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President's Message



Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

By now, everyone is back in the swing of a very busy fall semester, the beginning of our 47th academic year. I hope everyone has had a good summer. As you know, many of our colleagues, faculty and staff alike, worked throughout the summer months to help serve more than 9,000 students who opted to take summer session classes. Fall registration began in mid-July, bringing a steady stream of students enrolling for fall.

Thanks to everyone in Admissions, Counseling, Financial Aid and in every other area helping students enroll what will surely be our greatest number of students. We anticipate serving more than 25,000 students this semester.

We continue to serve as many students as possible, offering a full selection of classes in the fall schedule. Vice President Dreyfuss is working to prepare a final budget for 2009-2010 for adoption by the Board of Trustees in September. We are receiving disappointing news about the amount of Federal funds that may be available to partially offset cuts in categorical funding. It is a confusing budget year, at best.

I am pleased that we have added new degrees to this year's catalog, resulting in greater opportunities for students to earn an associate degree even if they plan to transfer. I encourage everyone to continue your efforts to develop more associate degrees, especially in the core curriculum areas. We do not offer as many opportunities to earn associate degrees as most community colleges of comparative size. I understand there are additional degrees in the curriculum pipeline and wish to thank those who are championing those efforts.

Kudos to everyone whose efforts culminated in a greatly enhanced Book Rental Program this year. Last year's pilot program grew into nearly 30 titles this year. With savings of more than 55 percent off the retail price, our students are certainly the beneficiaries of such creative work. Thanks to Vice President Henry Gee, members of the faculty and the ASB for their efforts.

We are in the home stretch with the Accreditation Response report. Everyone followed the plan developed by the Accreditation Response Team. Special thanks to the co-chairs, Katie O'Brien and JoAnna Downey. There will be a presentation to the Board of Trustees at the September meeting. The final report is due to ACCJC/WASC October 15.

Finally, we applaud the service of our Wildland Fire Crew, dispatched to help battle the blaze in the Angeles National Forrest. Earlier, they were on the lines helping fight fires in other parts of California, but this one is quite close to home.

Rio Hondo College Staffer Shows Heroic Side

While attending The Population Association of America (PAA) 2009 Annual Meeting in Detroit, Research Specialist Joshua Rosales decided to participate in the organization's bike tour through Detroit's most picturesque sites.

According to reports, after approaching the Riverfront, Joshua leapt off his bike and ran toward a small crowd that had gathered near the water. A child had fallen into the water and two adults had followed in the rescue attempt.

After the child was pulled out to safety, one of the exhausted rescuers began to panic and fall back into the water. Seeing this, Joshua immediately served as a human anchor as four other bystanders formed a human chain to rescue the struggling rescuer. After some time, they were able to pull him out to safety.

Quick thinking Joshua!



August 2009 Board Meeting

The Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees held its regular monthly meeting August 12, 2009 on the College campus.

Vice President of Student Services Henry Gee provided information to the Board of Trustees on the Veteran's Services Program and shared with them how RHC recently made the national G.I. Jobs List of 2010 Military-Friendly Schools for its efforts to recruit and serve students with military experience. The Board of Trustees also provided a commendation to the Veteran's Services Program.



Director of Marketing & Communications Susan Herney shared information and awards with the Board of Trustees the College earned in the past year for marketing and communications efforts. These awards included a 1st place National Paragon Award from the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations for the marketing campaign for a special event, recognizing the College Foundation's 2008 gala "Boots to Books". Other awards included second place Medallion Awards from NCMPR for the online newsletter, President's Update and for the College's 2007 Annual Report. The College also received a 2nd place award for the College's online President's Update newsletter from the California Public Relations Organization (CCPRO).



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RHC Welcomes Students Back to Campus

There was definitely energy on the hill for the first day of the fall semester at Rio Hondo College, where we will be serving more than 25,000 students this fall.

