

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message

Teresa Dreyfuss
Named Interim President

Focused Efforts to
Streamline Student Experiences
Are Paying Off

Board of Trustees

Administration of Justice
Building Grand Opening

California Fire Service Magazine
Spotlights Rio Hondo
Santa Fe Springs Training Center

Rio Students Participate in Chinese
Language Television Program

Community Forum Roundup

Leadership Institute
Helps Student Leaders Grow

Community College Week "Top 100"
Degree Lists Include Rio Hondo

College Appoints
Interim Administrators

Rio Hondo Installs Four Electric
Vehicle Charging Stations



President's Message



Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

As I prepare for my upcoming status as 'retired', I have been giving thought to our institutional progress these past five years. There is much we have accomplished together, and our students are the beneficiaries. Here are some of the special highlights, although there are many others!

1. Increased access for in-district residents:

In 2007, students from outside our district represented a great majority (more than 70 percent) of our student population, raising a question of access for those who come from inside our own service area. The Board asked us to help increase the number of students from inside the district and we did!

- Strengthening and increasing outreach capacity to have representatives serving every high school in our district;
- Providing opportunities for district students to earn college credits at their local sites through delivery of classes in the "Early College Academy" sites in Whittier and El Monte

- Partnering with the El Monte Union High School District and leveraging Gear Up program funds, establishing the Transcript Evaluation Project and the El Monte Union Pledge to help streamline high school students preparation for transfer and their eventual matriculation at RHC.

As a result, today 35 percent more of our students come from inside our service than in 2007.

2. Meeting community expectations:

Our recent Community Educational Forums succeeded in large part because the relationships we established with our local districts. As a result, today we have strong, respectful, and valued networks throughout the communities we serve.

3. Construction projects and campus environment

It seems like we have had a ground breaking or grand opening almost every month! Working to bring the promise of Measure A funding to fruition, today there is a new Student Center building that now stands in the heart of the campus.

Today, with increased capacity in our facilities department, we maintain a clean and welcoming campus. Today, graffiti is completely eradicated and our clean and up-to-date campus greatly enhances student life and teaching and learning.

4. Robust state-of-the-art careers programs:

- Five years ago, the ET program was slated for discontinuance, but now we have a restored commitment to the Environmental Technology Program, one of our most cutting-edge career and transfer programs.
- Based on the results of an area-wide occupational needs survey, we now have a range of programs to provide skilled workforce for the heavy equipment maintenance industry.

5. Veterans Service Center is an operational reality.

Together, we reinvigorated the Rio Hondo College Foundation, and established 'gala' events to help generate needed funds and community support for specific projects. The Veterans Service Center was the beneficiary of the first-ever Gala. Today, that operation receives national kudos as

Rio Hondo College continues to be named a "Military Friendly School"

6. Leadership Academy to begin its third year:

We now have a mechanism to develop a new generation of campus leaders who are educated in collaboration and leadership, and who will help shape the future of Rio Hondo College.

7. Institutional Planning:

In a few short years, we have created a new culture of planning and data-based decision making, and Annual Leadership Retreats, to help our College meet present and future requirements and to maintain full accreditation.

8. Streamlining curriculum, promoting strategies for student success and retention:

Across the campus, we see new activities and focused efforts to help our students succeed, stay on track and meet their goals. Please see the separate article in this issue of UPDATE for details on the great progress we are making!

The Rio Hondo College community is comprised of talented and dedicated professionals, at all levels of service. As we approach the College's 50th anniversary, it is important for our community to know that we appreciate the extent to which Rio Hondo College has been valued and supported for so many years. From its earliest beginnings, the College has truly belonged to our community. I commend those who have played important roles along the way, as well as those who have worked tirelessly with our Foundation in order to make the Rio Hondo College experience meaningful for so many students.

It is now time for a new generation of leadership to take Rio Hondo College into the next 50 years, which will surely be as outstanding as the milestone year the College will be celebrating. I wish to thank the Board of Trustees for their support, and our administrative team for their talent and leadership, the faculty for their dedication to student achievement, and our staff for their commitment to supporting student success. I am truly proud of our collective accomplishments these past five years.

Teresa Dreyfuss Named Interim President



The Board of Trustees has named Teresa Dreyfuss as Interim President effective July 1. Dreyfuss is the College's current Vice President of Finance and Business. Superintendent/

President Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., who has led the institution for the past five years, is set to retire June 30.

Dreyfuss plans, organizes, and administers financial and business affairs for Rio Hondo College. Since coming to Rio Hondo College in 1987, she has also served as Chief Financial Officer, Controller/Business Manager, Business Manager, and Senior Accountant.

