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## President's Message



*Teresa Dreyfuss*

### *Holiday Message to Campus Community*

As we approach the season of holidays, I would like to express my appreciation for the cooperation and support everyone has provided during this time of transition for Rio Hondo College. Thank you for your continuing commitment to our students and to the communities we serve.

We have already accomplished much together, and it is my anticipation that we will continue our positive progress as we continue along our timeline in the presidential search process. The next year will bring yet more opportunities to continue the celebration of our 50th anniversary milestone year, which will culminate in Commencement May 23.

It is my sincere wish that each and every member of our Rio Hondo College community enjoys the opportunity to relax and renew during a joyous holiday season. My best wishes for us all in 2013.

## President's Office Holiday Open House

*Interim Superintendent/President  
Teresa Dreyfuss welcomed more  
than 200 employees at the President's  
Office Holiday Open House on  
Thursday, Dec. 6.*



## Board Update



On Dec. 14 Norma Edith García presided over the beginning of the final meeting in her term as president of the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees. As García's year-long term came to an end, she thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve the College. She added that she greatly appreciated the administration, faculty and staff's dedication to student success.

García cited many accomplishments of the year, including the community forums, deft handling of budget challenges, moving forward to meet transfer curriculum expectations, the Building Program's ongoing campus transformation; launch of the presidential search, and the 50th anniversary celebration. She acknowledged the special service provided by Teresa Dreyfuss as well as Russell Castaneda-Calleros, Dr. Darrell Foster, Henry Gee, Howard Kummerman, Dr. Mike Munoz, Dr. Kenn Pierson, faculty, classified and student leadership, and President's Office staff.

Vice President Vicky Santana, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, presented García with a plaque of appreciation.

At the Board meeting retiree Kathy Osollo of Human Resources was honored for her ten years of service to the College.

## State of the College for Students



Dr. Kenn Pierson and Henry Gee provided a presentation on the State of the College for Students.

Pierson relayed how the offices of Academic Affairs and

Student Services organized three student forums in October to inform students of section reductions due to budget cuts. About 200 students participated in the forums where they learned skills to cope with and navigate the 262 class cuts. Students were also provided with updated information on financial aid and transfers and received tips on academic success.

## Board Election



Trustee Madeline Shapiro was elected president of the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees for the 2013 term. She follows Trustee Norma Edith García who held the position in 2012. During the board's annual meeting Dec. 12, the trustees also Elected Trustee Vicky Santana for a second term as vice president, and Gary Mendez as clerk.

Shapiro, first elected to the Board of Trustees in 2009, represents Trustee Area 5, which encompasses East Whittier. She grew up in Pico Rivera attending public schools and Rio Hondo College before earning a business administration degree from CSU Long Beach.

After a career in accounting, Shapiro changed professions to teaching. She started as a parent volunteer and became an instructional aide and substitute teacher while earning a teaching credential from CSU Fullerton. Shapiro has taught in the East Whittier City School District for more than 20 years.

Shapiro is the California Teachers Association/Association for Better Citizenship committee member for her district and the CTA State Council member for her local association. She also serves as an elected delegate for the state Democratic Party in the 56th Assembly District.

## EOPS/CARE Holiday Celebration

Students who are part of the EOPS/CARE program brought their children to the Café Rio on Dec. 12 for the annual holiday party that features distribution of gifts that are purchased by college employees for each special child. Children were excited to receive their gifts. More than 144 gifts were distributed.



## Save the Date! Rio Hondo 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Friday, April 19

Mark your calendars! Rio Hondo College is hosting its 50th Anniversary Celebration beginning at 6 p.m. on Friday, April 19, 2013, at the Industry Hills Expo Center.

Everyone is invited to join in a special evening of food and entertainment, awards, and enjoyment with members of the Rio Hondo College community, local leaders and elected officials, school alumni and donors, as well as friends and partners of the College.

*More information to follow soon.*



## Rio Hondo Presents 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banner to Santa Fe Springs City Council



Interim Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss, Student Trustee Lupe Pasillas, and Russell Castaneda Calleros presented a Rio Hondo College 50th anniversary banner to members of the Santa Fe Springs City Council Dec. 13, along with an illustrated "State of the College" report.