Anticipating how busy the campus can be this time of year, many students arrived to the campus early to ensure they had a parking space and time to get to their classes. For those who arrived later, the College provided trams that ran every five minutes to help get students to their scheduled classes. Despite ongoing construction projects, all campus roads are currently open. Even Staff Parking Lot B is fully available now that the construction trailers are removed.

During the summer, construction projects were continued and completed. One major completed project is the College's new Learning Resource Center. The 94,000 square foot, two-story building has a modern library, training and meeting rooms, writing and reading labs and a Media Center that is open and running to best meet student and staff needs.

Other completed projects from the College's *Building Access & Excellence Program* include the Santa Fe Springs Regional Public Safety Training Center, the Central Plant and the Campus-wide Infrastructure, which contributes to the efficient flow of vehicular traffic.

Rio Hondo College completed another successful Summer Session this year as hundreds of classes served more than 9,000 students. Despite the challenging economic times, the College was one of few regional educational institutions offering a full complement of summer classes this year.

A special thank you to all faculty, staff and administrators who helped so many of our students "finish faster" by taking the classes they need to reach their academic goals.

Rio Hondo College Named 'Military-Friendly' School

Being accessible to all students seeking a higher education is always top priority. Recently, the College made the national G.I. Jobs List of 2010 Military-Friendly Schools, for its priority of recruiting and serving students with military experience.

Criteria for making the Military Friendly Schools list included efforts to recruit and retain military and Veteran students, results in recruiting military and Veteran students and academic accreditations. The College established a Veterans Service Center specifically to serve this student population. Services include counseling, assistance with GI benefits and scholarships, and other support activities. Proceeds of The College Foundation's 2008 Gala, "Boots to Books" helped initiate the new center last year.

Recently, the Post-9/11 GI Bill was passed resulting in tens of billions of dollars in tuition money being made available to Veterans. The recently enacted bill has given Veterans virtually unlimited financial means to go to school. This passage has resulted in many colleges and universities paying more attention to the Veteran demographic.

For RHC, however, recruiting former servicemen and servicewomen has always been a priority, said Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent/President,

"We are pleased to receive this recognition, which reflects our commitment to reach and serve this important student population. I am appreciative of everyone's efforts to help establish this Veterans Service Center and to provide an exemplary set of services and programs for those who have served our country so well," he said.

The Military-Friendly Schools List was compiled through exhaustive research starting last May when *G.I. Jobs* polled more than 7,000 schools nationwide. The methodology and criteria for the list were developed with the assistance of an Academic Advisory Committee consisting of educators and administrators from colleges and universities from around the nation.



BOARD MEETING

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A presentation was also made to the Board of Trustees by TRIO Director Dr. Zolita Fisher on the Upward Bound Program and other support services the TRIO Program offers students.



RHC Unveils New Learning Resource Center

One week before the Fall semester began, the Rio Hondo College Foundation hosted a preview reception for approximately 100 members of the Foundation's President's Circle and other local dignitaries. The \$34.7 million project was completed on time and was ready for students to use on their first day of the Fall semester.

Rio Hondo faculty and staff have expressed how pleased they are over the LRC's completion.

"This is by far the nicest facility and most up to date computer lab that I have ever had the opportunity to teach in," said Rio Hondo College Art/Technology Instructor David Dawson. "Most importantly, my students are just as excited about the LRC as I am, which makes teaching and learning fun!"

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Rio Hondo College Celebrates Annual Family Day

To ensure all new students experience a smooth transition to college life, the College hosted its Third Annual Family Day in early August. The event was designed as an orientation and welcome for students who had already applied to the College, and their families to the campus.



More than 150 students and their families attended Family Day this year. All participants experienced a day filled with free activities that highlighted all that Rio Hondo College has to offer its new students, including campus clubs, academic departments, extracurricular activities and much more. College staff and student volunteers were also available throughout the day to answer any new student questions. There was also several workshops and campus tours available to help them become more familiar with the College's campus. A 'programs fair' also highlighted some of the nearly 100 programs of study offered.

