President’s Message

Not only are we in full construction mode on campus just now, we will also soon celebrate the groundbreaking ceremony for our final Measure A project, the El Monte Educational Center. The South Whittier Educational Center has been operational for a full year, and has proved to be popular with the residents of the nearby communities whom it was established to serve. We are confident that the populations of El Monte and South El Monte will embrace the new community-based center there as well.

I would like to reiterate my appreciation to staff and students alike for patience with the temporary adjustments we needed to make to the parking configurations of Lots B and C to accommodate necessities of construction taking place in the center of campus: the Student Services Complex and the Upper Quad. Later this fall, we will all enjoy the new facilities and landscape to the fullest! We will however, continue with ongoing construction of the PE Complex.

In addition to the construction and parking adjustments, we are managing to serve nearly 14,000 students, even while many other colleges have eliminated or drastically curtailed their summer sessions. My thanks to faculty and staff for helping these students ‘finish faster’ in the face of economic and construction impediments.

Our July series of Family Nights for parents and new students are going very well. By month’s end, there will have been four such sessions (including one for Spanish-speaking parents) to help acclimate new students and their families to college. Thanks to the committee and staff from several Student Services units, as well as academic program representatives, for their efforts to make these events informational and meaningful.

Fall 2011 FLEX Day is approaching. Please join us in the Wray Theatre August 18 for the official kick-off for the 49th academic year at Rio Hondo College. The Staff Development Committee is planning a morning session to share the latest in college updates, including special topics of safety and emergency preparedness; budget; the State of the College Report; facilities and construction; and planning. We will also have focused breakouts on Developmental Education and more on Emergency Preparedness. Breakout sessions will include a full range of topics designed to inform and intrigue.

Rio Deans and Administrative Assistants Learn CPR

In Memoriam

American Cancer Society Commends Basketball Coach, Student Athletes

College Experiences a Robust Summer Session

Mission Statement Posters Include New Value Statement

Art Club Students Take on New York City!

Electronic Waste Recycling Event
New Interim Dean, Athletic Director Selected

The Board of Trustees also appointed Larry Mercadante as Interim Dean of Physical Education/ATHletic Director at its July 13th meeting. Larry brings more than 40 years of administrative leadership, teaching experience and coaching history to Rio Hondo. Prior to joining the Roadrunners, Larry worked at Cypress College and Santiago Canyon College.

He earned both a bachelor's degree in History/Geology and a master's degree in Education/History from the University of Redlands.

Save-the-Date: Rio Hondo College to Host Groundbreaking Ceremony for New El Monte Educational Center

The Rio Hondo Community College District Board of Trustees has scheduled a groundbreaking ceremony for a new educational center at its July 13th meeting.

**Groundbreaking Ceremony for the El Monte Educational Center**

**Wednesday, August 17, 2011 at 10 a.m.**

8017 Tyler Avenue, El Monte, CA 91731

**Please RSVP to Sandy Sendler: ssandler@riohondo.edu**

**Please inform your Media of this event.**

**WEB SITE**

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Angel Acosta-Salazar, President; Norma R. Cerillo, Vice President; Larry Mercadante, Secretary; Maria Elena Gutierrez, Lee A. James, Casey Menendez, Mark Morgan, Glenn Olson, Ted Martinez, Jr., William Posadas, Janet Shaw, John Vickers, Ph.D., Andrey Zavrel
American Cancer Society Commends Basketball Coach, Student Athletes

The efforts of Rio Hondo College Basketball Coach Steve Herbert and student athletes were commended recently in a personal letter to Superintendent/President Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr., from American Cancer Society Chief Executive Officer, David Veneziano.

In the letter, Veneziano thanks Rio Hondo College for its participation in the California College Men’s and Women’s Basketball Coaches statewide, season-long effort to raise awareness and funds to fight cancer. A total of 55 community college basketball programs participated and raised more than $20,000 toward cancer research. Methods for fundraising included donating gate receipts of the game, raffles, half-time activities, T-shirt sales and more.

Thank you to Coach Herbert and our student athletes for participating in this fine program and for helping raise funds for cancer research!

College Experiences a Robust Summer Session

To help new students transition, the 2011 Summer Bridge Program is being held this summer, serving more than 200 students. The Program, which is held in four sessions, provides students with an academic review of English and math, campus tours, team building opportunities and educational planning time with a Rio Hondo counselor.

The Summer Bridge Program is designed to help full-time, entering students, who are serious about their education at Rio Hondo, learn more about how the campus works as well as provide them with the support they need as they transition.

The Program is one of several student success projects implemented through the Office of Student Success and Retention, funded in part by the California Basic Skills Initiative and the Title V (IDEAS) grant. Additional information is available at the following link: http://www.riohondo.edu/Basic_Skills/projects.htm.
Art Club Students Take on New York City!

Rio Hondo College Art Club students recently visited New York City as part of their Art Club activities. Students visited the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, the Empire State Building and much more.

Pictured back row left to right: Darrell Marks, Anna Martinez, Vanessa Delagarza, Megan Martinez, Albert Lopez, and Andrew Rodriguez.

Front row left to right: Art Club Advisor Ada Brown, Irina Preciado, and Roberto Preciado.