"I would like to express my appreciation to the Board of Trustees for this honor and their trust as we move into another challenging fiscal cycle," says Dreyfuss. "The College is sound. My focus will be on keeping Rio Hondo College on stable financial footing while following the Board's direction in their efforts to enhance students' college experience at Rio Hondo."

Dreyfuss has an MBA from the University of La Verne, a BA from the University of Chinese Culture, and a degree in Computer Science from Valley College. She has worked as a part-time instructor at both Rio Hondo and Los Angeles City College, teaching accounting and business classes. She also worked for a short time at Riverside Community College District.

Born in Taiwan, Dreyfuss came to the United States 35 years ago. She is married and has one daughter and two grandsons.

Superintendent/President Ted Martinez, Jr. Ph.D. was honored and feted by his colleagues and friends at a retirement celebration on June 21 at the historic Clarke Estate in Santa Fe Springs.

"Rio Hondo was the capstone of my 41 years working in education," said Martinez to the crowd that included guest speakers Bob Archuleta, Mayor, City of Pico Rivera; Nick Salerno, Superintendent, El Monte Union High School District; Cathy Warner, Member, Whittier City Council, and Rich Casford, Past President, Rio Hondo College Foundation.

Special contributors to the event included: Alison Sotomayor, Video Production; SODEXO, Inc., Rio Hondo College Foundation, KPRS Construction Services, Inc., City of Santa Fe Springs, and Rio Hondo College Management & Confidential Council.



Focused Efforts to Streamline Student Experiences Are Paying Off

Across campus, Rio Hondo College students are beneficiaries of targeted efforts to help students succeed and progress at a faster rate, whether it be in basic skills classes, 'generic' core classes, or classes in math, science and engineering areas. Here are some interesting new facts.

Basic Skills and Retention:

- **Gateway Tutoring:** 84% of students who attend tutoring sessions pass the target class, tutor training retreats and program evaluation are now on-going and embedded program components.
- **First-Year Experience:** 97% of FYE students persist from fall through spring of their first college year.
- **Summer Bridge:** 166 students completed the 2011 program and several fall follow up events were hosted and well attended. Summer Bridge students are more likely to take math, pass math, and attain higher overall retention rates than comparison groups throughout their first academic year.
- **Early Alert:** Now accessible to instructors through AccessRio, currently all basic skills courses are included, voluntary faculty participation has increased slightly in recent semesters.
- **Springboard Program:** was implemented on January 9th with a pilot cohort of 28 students during week 1 and 37 additional students signed up for week 2; English, reading, and math workshops (developed with input from discipline faculty) were provided by LAC instructional assistants over four days.

Information provided by Dr. Robert Holcomb, Associate Dean, Student Success & Retention

Fast Track Accelerated Learning Program:

We expanded the number of cohort learning communities from one cohort during Fall 2011 to five cohorts during Spring 2012. Enrollment was 29 students in three sections in Fall 2011 and 113 students in 13 sections in Spring 2012. Generally, retention rates were higher across the board, when comparing the ten different Fast Track courses to the same non-Fast Track courses (except for one course which whose retention rate was one percent lower). Success rates were sometimes higher (5 courses). The challenges of the accelerated pace were more noticeable this time around, but overall the program seems to have shown its validity to continue.

Cohort 1
ENGL 035/035W (lab)
ENGL 101
READ 023

Cohort 2
ENGL 101
ENGL 201
READ 023

Cohort 3
Math 050
READ 134

Cohort 4 – Cancelled

Cohort 5
ESL 198
ENGL 101
LIB 101

Cohort 6
SPCH 101
ENGL 201

Students Participating in Each Cohort

Cohort	Courses	Students
1	4	19
2	3	24
3	2	30
5	3	18
6	2	26
Unduplicated Total*		113

* Four students participated in two cohorts.

Note: To be counted as a "cohort participant," the student must have remained enrolled in all of the cohort's courses beyond the date for withdrawal.

Retention Rates by Course: Cohort Participants versus Students in Other Sections of Same Course between Spring 2011 and Spring 2012

Course	Spring 2012 Fast Track Participants	Students in Comparison Sections
ENGL035	100%	82%
ENGL035W	100%	83%
ENGL101	92%	80%
ENGL201	98%	85%
ESL198	100%	97%
LIB101	100%	73%
MATH050	83%	79%
READ023	91%	90%
READ134	77%	78%
SPCH101	100%	86%

Note: Retention means completing the course with any grade other than a 'W.'

