President’s Message

As we look toward our Flex Week activities and opening day of fall classes next month, it is evident that our summer is passing rapidly. However, we are serving more students than ever during summer sessions, and may reach the 12,000 mark by the time our last class is over August 14! It is clear that our classes are in demand, and I do appreciate everyone's efforts to keep our service exceptional, even while pressed by the calls and walk-ins who are seeking assistance with enrollment and registration for fall semester.

We have been working to help prepare the college to meet upcoming fiscal challenges presented by the significant cuts in the State budget. Examples include the series of meetings of the Cost Savings Task Force, chaired by Vice President Teresa Dreyfuss. This group, composed of a cross section of campus employees, collected and analyzed a series of recommendations for consideration and possible implementation. Everyone will soon receive a list of cost savings strategies, some large and some small, that we can all implement as individuals and as departments. Remember, even little savings add up.

Closely aligned with the focus of the Cost Savings Task Force is the ongoing work of the Enrollment Strategies Subcommittee. This group has spent time analyzing our enrollment and FTES patterns. Their work will result in recommendations for our consideration.

The Accreditation Response Team is in the final stages of preparing the response to the recommendations we received from the Accrediting Commission. The document will be ready for Board review at the August board meeting. Latest updates and information is posted and always available on the Public Drive. My continuing thanks to co-chairs JoAnna Downey and Katie O’Brien for their coordination, and to all the faculty and administrators who have worked diligently to prepare the document for submission.

The truly good news is that our new Library and Learning Resource Center will soon be open. Everyone will receive information about where offices and individuals have been relocated from the old Library tower. Remember, some offices will not be moving, so it is always good to check. Students may not be familiar with the new location, so please be sure to help guide them those first confusing days of class. The Information Booths will be especially important during this time. I applaud and thank those who volunteer to assist!

FLEX Days Offer Professional Development for RHC Faculty

Mark Your Calendars for August 20-21!

FLEX Days are designed to provide RHC faculty the opportunity to participate in developmental activities related to staff, student and instructional improvement. This year’s FLEX period is extended to a 1-and-½-day-period, August 20-21.

FLEX Days are contractually-agreed to events that require all full-time faculty to attend. Part-time faculty is also invited and all staff/administrators are welcome as well.

The agenda for this year's FLEX Days is currently being finalized. According to RHC Staff Development/ FLEX Coordinator Katie O’Brien, the day will include welcoming remarks, campus updates, facilities and construction updates and budget information. Everyone is invited to an all-campus BBQ at noon in the Library Breezeway, hosted by the President's Office and the Rio Hondo College Foundation. Afterward, participants will be able to attend various workshops/sessions in the afternoon.

O’Brien said she anticipates having approximately 350 faculty members attend this year’s FLEX Days. For more information on RHC’s FLEX Days, please contact FLEX Clerk Teresa Martinez at ext. 3210.
Henry Gee Honored with Prestigious Alumni Leadership Award

RHC's Vice President of Student Services Henry Gee was recently honored with the David R. Barclay Alumni Leadership Award at the 21st Annual Leadership Awards Dinner hosted by the Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics, Inc (LEAP).

This award is presented annually to a former LEAP graduate, who exemplifies through professional or community involvement, the values that David Barclay was committed to: equal opportunity, social justice, diversity and inclusion, integrity and servant leadership. Gee is the second recipient of this award, and Mr. Barclay's family attended the dinner to present the award to him.

Gee is a graduate of the Inaugural Leadership Development Program for Higher Education (LDPHE), which is sponsored by LEAP. He has also participated in the program since his graduation, serving as its co-facilitator for the past nine years. Henry has also been previously acknowledged by the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators (NASPA) with the Shattering the Glass Ceiling Award in 2003, and was inducted as a Pillar of the Profession in 2004. He also received the Inaugural Outstanding Mentoring Award in 2008.

Congratulations!

RHC Prepares for Library and Learning Resource Center to Open

When students, staff, and faculty return to RHC for the Fall semester, they will have access to and use of the huge new structure that has been under construction and largely shielded from view by construction fences for nearly two years – the Library and Learning Resource Center (LRC). The largest single element in the Measure A construction program, this new building is the size of two football fields and will be a modern signature structure for the college, literally and figuratively the ‘heart’ of the campus.

The facility will have a modern library, training and meeting rooms, writing and reading labs and a rooftop garden on the second floor. Located on the former site of the Putnam Center, the 94,000 square-foot two-story building anchors the south end of the central campus area.

Throughout the college community, excitement has been growing over this new facility and how it will better serve students and faculty. The College asks, however, that everyone show patience during the first few weeks of school as there may be unexpected changes in class locations.

