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PRESIDENT’S UPDATE

IN THIS ISSUE

As we conclude the first weeks of the 2010 Summer Session, we continue to experience high demand for all of our classes. We know that as other regional institutions make even more cutbacks in their class schedules, students seek out any opportunity to get the classes they need.

Enrollment approaches 11,000, showing an increase in headcount of approximately 20 percent over last year, although the number of units taken by individual students has declined about 8 percent. We recognize that the number of classes has not increased over last year’s schedule, but students are enrolling faster and our new AccessRIO system provides data faster as well. We do appreciate the extra efforts of faculty to accommodate as many waitlisted students as possible.

Everyone has learned new routes around campus this month as construction activity commenced for our newest projects, the Student Services Complex and the Quad Renovation. The structure bridging the upper and lower quads is already a pile of rubble, as are much of the surface areas at the entrance to the LRC and Campus Inn.

Signage helps direct foot traffic from parking lots B and C through the Wray Theatre, the Campus Inn and the Business Building to reach the upper quad. New ramps are constructed to assist disabled pedestrians on this detour route.

Please be on the lookout for new students or visitors who may seem confused. They will appreciate assistance finding their way.

Speaking of construction, we are also preparing for the extensive remodeling and construction in the PE area. PE operational units, including the dance department, are being relocated into the ‘swing space’ in the former Library tower—now the “L” building — where other various administrative departments are also housed. There may be some shifting of office space as well, so it is advisable to check before making a visit to an office in the “L” building.

The Rio Hondo College Foundation is making progress toward the new goals set for the restructured organization, including the development of an alumni association, the establishment of a major gifts committee, realigning of the scholarship process, and focus on the pursuit of the Regional Health Occupations Training Center. We appreciate the energy and enthusiasm of the volunteer Board of Directors who provide critical links to our community support.
Board Meeting

The June Board meeting was held at Whittier College in Whittier. The Community Mixer provided an opportunity for members of the public to meet and speak with Rio Hondo College Trustees. The Board Meeting followed the mixer.

Board of Trustees President Angela Acosta-Salazar gave New Student Trustee Iliana Garcia her oath of office at the beginning of the meeting. Garcia will serve for the 2010-2011 academic year.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, President Angela Acosta-Salazar provided a commendation to Whittier College President, Dr. Sharon Hertzberger, for her dedication and efforts to the Whittier community.

Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Paul Parnell shared information with the Board of Trustees on a recent honor involving Professor Dr. Vann Priest.

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In May, Dr. Priest was honored at the
University of California at Irvine after
one of his former students, Nicole Mi,
who transferred to UCI, identified him
as the person who most significantly
impacted her academic life. Board of
Trustees President Angela Acosta
Salazar commended Dr. Priest for his
commitment to the education of stu-
dents at Rio Hondo College and
thanked him for his years of service.

Board of Trustees President Angela
Acosta-Salazar provided a commenda-
tion to City of Whittier Councilwoman,
Cathy Warner, for her efforts to enhance
the City’s partnerships with Rio Hondo
College and her commitment to stu-
dent learning.

32 MESA Students
Transfer to Four-

Year Universities

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Rio Hondo GEAR UP Student Wins
‘Save Me a Spot in College’ Scholarship

Francisco Valenciano, currently a sopho-
am at Mountain View High School and a participant in the Rio Hondo
College GEAR UP program, recently won the 2010 “Save Me a Spot in College” Scholarship in the written word
category. One of approximately 13,000 students who submitted entries nationwide, Valenciano was recognized
for a poem he entered in the contest. He received a $500 scholarship to apply to reaching his college goals.

Part of the Rio Hondo Educational Partnerships program, GEAR UP, (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness
for Undergraduate Programs), is a federally-funded program designed to significantly increase the number of
low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. The program
offers such services as after-school tutoring, academic counseling, financial aid workshops and much more.
The Rio Hondo College GEAR UP: I’m Going to College Program provides academic services and activities to
students at Madrid Middle School and Mountain View High School. Valenciano is the fourth “Save Me a Spot
in College” scholarship recipient in as many years to come from the GEAR UP program. For more information
on the GEAR UP program at Rio Hondo College please visit www.riohondo.edu/edpartnerships/gearup.

Rio Hondo DECE Students Win
First 5 LA Video Contest

Five South El Monte High School students, who are also members of Rio Hondo College’s Destination Early
Childhood Education (DECE) program, were recently rewarded for videos they made as part of a video
contest sponsored by the First 5 LA Early Care and Education High School Recruitment program (ECE HSR).
As part of the contest, high-school students were asked to create Public Service Announcement (PSA) style
videos to promote early childhood education and highlight the need for quality early care and education
professionals. Students Mark Hurtado, Michelle Gonzalez and Valeria Valle won the award for Best Creative
Video, and students Lilibeth Perez and Teresa Palomares won for Best Message Delivery. All five students
received FLIP video cameras as a reward.

Coordinated out of Rio Hondo’s Educational Partnerships Office, DECE exposes and prepares high-school
students on their path toward careers in Early Childhood Education, allowing them to begin their post-sec-
ondary education while still in high school. DECE helps students connect from high school to their preferred
college and career. The five student winners were active participants in the DECE program through the edu-
cational partnership between Rio Hondo College and South El Monte High School.

