

## IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message

Staff Moves into New Student Services Center and Student Union!

Board Meeting

Rio Café Welcomes New Food Service Provider

New Regional Homeland Security Training Center Opens

Rio Hondo Architectural and Engineering Drafting Design Program Hosts Fourth Annual Bentley Bash

Mark Matsui Named New Director of Disabled Students

Student Assistance Sessions Offered in Temporary "Help" Center

Community Invited to Preview of Student Complex & Quad

Springboard Program Springs into Action



## President's Message



*Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.*

The construction fences are down; the concrete is power-washed; new signage helps visitors and students find their way. Thanks to so much attention by so many during these past weeks of so-called Winter Break, we are looking polished and ready to welcome students for the Spring semester!

We especially appreciate our ability to walk through the Upper Quad, down the main new 'grand' staircase, and into the Middle and Lower Quad areas without pedestrian detours that were part of our daily lives throughout construction. During the break time, employees moved from their former areas into the new Student Services Building and the Student Union, and have been helping students at the same time. Thanks to Henry Gee and his team for facilitating a smooth transition.

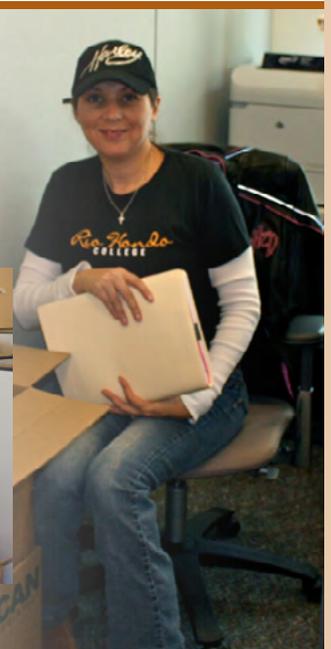
There have been recent events that help us connect with our communities and keep them informed of our progress. We celebrated the grand opening of the

Rio Hondo College Regional Homeland Security Training Center in Santa Fe Springs earlier this month. Together with fire chiefs from throughout Los Angeles County and Congresswoman Grace Napolitano, whose assistance provided important funding for the site, we garnered nice press coverage for this important regional facility.

We also invited our community stakeholders to a 'Special Preview' of the new Student Services Complex and Quad area, in order to showcase the new look of the heart of our campus and to thank them for the support provided by the Measure A facilities bond. This event also provided the opportunity to stage an event in the Student Union and to introduce the Rio Café. This site will be the location for a special event, "A Taste of Rio" sponsored by the Rio Hondo College Foundation to launch the College's 50th Anniversary Celebration April 20. We will also dedicate the Putnam Plaza, and establish a new home for the plaque that honors the late Phil Putnam, the first president of Rio Hondo College, and the person for whom the previous student center was named and dedicated.

I look forward to greeting those who have been away, and to welcoming our students for the Spring 2012 semester.

## Staff Moves into New Student Services Center and Student Union!



## Board Meeting



Dean of the Career and Technical Education (CTE) Division, **Mike Slavich**, presented an update regarding CTE developments during the Board's January 11 meeting. CTE is a program of study that involves a multi-year sequence of courses that integrates core academic knowledge with technical and occupational knowledge to provide students with a pathway to postsecondary education and careers. CTE coursework takes place campus-wide, among other endeavors conducted by the CTE Division.

The CTE Division, explained Slavich, continues to work diligently to ensure the College actively brings CTE education to middle and high schools within the community with the assistance of SB70 funds. Rio Hondo CTE recently held a successful event at Madrid Middle School, where students were able to participate in alternative energy technology activities and projects, bringing real-life application to their classrooms.



## Rio Café Welcomes New Food Service Provider

With the opening of a new Student Services Complex this semester, also comes a new dining hall. The Rio Café, housed in the Student Union, will offer a variety of foods for students and employees.

A committee of students, employees and administrators visited several food service operations to evaluate vendors competing for the dining hall contract in the new Student Union. The committee recommended Sodexo America to operate the cafeteria. Rio Café is set to open at the beginning of the Spring semester.

## New Regional Homeland Security Training Center Opens

The new Rio Hondo College Regional Homeland Security Training Center in Santa Fe Springs was celebrated with a grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony January 19. The six-acre training site is the newest of six regional training centers in Los Angeles County and has been in construction for three years.

"This training facility is a byproduct of the excellent collaborative relationship between the College and the California Fire Services, a relationship that extends back many decades," said Rio Hondo College President Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

Also attending the grand opening along with Board of Trustees President Norma Edith García and Trustee Angela Acosta-Salazar; Santa Fe Fire Chief Alex Rodriguez; Rio Hondo College Fire Academy Coordinator Tracy Rickman; Santa Fe Springs Mayor Pro Tem Richard J. Moore; Rio Hondo College Fire Academy Graduate Heather Blais; and United States Congresswoman Grace F. Napolitano. Chiefs representing a dozen Los Angeles regional municipal fire agencies were on hand to help celebrate the event, as well.