The RHC Foundation is planning a reception for members of the President’s Circle Thursday, August 13, which will feature a State of the College Address by Rio Hondo College Superintendent/President Ted Martinez, Jr. Ph.D. and provide a preview tour of the new LRC.

The purpose of the reception is to increase awareness of RHC’s facilities projects among members of the President’s Circle and allow them to preview the outstanding new facility. The President’s Circle is composed of members of the community and campus who support the Rio Hondo College Foundation at a specific contribution level.

The College also plans to host a campus-wide grand opening for the new LRC once the building is fully occupied and in service in September.

QUESTION: Why is there a lawn growing on the top of the new LRC?

ANSWER: The grass growing on a portion of the LRC’s roof is just another part of the “green” (environmentally-friendly) aspects of the project. A “green roof” reduces solar heat gain, which is good for both the building and the environment. The area on the roof where the grass grows is also visible from the second-floor offices, making it even more pleasant to look at! It is interesting to note that the grass will not need maintenance or mowing because the grass is naturally long and will be kept that way.

RHC Prepares for Library and Learning Resource Center to Open

Both Director of Information Technology Services John Bryant and consultant Jack Raubolt shared information with the Board of Trustees on AccessRIO Implementation Program (Banner). They discussed how the program would benefit both students and college staff. The program will be in full swing in October and ready to accept student applications and registrations for Spring 2010.

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July 2009 Board Meeting

The Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees held its regular monthly meeting July 8, 2009 on the College campus.

A Sabbatical Leave Report presentation was made by Instructor Mary Rivera to the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Andy Howard provided an update to the Board of Trustees on the Rio Hondo College Foundation. The presentation offered information on the Foundation's Mission Statement, its Board Members, accomplishments made during 2008-09, such as providing more scholarships to students, as well as shared photos from the President’s Gala. It also provided information to the Board of Trustees on the Foundation’s major initiatives and highlighted its vision for the future.

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RHC’s Dean of Arts and Cultural Programs Joanna Downey shared information with the Board of Trustees on the College’s Cultural Arts Program. A performance by the RHC Singers also took place for everyone’s enjoyment.

AccessRIO to Provide One-Stop Online Convenience

Greater campus connectivity and computer access is just around the corner!

This October, RHC will unveil its new AccessRIO student information system. This highly-anticipated system will centralize information access for students. It will also serve as a one-stop online resource for admission, registration, personal records and much more. In making this change, the College will increase efficiency, improve services and provide access to real-time information. Staff members have been hard at work for more than two years to build the system and input data necessary for the transfer of records and course data.

Once the system is active, students will be able to:
- Apply for admission
- Check application status
- Check registration status
- Add/drop classes anytime within published deadlines
- Print a schedule of classes
- Pay fees by credit card
- Obtain grades
- Print an unofficial transcript
- Update personal information

Additionally, students will be able to search for open classes, be placed on waiting lists for full classes, update/access student email accounts, request records and more. The system is user friendly, secure and password protected and will be available 4 a.m. to midnight.

Beginning with the Spring 2010 term, students will need to use AccessRIO, as telephone registration will be discontinued. In order to access the system, students will only need their student name and student identification number. The system is user-friendly, but anyone requiring additional assistance will be able to receive help at the registrar’s office.

There is a full-page ad in the Fall, 2009 class schedule announcing the upcoming AccessRIO system for Spring 2010. Students will also receive additional information as the dates approaches.

GREAT NEWS!

Coming for Spring 2010 Registration

New AccessRIO Computer Info Program Begins October, 2009

AccessRIO is your one-stop online resource for admission, registration, your personal records and much more. You’ll save time while you accomplish your educational objectives, online when your schedule permits. No more waiting in annoyng lines.

Advantages include:
- You’ll be able to search for open classes
- View lists for full classes
- Student e-mail accounts
- Self-service record request
- Secure system; password protected
- On-campus registration kiosks and assistance available

NOTE: Beginning with the SPRING 2010 term, telephone registration and in person registration will be discontinued.
Members of the RHC Roadrunner Fighting Crew are available and on-call to the National Forest to fight fires whenever needed. This internship/work-experience program allows them to go wherever need in the country to fight fires. The #77 Crew stayed in Northern California for 14 days not only fighting the fire at Six Rivers, but also rehabilitated areas where the fire occurred and worked to prevent additional fires by creating fire breaks in needed areas. The National Forest pays these RHC firefighters for their hard work and courage.

RHC would like to commend everyone involved in this program, and is very proud of the Roadrunner #77 Crew!