



# PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

JULY 2008

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

Judging by the number of items in this newsletter, there has been no slowing down or summer doldrums at Rio Hondo College! As our final Summer Session classes head for finals in the next couple of weeks, we will have served nearly 12,000 students, a record! That's more students than some colleges serve in an entire year! Thanks and appreciation to our faculty for their enthusiasm for Summer Sessions, and to everyone involved in helping our students apply, register, buy books and get settled into their classrooms. It has been a productive summer.

Kudos to the Honors Transfer Program for outstanding success in promoting and facilitating success for our university-bound students. Especially impressive is the fact that the Rio Hondo College program has one of the highest success rates in the State for transfer acceptance to UCLA – 92 percent! Overall, 41 RHC students will matriculate at UCLA this fall. Everyone can help spread the word that the best place to begin a UCLA education is at Rio Hondo College.

Our 'summer' is nearly over. Plans are rapidly formulating for Flex Day on August 22 and the arrival of students on campus the following week for the beginning of our 46th academic year. I hope to see all members of our campus community for our opening event in the Wray Theatre. You'll be introduced to the new members of our community, hear a brief review of our District's accomplishments and plans for the coming year.

I look forward to greeting you August 22.

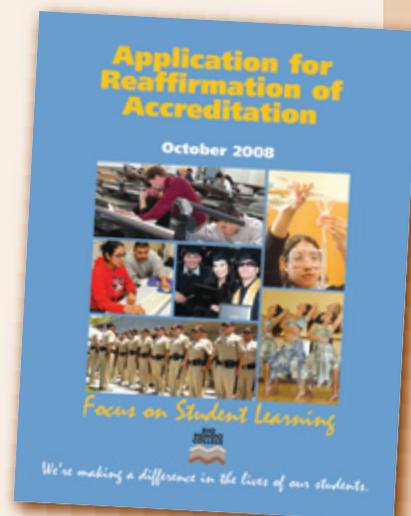
## Accreditation Self Study Report Moves Forward

Officially known as the "Application for Reaffirmation of Accreditation" the institutional Self Study Report is at the printers. A product of more than one year's effort by a cross-section of the campus community, the document will be sent to the members of the team from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. Representatives of all RHC stakeholder groups are signatories of the Certification of the Institutional Self-Study.

The Commission has announced that the team assigned to the Rio Hondo comprehensive review visit in October will be led by Dr. Jerry Patton, Superintendent/President of the College of the Desert.

The Self-Study Report, a 276-page book, provides the framework the accrediting team will use to review our College. The report is only one document they will review, as there are citations of 'evidence' in each of the four standards that illustrate and give credibility to the narrative in the document itself.

Development of the Self-Study Report was coordinated by Dr. Paul Parnell and Dr. Loretta Canett-Bailes, and edited by Beverly Reilly and Robert Bethel; Sylvia Viramontes formatted the document, entered corrections, and designed the tab pages. Crystal Maes designed the cover. The entire document will be posted online. Members of the team are listed for each standard.



## Board Report for the Board Meeting July, 2008

■ The July Board Meeting began with a study session for Standard IV for accreditation. Trustees Acosta-Salazar and Quintero met with members of the faculty, staff and students to review the accreditation document and to offer their input.

■ The Board of Trustees recognized the departing members of the Citizens Oversight Committee for their service to the College in regard to bond expenditures and construction progress.



*Angela Acosta-Salazar, Teresa Dreyfuss, Oscar Payan, Toby Chavez, John Diaz Sr., Sam Guyan Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.*

■ The Board approved the consent agenda without discussion. The Board also approved several action items including the following:

- The Board of Trustees approved consultant services for the GEAR UP Summer Residential Program.
- The Board of Trustees also accepted the donation of five fire trucks from the County of Los Angeles Consolidated Fire Protection District for use and training at the Rio Hondo College Public Safety Fire Training Center.
- Trustees also approved an agreement with the Southeast Area Social Services Funding Authority intended to reduce overlap among the partners and to maximize services available to individuals needing workforce services including support, education and training for dislocated workers and those individuals whom the Workforce Investment Board has prioritized.
- New agreements with the cities of Montebello and Norwalk for bus pass agreements for the Go Rio Program were also approved, as was an agreement with College Hospital's Health Science Department in Cerritos to expand the facilities for clinical experience for Rio Hondo College students. The agreement will begin in the Fall Semester of this year and run through June 30, 2010.

