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## President's Message



*Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.*

Preparing the campus for the beginning of a new academic year is an enormous task, even without the challenges presented by ongoing construction. Thanks to our special teams who work tirelessly to help students and to put our best collective foot forward: Facilities staff who made sure the campus was clean and welcoming; Student Services staff who answer myriads of questions; our Telephone “switchboard” staff who answer calls non-stop and make a huge customer service effort to best assist the callers; our Staff Development team for planning and executing a day of welcome and information; and our Fire Technology Color Guard for an impressive and sobering ceremony to help us all reflect and remember.

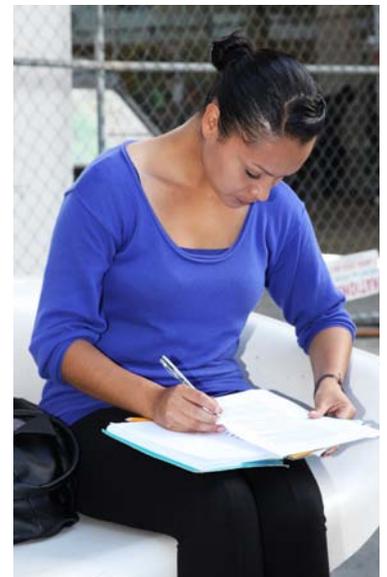
Our PARK information campaign is paying dividends, helping vehicular and pedestrian traffic move efficiently and safely. We are pleased with the implementation of the overflow, off-site parking lot and shuttle service, which will be effective through September 30. We renewed the temporary one-way traffic pattern along Circle Drive at lots A, B, and C to accommodate additional student vehicles.

The Rio Hondo College values statement has been enhanced with a fifth value: Integrity and Civility. The Planning and Fiscal Council recommended the addition, which reads: “We value integrity, honesty and respect in our actions and words.” Large framed Mission Statement posters throughout campus have been updated to reflect the addition.

Developmental Education, Completion and Transfer are intertwined elements of student success, and are emerging as important elements in accountability at many levels. I have asked our vice presidents and deans to identify strategies and activities planned or already underway in order to compile a resource index of our best practices to link internally and to share with our community college colleagues.

The beginning of each new academic year is invigorating. My appreciation to everyone involved in our important enterprise. I know it will be a great year. Thank you.

## Rio Hondo Welcomes Students to Fall Semester



## Board Meeting

The Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees held its regular monthly meeting Aug. 10, 2011.

- Board of Trustees President Maria Elena Martinez provided certificates of commendation to the Rio Hondo College Wildland Fire Cadets for the hard work and efforts to both the College and surrounding communities. Members of the crew worked 14-day rotations in 2011, which was named the "worst fire year in history" for the state of Arizona.



## PARK Campaign Developed to Inform Students about Parking Options



The College obtained the temporary use of 200 off-site parking spaces for overflow parking until September 30. The new CNG Shuttle Bus provides free shuttle service to the Crossroads Parkway South location, just one mile from campus. In addition, students received a series of 'Parking Alert' messages to remind them to plan ahead, rideshare, and to know their options.



## Rio Hondo College Hosts Groundbreaking Ceremony for El Monte Educational Center

The Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees hosted a groundbreaking ceremony on Aug. 17 for the final Measure A facilities construction project, the El Monte Educational Center. The ceremony marked the beginning of construction for the community satellite campus.

The project, similar to the South Whittier Educational Center which opened last August, will include four classrooms, a computer study room with four computer stations, a courtyard and more. The site, which sits on one acre of land, is approximately 4,352 square feet. Nearly 200 students will occupy the four classrooms. A general educational curriculum will be offered for students to begin and/or continue their post-secondary education.

The program included remarks by Rio Hondo College Superintendent/President, Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., comments by college, community and student stakeholders, and the ceremonial 'groundbreaking' ceremony.

"The voters of our service area recognized the need for a satellite campus in El Monte, helping to pass Measure A facilities construction bond," said Ted Martinez, Jr., Superintendent/President. "This Center will reflect the outstanding partnership the College has with the communities of El Monte. Together we strive to make higher education opportunities a reality. We take pride in the El Monte Union High School Pledge Compact, which provides an efficient pipeline for local students to college and university. This Educational Center is another key element in our commitment to our communities."

The new El Monte Educational Center project is part of Rio Hondo's Building Access and Excellence building program. Completed projects include the South Whittier Educational Center, the Learning Resource Center, a pedestrian bridge, campus infrastructure, central plant and other facilities improvements. The Student Services Building, Student Union Building, Campus Quad Renovation, Administration of Justice Building and Physical Education Complex are currently under construction. The Building Access and Excellence program was designed to improve facilities and learning environments for Rio Hondo students.