In her address to the audience, Congresswoman Napolitano of California's 38th District lauded Rio Hondo as an exemplary educational institution, with top-of-the-line facilities. "This is one of the most preeminent homeland security training centers in the nation today," she said.

Congresswoman Grace Napolitano secured \$300,000 in federal appropriations funding to purchase site lighting equipment and live fire training props. She also secured \$500,000 in federal appropriations funding to purchase a clean-burning El Dorado National AeroElite Ford F-550 CNG Shuttle Bus for shuttle service on campus.

The project began when the Department of Homeland Security selected Rio Hondo College as a homeland security regional training center to serve Los Angeles County and deliver training to its first responder agencies. The Santa Fe Springs Fire Department and Rio Hondo College share the facility.



## Rio Hondo Architectural and Engineering Drafting Design Program Hosts Fourth Annual Bentley Bash

More than 300 architects, engineers, designers, drafters, and design educators attended the Fourth annual Bentley Bash at Rio Hondo College Saturday, January 21. The free seminar featured more than 20 in-depth workshops geared to help local practitioners keep current on the latest technology and software developments in their fields.

Within the labs and classrooms of Rio Hondo Career and Technical Education Department, the event featured Archway System's Tom Lazear (recipient of the President's 2011 Gala Award) and software developers from Bentley Systems who provided hands-on instruction in more than 20 free training sessions that included "Intro to MicroStation," "Rail Track Fundamentals," and "CAD Standards."

The event was sponsored by Bentley Systems, a leading developer of software products for the architecture, engineering, and construction industries, and Archway Systems, its product distributor. It was hosted by Rio Hondo Architecture and Engineering Drafting Design, CAD and GIS Departments.

The Rio Hondo Architecture & Engineering Design Drafting Program has been receiving national recognition as it provides some of the most highly qualified technicians to the architectural, engineering, and construction industry as well as the design, and drafting industry. It's among only three community colleges in the State of California that offers a Civil Engineering Drawing Program.

## Mark Matsui Named New Director of Disabled Students



Mark Matsui was recently appointed as new Director of the Rio Hondo Disabled Students Programs and Services. The office provides services for students with disabilities that pose a limitation on their ability to be educated.

"I'm very excited," says Matsui. "This is a very warm and collegial environment and I look forward to having the opportunity to enhance the work of our program, to improve access for all students, and to elevate even further the standing of our College in the community."

Before coming to Rio Hondo, Matsui served as coordinator of the Disabled Students Programs & Services department at Long Beach City College (LBCC), a position he held since 1992. Prior to his tenure at LBCC, Matsui worked at California State University, Dominguez Hills, as coordinator of Disabled Student Services and Veterans Affairs as well as the director of Student Programs and Housing.

Matsui has also been a vice president in the California Association for Postsecondary Education and Disability since 1998 and on the board of directors for Disabled Resources Center, Inc. in Long Beach since 1991.

Matsui has an M.S. in Rehabilitation Counseling from California State University, Los Angeles, and a B.S. in Psychology from San Jose State University.

## Community Invited to Preview of Student Complex & Quad

Rio Hondo College invited community stakeholders to a special preview of the brand new Student Services Complex and Quad Thursday, January 26.

The event included tours of the new facility, presentations by Superintendent/President Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr., Board President Norma E. García and Foundation Past President Rich Casford, and lunch in the new dining hall, Rio Café.

The new Student Services Complex houses the Student Services Center and Student Union, a building constructed with Measure A Bond funds. A formal grand opening will occur February 29, when students have returned from winter break.



## Springboard Program Springs into Action

Springboard, a new student success program, began on Monday, January 9, with a pilot cohort of several dozen students and concluded on Friday, January 20.

The Springboard Program provides a series of small-group workshops in English, reading, and math, which are facilitated by seasoned Learning Assistance Center (LAC) instructional assistants. This collaboration between the Office of Student Success and Retention and the LAC will offer on-going follow up and support to Springboard participants into the Spring semester and beyond.



## Student Assistance Sessions Offered in Temporary "Help" Center

Beginning Monday, January 23, Student Services staff are providing assistance through a temporary 'help center' in the new Multipurpose Room (SS305) to assist students with AccessRio navigation and general matriculation.

**WEEK 1**  
January 23-27 | 8 a.m.-2 p.m.

**WEEK 2**  
January 30 & 31 | 8 a.m.-1 p.m.  
/4-7 p.m. and  
February 1 | 8 a.m.-1 p.m.