Success Rates by Course: Cohort Participants versus Students in Other Sections of Same Course between Spring 2011 and Spring 2012

Course	Spring 2012 Fast Track Participants	Students in Comparison Sections
ENGL035	95%	59%
ENGL035W	74%	39%
ENGL101	82%	58%
ENGL201	70%	74%
ESL198	89%	91%
LIB101	50%	54%
MATH050	70%	56%
READ023	58%	75%
READ134	50%	53%
SPCH101	100%	72%

Note: Success means passing the course with a grade of 'C' or above.



Information provided by Dr. Kenn Pierson, Dean, Communications and Languages, with data from Institutional Research and Planning.



Ancillary Activities:

Students in the ESL 198—ENGL 101—LIB 101 Fast Track Cohort visited the university library of CSU-Los Angeles with their instructors Tyler Okamoto and Judy Sevilla-Marzona. There they were treated to a tour of the library's six levels and wealth of research resources, as well as a hands-on introduction to a few of the library's 100+ online databases. The class also completed a research exercise and had time to apply for library borrowing privileges from CSU-LA. CSU librarians Christina Sheldon and Deborah Schaeffer hosted the event.

The libraries of Rio Hondo College and CSU-LA have a reciprocal agreement of mutual use privileges; currently enrolled students of Rio Hondo can borrow books from the CSU-LA library and vice versa. To find out more about the reciprocal agreement call the library reference desk at 562-908-3484.

For more information on the Fast Track Accelerated Learning Program, call Sergio Guzman, Basic Skills Coordinator, at 562-463-3479.

Information provided by Judy Sevilla-Marzona, Rio Hondo College librarian.

MESA/TRiO Student Support Services STEM Celebrates a Successful 2011-12:

Of the 171 students that were served during the academic year 40 received their AA/AS degrees.

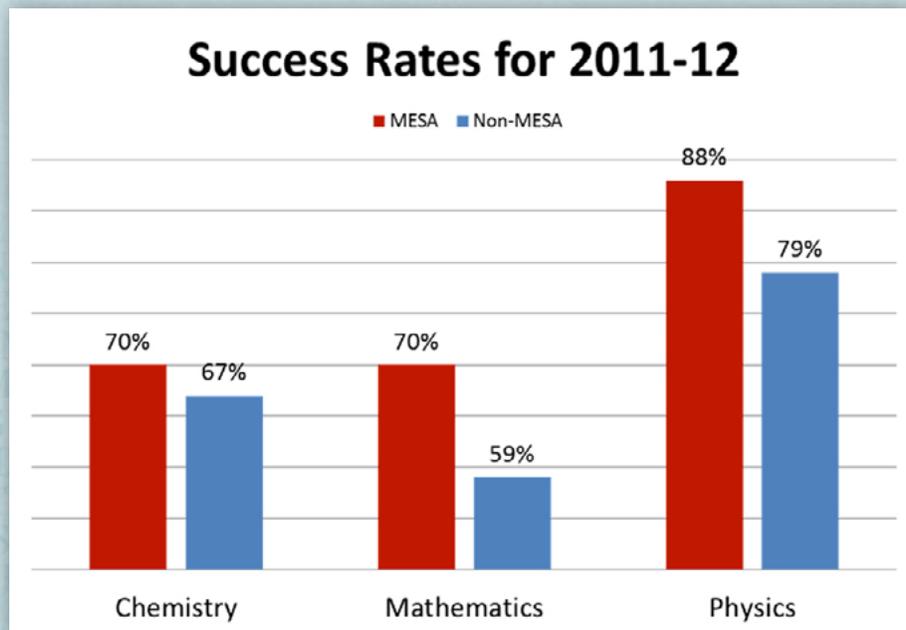
Forty students are transferring to 4-year universities in fall 2012. These students finished major preparation courses in mathematics, chemistry and physics and all but two are transferring in a STEM major. The students are headed for University of California campuses at Berkeley, Davis, Irvine, Los Angeles, San Diego, and Santa Cruz, California State Universities campuses at Fullerton, Los Angeles, Stanislaus, and Humboldt State as well as California Polytechnic Universities Pomona and San Luis Obispo. One student will enroll at USC, one at the University of Arizona and one at Biola University.

In Spring 2012 the program was able to move into its new location in S205. The students spent 11,192 hours in the center studying in groups and on their own.

In major preparation courses in mathematics, physics and chemistry, MESA students made up 31% of all students in Mathematics, 44% in chemistry and 70% in physics. Taking advantage of the MESA center, Academic Excellence Workshops (AEW), tutoring and other services such as the mandatory educational plan through transfer, educational and personal advising, financial education and more, the program participants outperformed other students again this year. AEWs are extra sessions which are designed to reinforce the material. These sessions led to mathematics success rates 13% higher for participating students when compared to those who did not.