## New Director of Grant Development and Management



The Board of Trustees appointed Jacqueline Wilvers as Director of Grant Development and Management at its July meeting. Wilvers brings

nearly 15 years of grant development and experience. Prior to accepting the position at Rio Hondo College, Jacqueline worked for Long Beach City College and participated in all phases of grant development, including projected design, institutional impact review, objectives and goals development, narrative writing, budget formulation and much more.

She earned a bachelor's degree from California State University, San Diego and both a master of arts and a master in public administration from California State University, Long Beach.

## Student Art Work Displayed in Third Annual Art Show



More than 15,000 visitors viewed Rio Hondo College student artwork at the third annual Rio Hondo College Art Show, which was recently held

at the Rose Hills Reception Center. As a result of the number of visitors, several student paintings were sold.

Many thanks to the talented Rio Hondo College students for submitting their work and to Dean of the Arts, JoAnna Downey and her staff for helping make the annual event a success.

## Heading Toward the Finish Line – Facilities Projects Near Completion

Anyone familiar with the Rio Hondo College campus knows that construction projects are improving and enhancing the campus learning environment. As the fall semester is underway, several facilities projects are approaching completion.



- **Administration of Justice Building** – The “gateway” project for Rio Hondo, the three-story building will provide distinct functions on each floor to serve Administration of Justice degree-seeking students as well as Police Academy cadets. It is anticipated that the AOJ building will be completed by the end of September.



- **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 taking form in the central campus and will house the offices of student service programs, such as Financial Aid and Counseling. The Student Services Building will be completed late fall, with move-in scheduled during the winter break.



- **Student Union Building** – Located adjacent to the Student Services Building, the Student Union Building will house the Student Union offices, the Student Activities Center, the new Campus Cafeteria and Dining Hall and an outdoor space. The Student Union Building timeline parallels the Student Services Building.



- **The Campus Quad Renovation** – A central location on the Rio Hondo Campus, the Campus Quad is under constructed to improve paths for pedestrians and serve as an easy connection between campus elevations. The Upper Quad will be completed by mid-fall, and the mid-quad area will be completed approximately one month later.

- **Blue Light Phones** – Exterior Blue Light Phone towers, which are solar powered, are eagerly awaited by the campus community. Three in-building units will also be installed in the new buildings. The phones will be activated for use in mid-September.

# Regional Homeland Security Training Center Passes Certification Review

The Rio Hondo College Regional Homeland Security Training Center recently received review-based certification, which was conducted by a team of California Emergency Management Agency (Cal-EMA) and California Fire Marshal Office specialists. The training site is the first of six Los Angeles County sites to be certified.

The Regional Homeland Security Training Center received three accreditation certificates after the inspection: Rescue Systems 1 and 2 Training Site Accreditation certificates, which state the site is current with May 2010 requirements for props, tools, equipment cache and consumables; and a Confined Space Rescue Training Site Accreditation certificate, which states the site meets the current CSRT requirements for materials, props, tools and equipment cache to deliver the required training.



*“With the receipt of these three important operational certificates, the Rio Hondo College Regional Homeland Security Training Center, reflects the excellent collaborative relationship between the College and the California Fire Service,” said Rio Hondo College Superintendent/President, Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D. “Homeland Security training is an important part of the Rio Hondo College mission.”*

# FLEX Day Opportunities for Professional Development, Essential Info

Rio Hondo College’s Staff Development Committee organizes FLEX Day events for faculty at the beginning of each new semester. Classified staff also have the opportunity to participate when possible.

Breakout sessions related to staff, student and instructional improvement.

The agenda for this year’s FLEX Day, held August 18 and 19, included welcome and introductions by various campus leaders. Information was also presented regarding campus news, classroom emergency preparedness and safety, as well as information on developmental education at Rio Hondo.

A special 9/11 remembrance ceremony was provided by the Rio Hondo College Fire Academy Color Guard.

Focused Breakout Sessions included:

- Online FLEX Reporting System
- Emergency Preparedness & Safety
- “Shedding Light” on Developmental Education at Rio Hondo
- Continuing Education Registration Process



# Help Center Assists New Students

The Student Help Center, held in the Board Room, was open during the first week of the semester to assist students with any questions they had regarding the fall semester. The Center was staffed and open Monday-Thursday, from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 to 7 p.m.