Dreyfuss and College administrators have been making State of the College presentations at city councils for the areas it serves. These include El Monte, Pico Rivera, Santa Fe Springs, South El Monte, and Whittier.

## Associated Students Help Celebrate American Red Cross Volunteers



### American Red Cross

Eight student leaders from Rio Hondo College Associated Students helped the American Red Cross celebrate its volunteers at the Holiday Volunteer

Breakfast held Dec. 1. Student leaders served the volunteers breakfast as well as helped to clean up afterwards. Chris Sanchez of the American Red Cross, Rio Hondo Chapter, said the hard-working students were great to work with. Many thanks to Dr. Mike Munoz and Sammy Sotoa for helping to enlist the eight volunteers: Maria Alvarez, Irina Barajas, Janira Calmenares, Valeria Guerrero, Cristhian Lin-Cobos, Elmer Orellana, Sharon Saab, and Isabel Villalta.

## Students Receive Assistance League Scholarships



Thirteen Rio Hondo students each received a \$2,000 scholarship from the Whittier Assistance League at a Chapter House luncheon on Nov. 19.

The full-time students all have a GPA of at least 2.5 and, as single parents, are in need of additional financial support.

Honored students were: Cassandra Batista; Tina Corral; Amber García; Irene Gil; Kimberly Gonzalez; Ivan Jimenez; Monique Lopez; Sandra Lucero; Luz Vanessa Moreno; Miraslava Ortuno; Stephanie Rios; Norma Osorio Rodriguez; and Christina Saucedo.

This year the Whittier Assistance League awarded \$35,000 in scholarships to students at Rio Hondo College and Whittier College.

## Sino-American Education Conference at Sun Yat-Sen University

A Rio Hondo delegation was invited by San Diego State University Confucius institute to participate in the Sino-American Education Conference held at Sun Yat-Sen University in Guangzhou, China in November.

The Rio Hondo delegation included Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss, Board Trustee Gary Mendez, Dean of Communications Robert Holcomb, and Professor Shin Liu. In all, 26 participants from various colleges and school districts convened from Nov.16 to 24. The group was led by Dr. Lilly Cheng from San Diego State University.

The participants took language and culture courses, visited schools and met with local teachers and students to learn about the Chinese education system, and enjoyed cultural outings.

As a result of the trip Rio Hondo College and Cerritos College will host the Dagu cultural music program and performance in collaboration with the San Diego State University Confucius Institute in March 2013.

The delegation hopes to put into place student exchange programs so that Rio Hondo College students can study in China at an affordable cost.



## Faculty Association Holiday Luncheon



The Rio Hondo College Faculty Association held its annual Holiday Luncheon on Thursday, Dec. 6, at Swiss Park in Whittier. The luncheon featured musical entertainment

provided by talented faculty, door prizes, and an opportunity for Rio Hondo College faculty and staff to come together to share in the holiday season.



## Rio Hondo Hosts Department of Energy Clean Cities Programs

Rio Hondo College, Antelope Valley Clean Cities, and the National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium (NAFTC) hosted Department of Energy Clean Cities workshops on Dec. 11 and 12 in the new Applied Technology Building. The workshops covered cutting edge automotive technologies and were geared toward fleet managers, stakeholders, local and state municipal officials as well as automotive students and mechanics.

Presenters included Curtis Martin of Antelope Valley Clean Cities Coalition; Cathy Mezera of National Alternative Fuels Training Consortium; John Frala, professor and coordinator of Alternative Fuels Technology at Rio Hondo; and Rick Sikes of the City of Santa Monica.

Workshops included: "The Importance of Petroleum Reduction Technologies," "Importance of Electric – Vehicles, Infrastructure and Sustainability," "Understanding Fleets and Alternative Fuels," "Natural Gas Fleet Applications," and "Introduction to Alternative Fuels – Importance of Compressed Natural Gas."

These workshops represent continuing efforts of automotive faculty Professor John Frala to help regional public agencies learn more about evolving technologies.



*Happy  
Holidays*