In the fall the first group of students will receive Scholarships to Aid Rio Hondo STEM Students (STARSS). These scholarships in the amount of \$4000 - \$6000 are designed to support financially struggling students. The first awards will be announced in early July.

Information provided by Dr. Gisela Spieler-Persad, MESA & TRiO SSS STEM Program Director



Board of Trustees

Marketing and Communications Department Receives Awards

During the past year, the College Department of Marketing and Communications received numerous awards for publications and promotional materials in juried state, regional and national competition for community colleges.



Awards include:

- National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) national bronze Paragon awards for the Summer 2011 Continuing Education Schedule, and for the poster for the theater department's production of *Working*.
- NCMPR Medallion awards in regional competition:

Gold award for photography of an embrace between a graduate and her mother used to illustrate the cover of the 2011-2012 catalog; Bronze award for the Summer 2011 community newsletter; Bronze award for the postcard series to promote the 2011-2012 art gallery exhibitions.

- California Community College Public Relations Organization awards in statewide competition:

First place award for Arts and Cultural Programs brochure 2011-2012; second place award for postcard series for art gallery exhibitions; and third place award for Rio Hondo College pocket folder.

Student Trustee Marcus Gomez



Chemistry student Marcus Gomez was sworn in as the 2012-2013 Student Trustee at the June 13 Board of Trustees meeting. Congratulations Marcus!

Administration of Justice Building Grand Opening

Rio Hondo celebrated the grand opening of its new Administration of Justice (AJ) Building with a special ribbon-cutting ceremony June 14.

"Today is a grand celebration of completion, and of new beginnings," said Superintendent/President Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D. "There are many reasons to celebrate this new facility, which provides accommodation for a wide range of our Public Safety programs. We are especially proud of the Memorial Wall, at the main entrance, which was funded through a special fund-raising campaign."

"I would also like to commend our Public Safety staff for their diligence in working with the California Commission on Peace Officer Training and Standards, to reestablish our basic police academy and to make sure our training is up-to-date and meets the highest standards."

Event speakers also included United States Marshall David Singer and Santa Fe Springs Fire Chief Alex Rodriguez.

Positioned at the northwest corner of the campus, the Administration of Justice Building is the "gateway" project for Rio Hondo College. With construction costs of about \$10.9 million, the building was made possible by the local ballot initiative Bond Measure A, which provided a total \$245 million for facility improvements and advancements.

The building's three floors of approximately 32,000 square feet provides needed housing for multiple programs within the College's Division of Public Safety, including delivery of the associate degree and transfer programs for Administration of Justice, Corrections, and Fire Technology programs. The AJ building is also home to the Police Academy.

The building has already been put to use as classroom facility for various Public Safety curriculum courses and Advanced Officer Training courses for law enforcement officers, and for commencement of Police Academy classes in June.

The building also features a weight training shower/locker facility, a staff dining area and an assembly area to be used for formation drills and outdoor training.

As a tribute to the 26 Rio Hondo alumni who have given their lives in the line of duty as law enforcement and fire service officers, a Memorial Wall, funded through private contributions, graces the building entrance.



"Today is a grand celebration of completion, and of new beginnings,"



California Fire Service Magazine Spotlights Rio Hondo Santa Fe Springs Training Center



The Rio Hondo Santa Fe Springs Training Center received statewide exposure in the May/June issue of the *California Fire Service* magazine.

Ygnacio "Nash" Flores, Ed.D., dean of Public Safety, and Tracy Rickman, Rio Hondo College Fire Academy coordinator, co-authored "Working Together: Rio Hondo College - Santa Fe Springs Regional Homeland Security Training Center," an in-depth article discussing the background behind the Center's designation as an Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) training site and how the combined leadership builds area preparedness capabilities through their collaborative partnerships.

Chinese Language Program Features Students



In June Broadcasting Digital Television Channel 18.8 interviewed three past and current Rio students about their experiences in the community college program.

Recent Rio graduate Shan Wu, who is headed to Yale University this fall, shared tips with the Chinese-language station on applying to an Ivy League University.

Yan Wang, a 2012 Jet Propulsion Laboratory Undergraduate Scholar and a 2012 Outstanding Student in Chemistry and Mathematics, discussed his JPL scholarship and internship.

Chin-Wei Hsu, a 2010 Rio Hondo College graduate currently at Cal Poly, shared his experience as a finalist in the 2009 Microsoft Software Competition.