## Dionicio Morales Receives Distinguished Service Award

Each year, Rio Hondo College selects a member of the community who has worked for the betterment of the community and of the College. This year's award was presented to Dionicio Morales, a man whose life work continues to be an inspiration to the Mexican-American community. He is an inspirational leader who has paved the way for Mexican-Americans today.

An episode in his teenage years as a student at his local high school, defined his lifelong pursuit of justice and equality for all and to champion the rights of the less privileged members of society, particularly his brethren who were discriminated against because of the color or their skin.

In his youth, Dionicio became an accomplished trumpet player, landing the seat as first trumpet of the Moorpark High School band. As a reward he was invited with the school dance band, to attend a performance by Henry Busey, the famous trumpet player, who was his idol, at Ocean Park Dance Pavilion in Santa Monica which was a landmark venue at the time. Upon arrival he was refused entrance because "Mexicans" were not allowed. While his instructor and fellow students gained entrance and he was made to wait for them at the entrance for their return.

He was humiliated and freezing in the cold, but his anger provided him with a new strength. And he resolved, right there and then, to champion the rights of his people, and other persons of color, to prevent a similar assault and degradation to their human dignity.

Dionicio honed his skills protecting the rights of workers and was employed as an organizer and recruiter of Mexican workers by labor unions. Organizational skills and collective bargaining strategies set the stage for his life's work: the founding in 1963 of a community-based non-profit service organization — The Mexican-American Opportunity Foundation (MAOF).

Today, MAOF is one of the largest Mexican-American community service organizations with an annual budget of \$60 million. The preschool program is nationally recognized for instilling bicultural children with self-esteem and pride of their heritage, as well as awareness of their privileged status as Americans. MAOF educates its preschool children to enter the school system as English language participants — a significant advantage over their predecessors—and preparation to graduate from high school and enter post graduate education institutions of learning. In Southern California, where Mexican-Americans comprise more than 50% of the population, Morales' contribution is a hallmark of America's future well-being. His legend is the pursuit for man's quest for dignity.

As Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr. presented Dionicio with the Distinguished Service Award for 2008, the room went silent as the audience reflected on the incredible accomplishments of one man. One who refused to accept the status quo and who believed that his work was to make a difference. He has made that difference in the community served by Rio Hondo College and in the lives of Rio Hondo College students who are motivated to continue the work that he started.

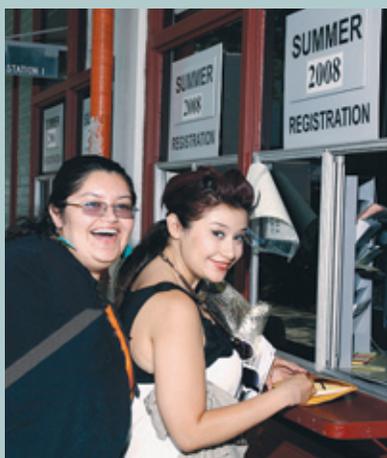


*Maria Elena Martinez, Dionicio Morales, Angela Acosta-Salazar, Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.*

## Summer Session Students Take Opportunity to 'Finish Faster'

Over 12,000 students took advantage of Summer Session opportunities to "finish faster" by giving up traditional summer "R & R" activities and banking some units instead.

As of July 23, 2008 there was an 8 percent increase in students registered for Summer Sessions over last year, as well as whopping 17 percent increase in the number of units that students are taking.



The work of all staff to accommodate the record number of students on campus during what has been a 'slow' time in the past has been incredible! The Admissions Center had lines nearly every day as students took advantage of the multiple Summer Session start dates, and registration for Fall semester that began mid-July; maintenance, custodial and grounds crews are busy keeping the campus in good condition, library and other academic support staff are likewise occupied helping students succeed. The last day of the last Summer Session is August 15. Fall classes begin August 25, after just a week between sessions.

Clearly, Rio Hondo College is a year-round enterprise!



## GO RIO Program Speeds Into Third Year

The GO RIO Program is poised to begin its third year of operation in helping our students get to campus. As before, all full-time students will have the opportunity to pick up a GO RIO pass that is accepted by our transit partners.

Those partners include Metro, Foothill Transit, Norwalk Transit, Montebello Bus Lines, and the Sunshine Shuttle. To help keep the program running for two more years, the student body voted in the Spring '08 ASB election to assess a flat \$3 fee on each student to help cover the rising operational costs.