“The DECE program really aims to help those students who wish to work with preschool and elementary
school students attain their goals,” said Vanessa Chavez, who coordinates the DECE program. “It is fantastic
to see students taking such an interest in early childhood development, and we are so proud of these students
who won awards as part of the First 5 LA video contest.”

To view the winning videos of the First 5 LA video contest visit www.youtube.com/ecehsr and for more infor-
mation on the Rio Hondo DECE program please visit www.riohondo.edu/edpartnerships/dece.

New AJ Building
Taking Shape

Public Safety Dean Joe Santoro is eager to showcase the
progress of construction for the Administration of Justice
building. Positioned at the northwest corner of the Cam-
pus, the new Administration of Justice Building is known as
a “gateway” project for Rio Hondo College. The project con-
ists of three floors, each having a distinct function serving
both the academy “cadet” students and the non-cadet stu-
dents. Each floor will house the appropriate faculty offices
to serve the needs of students. In addition, the building will
include a weight training room, shower/locker facility, a
faculty dining area and an assembly area, which will be
used for formation drill and outdoor training. The building
is expected to be completed in February 2011.

Joe Santoro, Dean of Public Safety,
in front of the new AJ construction site.
of Alabama. Majors among the students will include aerospace engineering, bio engineering, civil engineering, computer engineering, biology, bio chemistry, computer science, neuroscience and much more.

Thanks to Dr. Gisela Spieler-Persad, MESA Center Coordinator for this inspiring news.

**RHC Automotive Department Receives Grant**

The Automotive Department at Rio Hondo College recently was awarded an Industry Driven Regional Collaborative (IDRC) Grant to help students learn more about developing new and innovative electric vehicles. The grant amount will run from July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011 and is in the amount of $210,026.

The grant will also focus on CODA Electric Automotive Vehicles and will help students develop "practical training" when dealing with these electric vehicles. This training will include the development of three text manuals to be used in training on the repair and safety of this new technology.

Congratulations to the Automotive Department for receiving this grant and for working to provide Rio Hondo College students with the tools they need to work on the automobiles of the future.

**Web Focus Research Sessions Underway**

Now that Rio Hondo College has inaugurated the AccessRIO student records and registration system, and looks forward to the coming of the new electronic portal system (an internal web-based site for designated users), it is time to review and update the external web site as well.

In order to establish a valid data base of content and navigational practices preferred by various external user groups, we have been seeking input from various segments of the community in focus group sessions. The groups are: business/professional community representatives; adults who are not current Rio Hondo College students; high school juniors; and current students. Additionally, employees of the college who have had, or who may have a role in the development/management of area-specific portions of the web site participated in a similar session to provide content management input and to experience the data collection process. A second session for employees will be held in the fall.

Once the data is analyzed, the college will have a road map to use in making design, content and navigational decisions for a revamped web site.

**Citizens Oversight Committee Meets, Holds Tour**

The Rio Hondo College Citizens’ Oversight Committee (COC) met on Tuesday, June 15, 2010 for an informational meeting and tour of current bond projects. Now in its sixth year of existence, the COC is made up entirely of local residents who serve for two-year-terms, and work to ensure Measure A Bond monies are used only for the construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation or replacement of college facilities. They also make certain no bond monies are used for employee salaries or unrelated college expenses. The members of this committee are appointed by the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees.
**Rio Hondo CSEA Celebrates, Honors Employee Milestones with Decade Dinner**

- **10 YEARS**
  - Joe Lopez
  - Phuong-Dung Huyen
  - Xuan Lam
  - Dolores Aguirre
  - Dee Granillo-Torres
  - Margie Muñoz
  - Veronica E. Rodriguez
  - Bettie Quiroz
  - Adeline Villegas
  - Jesus Martinez
  - Gabriela Olmos
  - Michael Stockman
  - Caprice Gonzales
  - Mohamed Rassmy
  - Francine Arriaga

- **20 YEARS**
  - Claire Caplis
  - Yolanda Adame
  - Lisa Sandoval
  - Rosemarie Sanceda
  - Anamaria Gonzalez

- **30 YEARS**
  - Ralph Romo
  - Robert Villaneda
  - Lupe Scianni

**Rio Celebrates Upward Bound Graduates**

On Saturday, May 22, more than 150 Upward Bound students, parents and Rio Hondo Staff and Administra-tors celebrated the program’s Senior Class of 2010. The program had more than 20 graduates and included a Dell Scholar recipient. Graduates will be attending schools as varied as UCLA, Cal State Los Angeles, Mt. Saint Mary’s and Arizona State. The event was “fiesta” themed, which was evident by the day being filled with games, fun and food.

**Students Use New Skills to Save Rio Hondo $$**

The Heavy Maintenance Program at Rio Hondo College consists of a group of students who like to use their skills in real-life situations. About five years ago, the College’s tractor stopped working. In order to fix it, the College would have to pay $12,000. So, instead of repairing it, the College would rent a tractor whenever one was needed.

Recently, the group of students decided to fix the tractor themselves. Under the direction of their professor, the students fixed the tractor’s transmission, replaced its clutch and reconditioned its hydraulic system and did all of it for about $3,500! Not only were these students able to bring their learning to life while fixing the tractor, but they also were able to save the College thousands of dollars.

Thank you Heavy Maintenance Program for your students’ efforts and hard work!

**Automotive Scholarship Awarded**

The Automotive Service Councils of California Educational Foundation recently awarded a $500 scholarship to a Rio Hondo College student. Congratulations!