Community Forum Roundup

This past spring the Rio Hondo Board of Trustees invited community members to attend a special series of Community Educational Forum sessions that took place in each of the five districts served by the College. Strong attendance and keen interest in issues affecting the college marked the series as a great success.

Community members provided critical feedback to help Rio Hondo guide its future direction; the forums also gave families of high school students a chance to learn more about the College and the new State recommendations to promote student success.

The Community Forums took place March 15 at Whittier High School; March 22 at El Monte High School; April 12 at El Rancho High School, April 19 at Santa Fe High School, and May 17 at California High School.



Leadership Institute Helps Student Leaders Grow

In May, 44 Rio students graduated from the 2012 Student Leadership Institute (SLI), a non-credit certificate program in partnership with California State University, Fullerton (CSUF).

By attending a series of workshops that focus on developing necessary skills for effective leadership and overall character, students earned a leadership certificate from CSUF. Participation in SLI is free and open to all students.



Community College Week "Top 100" Degree Lists Include Rio Hondo

TOP 100

Community College Week has just published its annual rankings for the nation's top degree-producing community colleges. This year's lists are based on 2011 data from the U.S. Department of Education. Rio Hondo College ranks as 87th in the nation and 23rd in the state for associate degrees for all disciplines awarded to minority students; as 39th in the nation and 13th in the state for associate degrees awarded in all disciplines to Hispanic students; and as 29th in the nation and third in the state for homeland security, law enforcement, firefighting and related protective services.

College Appoints Interim Administrators

Rio Hondo College has named Dr. Kenn Pierson as Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs and Donald Mason as Interim Dean of Arts and Cultural Programs.

Pierson has served as the dean of Communications and Languages since 2008 (in an interim capacity in 2008 and 2009). He worked as an English instructor at the College from 1997 to 2008.

"I am truly humbled by the opportunity to serve, and regard it as a chance to learn more about our College and the work of the divisions beyond the one I currently serve as dean," says Pierson. "I hope to provide leadership in developing more programs that cross disciplinary boundaries, such as the Fast Track Accelerated Learning Program. I also hope to play an instrumental role in helping our new Interim President, Teresa Dreyfuss, as we confront the very real challenges of a tightened educational budget in months to come."

Pierson has a Ph.D. in English from the University of Minnesota; an MA in English from the State University of New York; and a BA in English from Dakota Wesleyan University.



Mason has worked at Rio Hondo since 1995, as a classified employee, adjunct instructor, and instructor in the Department of Public Safety. For the past eight months he has served as Interim Associate Dean of Academic Affairs in Public Safety. Prior to Rio Hondo, Mason enjoyed a 20-year career in law enforcement. He has a BA and MA in Education, and is currently studying for his Doctorate in Education.

"The members of the Art, Cultural Programs, and Continuing Education division are dedicated professionals who are committed to the providing a quality education while promoting the arts and lifelong learning," says Mason. "I consider myself fortunate to be a part of the division."

Rio Hondo Installs Four Electric Vehicle Charging Stations



Rio Hondo College has installed four electric vehicle charging stations on campus as the result of a grant received through the ChargePoint America program. The charging stations are open to the Rio community as well as the general public.

Two fully networked Level II (220v) ChargePoint Charging Stations are installed in Lot H and will be used for student training as well as for consumer charging. Two more stations are installed in front of the Student Services Complex.

The ChargePoint America program is made possible by a grant funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act through the Transportation Electrification Initiative administered by the Department of Energy, combined with funding from other public agencies including the California Energy Commission and private industry.

As a program participant, RHC has agreed to anonymous data collection by each charging station for two years that will track the usage data. The charging stations are networked and data is automated.

Rio Hondo College's distinction as a leading center of the latest in sustainability concepts in community college automotive repair instruction contributed to it receiving the grant. The college's Alternative Fuels Technology Program includes a technician training on a pure plug-in electric vehicle as well as in Hybrid Technology, Fuel Cell Technology and Hydrogen Technology, Compressed Natural Gas, Liquid Natural Gas, and Liquid Petroleum Gas.

"We qualified for this program in part because of the Rio Hondo College alternative energy program," says Technologies and Energy Professor John Frala. Frala received the 2011 Leadership Award, in the Instructor category, at the Green California Community Colleges Summit.

The Alternative Fuels Technology Program at Rio Hondo College is an exemplary program that has influenced many other instructors and educational programs across the state.

Drivers can reserve a charging station space and time by texting to the station site via smart phone to reserve space and with certain smart phone and applications that also notifies them when their charge is complete. A full charge takes about four hours. Cars are charged by the kilowatt; the cost per kilowatt runs between 4 cents and \$1.17 per kilowatt, depending on time of day.