Even with the new fee, which becomes effective this coming fall semester, GO RIO is still the "Rio Deal" given that full-time students will be able to have ultimate access to all five bus lines that would normally cost more than \$700. Furthermore, even students who do not have a GO RIO pass can enjoy the benefits of GO RIO since it has contributed to fewer vehicles brought to campus, less demand for parking, and improved air quality.

Since Rio Hondo College launched GO RIO in Fall '06, the program has doubled transit ridership and has contributed to the removal of over 6,000 lbs. or three tons of mobile source emissions. GO RIO has garnered statewide attention as other campuses, including Riverside City College and Peralta College, have taken important steps towards establishing mass-transit programs for their students. For the latest updates to the GO RIO Program, visit the GO RIO webpage at: [www.riohondo.edu/gorio](http://www.riohondo.edu/gorio).

## AccessRio Project Update

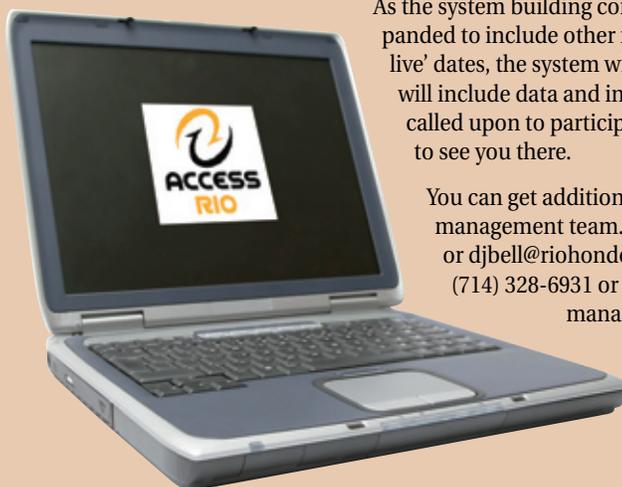
Everyone is busily engaged in building the system in preparation to 'going live' to register students for the Winter Intersession in 2010...just 18 months away.

We are starting the shift to data migration, interfacing and testing and all of these activities will insure the system is ready for use.

In July, we started our first phase of testing. Academic Affairs held a 'mock' catalog and schedule input session. This process allowed staff to input information into a test database to check the rules, configuration and set-up of the system. This early testing allows time to correct or change areas that do not work to the advantage of Rio Hondo. Many staff from different areas of the campus participated in the 'mock.' We are happy to report that the catalog and schedule input went well.

As the system building continues, more 'mocks' will be done and expanded to include other modules. As we get closer to the actual 'go-live' dates, the system will be tested from end to end in 'mocks' that will include data and interfaces from all parts of Banner. You may be called upon to participate in one or more 'mock' activities. We hope to see you there.

You can get additional information by contacting our project management team. David Bell can be reached at (562) 463-3749 or [djbell@riohondo.edu](mailto:djbell@riohondo.edu) and Jack Raubolt can be reached at (714) 328-6931 or [jraubolt@riohondo.edu](mailto:jraubolt@riohondo.edu). Staff, faculty and managers are welcome to visit the project Web Site at <http://accessrio.riohondo.edu>. Access requires a valid Rio Hondo email account.



## Construction Update

As everyone will attest, construction is taking place in almost every quadrant of campus this summer. The Central Plant Project on the south side is underway after some redesign of the hillside. The Infrastructure Project (now also known as The Big Dig) on Central Drive provides interesting opportunities to follow progress by any and all 'sidewalk superintendents.' Necessary closing of Central impacts traffic around campus, but the end result will be a more energy efficient and effective campus. When Central Drive is eventually open for traffic again, we will all be able to visualize the huge pipes that are housed beneath the surface and appreciate the extent of the project.



The Library and Learning Resource Center is progressing on target, with construction of the second floor and roof structures nearly complete. Construction principals and staff enjoyed a 'topping' ceremony on what was likely the hottest day of the year!

In addition to the projects under construction now, the campus is ready to start several new projects. The Applied Technology Renovation is set to begin within the next month, pending approval of the contract from the State Chancellor's Office. Rio Hondo College will also be putting several projects out to bid in the coming months, including the South Whittier Center, the Administration of Justice Building, and the Physical Education Complex.

## Strategic Planning Goes to the Next Level

Beginning with a retreat held earlier this year, the Rio Hondo campus community has been engaged in developing a Strategic Planning Process, and a plan itself. Earlier this month, Scott Epstein, a strategic planning consultant, presented an update and overview for the College's Administrative Council.