"Family Day has become more popular with every year," said Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent/President. "In addition to providing important information to our enrolled students and their families, Rio Hondo College staff, faculty and volunteers worked hard to make sure the day was one that was fun and enjoyed by all."

College Hosts Community Conversation with White House Initiative to Improve Latino Education

RHC recently joined forces with the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans by hosting a Community Conversation consisting of a half-day open dialogue between the White House Initiative team and local college and community members.

The event was held at the Campus Inn and was designed for the White House Initiative team to gain critical feedback from community members on what can be done to improve educational opportunities for local students.

Each session consists of asking constituents two questions: 1.) How can Latino education be improved and 2.) What should the White House Initiative be doing to spearhead those efforts?

Participants were asked to share their thoughts both individually and in small groups. All ideas that resulted from the Community Conversation were documented on note cards by participants and later were posted on the White House Initiative's web site.



FLEX DAYS

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The College first broke ground on the LRC three years ago. It is a facility that has a modern library, training and meeting rooms, writing, reading and language labs as well as a Media Center for students, faculty and staff.



“The new LRC environment creates a climate of professionalism and pride for students, staff, and faculty,” said Rio Hondo College Reading Professor Doreen Kaller. “We are all sharing a new energy and excitement about learning and success.”

The reception provided members of the President’s Circle the opportunity to listen to the State of the College address by Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., performances by Rio Hondo College singers as well as highlights of the building by LRC architect, David Martin. Informational tours were also made available to guests of the never-before-seen facility.

The LRC is currently open for student and staff use.

FLEX Days Provided Opportunity for Professional Development, Fun

More than 300 faculty members participated in FLEX Days this year, which offered breakout sessions related to staff, student and instructional improvement. Flex Days took place on August 20-21.

The agenda for this year’s FLEX Days included welcomes and introductions by Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., Mike Javanmard, Academic Senate President; Adam Wetsman, RCHFA President; Hannah Pastrano, CSEA Vice-President and Sammy Castillo, ASB President. Information was also presented regarding campus news, facilities and construction updates as well as budget information and cost-saving adopted by the College. Participants were also able to enjoy an All-Staff Luncheon lunch, which was hosted by the Rio Hondo College Foundation.

Breakout Sessions included:

- 2010 Healthcare Options for Full Time Faculty
- Adventures in Sequential Art
- Articulation and Transfer 101- What you think you know, know, and don't know
- Calling all Wise & Wonderful: An Experiential Session on Student Engagement
- CalSTRS Fundamentals
- Curriculum 101
- Developing Degrees and Certificates
- E-Books and Café Scribe – The Future of Textbooks
- Getting Started with Blackboard 8.0 Grade Center
- How to Make Great Beer at Home
- Introduction to Student Learning Outcomes
- It’s an Honor – Roundtable for Current and Potential Honor’s Faculty
- King Arthur – Chivalry & Legend
- Math & Science Roundtable: Preparing Tomorrow’s Math Teacher’s Today
- Mathematica – Makes Math & Science Come Alive
- Program Planning
- Program Review – The process – the content- the fun!
- Reflection, Renewal & Role
- Student Presentation – Imagine Cup IT competition
- Teaching the Digital Native as a Digital Immigrant
- Terrorism in the Name of God
- The Ecology of Eden
- The Transition from Immigrant to Native: Perceptions of the Landscape
- Understanding Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
- Undocumented Students and Higher Education in California
- Virtual Teaching Tools



Mural Unveiling Set for September 22 at Howard’s Headquarters in Pico Rivera

After countless hours and two semesters working to complete a mural for Howard’s Appliance Service Center in Pico Rivera, Rio Hondo College students and their Art and Design Instructor Ron Reeder, are ready to unveil the finished product.

The theme of the mural is “moving through time” and is meant to take viewers through Howard’s Appliance’s history to how it is today. An unveiling of the mural is set Tuesday, Sept. 22 at noon at Howard’s Appliances Service Center, 5102 Industry Ave. Pico Rivera, CA 90660.

