final preparations for the first day of class!

Welcome Back!

Sending Rio Hondo College Kids Off to Kindergarten

The Rio Hondo College Child Development Center hosted a Family Picnic and 'Off to Kindergarten' Celebration Thursday evening, August 14 at the Child Development Center. The party honored all of the children from the College's Center who are heading off to school this Fall. Director Norayma Cabot reports that about 250 children and family members were present. Everyone brought their own picnic baskets of goodies enjoy during the celebration.

Construction Milestones