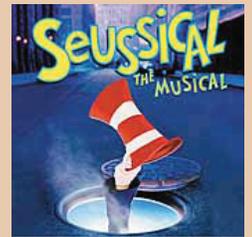
The College community has developed goals, objectives and key performance indicators to provide alignment toward achieving the College's strategic goals. The next steps involve each operational area's work to develop individual unit plans, which will provide the details regarding what is the objective, when will the activities take place, by whom, what is the anticipated cost, and how will we know the objectives are accomplished – the essentials of action plans to help keep everyone on target.

Dr. Jacqueline Nagatsuka, the former Dean of Institutional Research and Planning, distributed a timeline that included conducting an Environmental Scan June through August. She encouraged everyone to visit the Strategic Planning page on the RHC website for details and data.

The next three-month block will be devoted to reviewing goals, objectives and key performance indicators. Unit plans will be the focus in December, in order to provide information for the Planning and Fiscal Council to use as a base for recommendations for the development of the institutional budget for FY 09-10.

## Seussical the Musical Thrills Audience of All Ages

"My granddaughters absolutely loved this performance and they've seen Seussical before, but this one they said was 'way better'" reported Alice Tirre, about the Theatre Department's production of *Seussical the Musical* July 24-28. The RHC production was directed by William Korf, Debra DeLiso and Linda Brown.



Community enthusiasm was overwhelming, and it was unfortunate that many were turned away at the door. According to Performing and Visual Arts Dean, Joanna Downey, "Our family-friendly performances, especially the summer musicals, have become so popular that we will be evaluating the opportunity to have longer run dates in the future, to better accommodate our growing audiences."

A musical based on the works of Dr. Seuss, is a story within a story. A young boy thinks up a Cat in a Hat who tells a story of an elephant named Horton and his adventures when he discovers a group of people so small they cannot even be seen. Only he, with his big ears, can hear them. These themes come from the Dr. Seuss books *Horton Hears a Who* and *Horton Hatches the Egg*. There are 13 other book themes that will show up as well. This enchanting performance features music by Stephen Flaherty and lyrics by Lynn Ahrens. The script is based on the book that was written by both Flaherty and Ahrens with the help of Eric Idle of Monty Python fame. The production originally debuted on Broadway in 2000.

According to Downey, "due to demand for family friendly programming, we are adding a series of family friendly offerings this coming year. All performances will be on Saturday at 3 p.m. beginning September 2008 with a production of the Balinese Puppet Theatre, *Shadows of Bali*, a mixture of music, puppets and traditional storytelling."



# Introducing Howard Kummerman

Howard Kummerman joins Rio Hondo College as Director of Grant Development. Upon graduation from San Diego State University, Howard began a career in non-profit management and fundraising. He also holds a Master of Science in Executive Leadership from the Business School at the University of San Diego.



Throughout his professional career, Howard has served the community at a number of major non-profit organizations. He has held positions at Project Concern International, worked as Director of Development for the Burn Institute, Executive Director of the Grossmont College Foundation, served on the Mayor's management team at the City of San Diego, and is a consultant for non-profit causes. Prior to joining RHC, Howard was the Chief Development and Marketing Officer at Jewish Family Service of San Diego.

His civic involvement has included President of the Santee Chamber of Commerce, Past President of the Santee Rotary Foundation and Rotary Club, AYSO Soccer Referee & Coach, Phi Gamma Delta Graduate Activities.

## Rio Hondo College Honor Transfer Students 'Rock On' with 92% UCLA Acceptance

Rio Hondo College announced that 41 Rio Hondo College students have been accepted to attend the prestigious University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). More than half of those students (24) participated in the Rio Hondo Honors Transfer Program, also known as the Transfer Alliance Program. Overall, RHC students who participated in the Honors Transfer Program achieved a 92 percent UCLA transfer acceptance rate, one of the highest in the state for such programs.



*Sebastian Jude*

Sebastian Jude, who is just 18, is one of the Rio Hondo College Honors Transfer Program grads who is UCLA-bound this fall. He plans to study philosophy. Jude was already an accomplished student when he co-enrolled at the college while still in the Sierra Vista High School independent studies program. In just two years, he completed high school while earning two associate degrees!

"The Honors Transfer Program classes at Rio Hondo College allowed me to truly think about what I was learning and to apply it to all my classes," said Jude. He received a major scholarship from the Judge Carlos Rodriguez and Felicia Rodriguez Scholarship program which provides support for Rio Hondo College students participating in the Honors Transfer Program.



*Ramon Quintero, Teresa Caro, Carlos Amelco*

Other local scholars who will attend UCLA include two students who also received the Rodriguez awards: Carlos Amelco, who plans to study Political Science; and Teresa Caro, who will major in Sociology. Yet another Honors Program participant and Rodriguez scholar is Ramon Quintero, who will attend UC Berkeley.

To be an active participant in the Honors Program, new Rio Hondo College students must have a high school GPA of 3.2 and enroll in English 101 in their first semester. Continuing students must have a GPA of 3.2 for all transferable college courses, and must have completed English 101 with an "A" or "B." Students must take at least 12 units and at least one honors course each semester.

For more information about the Rio Hondo College Honors Transfer Program, contact Martha De La Mora in the counseling office at 562-463-7581, or [mdelamora@riohondo.edu](mailto:mdelamora@riohondo.edu); or Rebecca Green, Program Director, [rgreen@riohondo.edu](mailto:rgreen@riohondo.edu).

## RHC Fire Team Plays Critical Role in Fighting Monterey Fires

On July 30, 20 members of the Rio Hondo College Wildland fire crew were activated to assist fighting the fire in Monterey, a deployment of at least 14 days. However, the U.S. Forest Service may keep them for the full 21 days if needed. This is the RHC crew's second rotation this fire season.



## New Specialty Classes Introduced!

Did you know that Rio Hondo College is now offering classes in Heavy Equipment Maintenance, Logistics Management, and Introduction to Land Surveying? These classes will be offered for the first time this coming fall semester, and will lead students to 'hot'



new career opportunities that were recently identified in the Analysis of Industry and Workforce in the College's service area. Check the website for more information and help spread the word about these new career/technical career opportunities.



## The Rio Hondo College Foundation Sets Initiatives for 2008/2009

While Rio Hondo College continues to increase the number of students served, and to develop new programs and academic opportunities, our resources are never enough to fully support everything the College would like to accomplish.

The Rio Hondo College Foundation secures supplemental funding through contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations, and non-profits to assist the College in meeting its commitment to educational excellence and access. The Foundation's mission is to secure financial assistance for scholarships, programs, equipment, and projects which meet the changing needs of the College's growing student population.

The Foundation Board held a working retreat last month and elected new officers:

- Rich Casford, President
- Neal Welland, Vice President
- Cheryl Romero, Treasurer
- Marsha Antonelli, Secretary
- Sylvia Southerland, Past President

In addition, Doug Lopez was appointed chair of the Golf Tournament, which will be held October 27 at the Friendly Hills Country Club. The Board also identified two projects to accomplish in the coming year: revising the by-laws and updating the Strategic Plan. Finally, Funding Initiatives for the 2008/2009 year were set. They include:

- Regional Health Occupational Training Center
- Scholarship Endowment Fund
- Soccer Field/Artificial Turf
- Fine Arts Complex
- Naming Opportunities for the LRC and Technology Buildings
- Memorial Wall for Administration of Justice Building



Rich Casford, the President and CEO of Whittier Mailing Service, is a Rio Hondo College alumnus. He is an active member in the community for charitable works. Rich is a member of the President's Circle at Rio Hondo College, the Whittier Lions Club, the Whittier Chamber of Commerce, Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce, Downey Chamber of Commerce, Montebello Chamber of Commerce, La Habra Chamber of Commerce, La Mirada Chamber of Commerce and the Pico Rivera Chamber of Commerce.

"As a Foundation Board, we hope to raise awareness of the Foundation and the money that we raise for the students of Rio Hondo College," said Rich Casford. "Our hope is to provide not only much needed monies for the College, but also to serve as a resource for the alumni of the College."

Rich is the former Chair of the Board of Presbyterian Community Hospital and Founder of Friendly Hills Bank. He is an Adult Mentor for California High School in Whittier as well as the

President of the California High School Alumni Association. He serves on the Board of the Southern California Postal Customer Council and has won the Robert M. Huse Chapter Achievement award from the Mailing and Fulfillment Service Association.

This year promises to be a successful one for the Rio Hondo College Foundation.



Rich Casford, Foundation President

# TRAFFIC ALERT

August 2008 – November 2008

To ensure that your trip through the Rio Hondo College campus is as easy as possible please visit [www.riohondocollege.info](http://www.riohondocollege.info) for the newest circulation map or visit the Rio Hondo College home page and click on circulation map.