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President's Message



Teresa Dreyfuss

As autumn fills the air, I pause to take a deep breath and reflect on a very productive month of September. Our students are now more than a month into the fall semester and the College's faculty, staff, and administrators, continue to work very hard to offer them the very best academic experience they can possibly have.

I wish to thank those who attended the Sept. 19 Community Welcome Reception at the Clarke Estate in Santa Fe Springs. During my remarks I commented on why Rio Hondo College is a unique, special place to serve as a college president.

Rio Hondo is able to achieve multiple missions including: providing essential post-secondary instruction leading to associate degrees and/or transfer to four-year schools; providing a wide range of career and technical occupational opportunities to help meet the needs of the local economy and our business communities; to provide basic skills and developmental education for students who arrive at our doors unprepared for college-level instruction; and to provide opportunities for life-long learners who seek to develop talents and skills whenever they are ready to do so.

During my remarks I also discussed my three primary goals as President, which are: 1) to increase graduation and completion rates; 2) to plan and implement the student success taskforce recommendations; and to 3) successfully reaffirm our accreditation status.

I concluded my remarks by stating that I cannot achieve these alone. In order to accomplish them, I need to rely on the support, good will, and contributions of each of you. I thank our entire team at Rio Hondo College for their leadership and commitment to working together to embrace a future filled with promise.

Community Welcomes New Superintendent/President

About 200 guests, including local mayors and dignitaries, congratulated new Rio Hondo College Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss on Sept. 19 at a community welcome event at the Clarke Estate in Santa Fe Springs.

Dreyfuss, Rio Hondo's ninth superintendent/president, began her post in July. She was lauded for her financial acumen, institutional knowledge and her ability to keep the College stable during the economic downturn.

El Monte Mayor André Quintero, who served on the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees for eight years while Dreyfuss was chief financial officer, said his experience working with her convinced him she was the best choice for the job.

"I experienced first-hand why Teresa is so respected," Quintero said. "Teresa's attention to detail is still second-to-none."

Others who spoke at the event include Santa Fe Springs Mayor Richard Moore, Pico Rivera Mayor Gustavo Camacho, South El Monte Mayor Pro Tem Angelica Delgado, Rio Hondo College Foundation President Neal Welland and Associated Students of Rio Hondo College President Valeria Guerrero.

"Rio Hondo College is a unique, special place to serve as a college president. As all California community colleges do, Rio Hondo College has multiple missions," Dreyfuss said. "In order to accomplish them, I need to rely on the support, goodwill and contributions from each of you – our public and private partners – just as we have done during our 50-year history."



El Monte Mayor André Quintero, left, joins Pico Rivera Mayor Gustavo Camacho, Santa Fe Springs Mayor Richard Moore and Whittier Mayor Bob Henderson in welcoming new Rio Hondo College Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss.

Board Update



Members of the 2013 Leadership Academy were introduced to the Board of Trustees at the Sept. 11 meeting.

The Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees adopted a balanced budget on Sept. 11 that keeps the College fiscally solvent and maintains top-notch services and resources for its students.

In other actions, the Board recognized the members of this year's Leadership Academy, a yearlong program designed to enhance employees' capacity to be leaders at all levels. Directed by EOP&S Counselor Dennyse Clark, Cohort 4 has 13 participants this year.

Dr. Robert Holcomb, the Dean for the Division of Communications and Languages, gave the Board an update on the progress of the division, including the growth of its programs and clubs, such as the Creative Writing Club.

After the Board approved several items to help improve and repair facilities, Jerome Quemada, assistant program manager for Del Terra, gave a presentation outlining the new PE Complex and renovated softball field. He also showed preliminary work on other projects.

At the end of the meeting Government and Community Relations Director and Accreditation Standard IV Co-Chair Russell Castaneda-Calleros gave an update to the Board about the proposed calendar of fall activities related to Standard IV.

Rio Hondo Remembers 9/11

Students, faculty and staff came together on Sept. 11 to remember those who were lost 12 years ago in the worst act of terrorism the country has seen on American soil.

The 9/11 Memorial Ceremony included speeches, a moving rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner," and the presentation of colors by the Rio Hondo College Fire Academy Color Guard.

Fire Academy Coordinator Tracy Rickman, who spoke before the scheduled moment of silence, said some of the Fire Academy's best were on a plane out of Edwards Air Force Base to assist in the response while the rest of the world watched the towers fall in New York City.

"I'd like to thank you for coming out today in remembrance of those who died on September 11th," Rickman said.

A solemn moment of silence at 9:11 a.m. followed. The ever-busy main quad ceased its usual hustle and bustle as attendees bowed their heads, closed their eyes and remembered the tragedy that played before a nation.

"It's important to remember to live together as a community and to live together in peace," Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss said after the moment of silence had passed.



Students Receive Options, Information at Transfer Day

More than 30 public and private universities attended the Transfer Day Event on Sept. 11 to offer Rio Hondo College students a look into what it takes to transfer to their institution.



Representatives from schools in the University of California and California State University systems, as well as those from Ivy League institutions and private colleges gave out information on the transfer process and what their schools offer.

"Our goal is to continue to establish a transfer culture at Rio Hondo and we want to show the students what opportunities are out there for them," Jose Lara, Interim Counselor/Coordinator at the Transfer Center.

Student Erick Gomez said Transfer Day made learning about the transfer process easier.

"We got the correct information and brochures we'll need for our futures," Gomez said.

Even students who are not looking to transfer soon can also benefit from the twice-a-semester event, said Boualoy Dayton, a representative from California State University, Long Beach.

"The earlier you know your options, the better," Dayton said. "You have the opportunity to plan ahead and it's something to look forward to."

Coming Soon... Celebration of Reading



Julie Mammano

Julie Mammano, author of "Rhinos Who Surf," will help kick off Rio Hondo College's Reading Festival on Thursday, Oct. 10 from 3 to 6 p.m. in the lower quad and Learning Resource Center room 101.

The event will feature special guest readings, door prizes and food. Join the Communications and Languages Division's Reading Department in exploring how children's literature is written and illustrated. Bring a book and blanket and help the division meet its Read-a-thon goal of 3,000 minutes!



Save the Date

The grand opening for the highly anticipated PE Complex is scheduled for Wednesday, Oct. 23 at 11 a.m. Light refreshments will be available while supplies last!

First Latino Heritage Month Celebration a Success

Mariachi, folklórico dancers and an array of food, art and entertainment were on hand at the first-ever Rio Hondo College Latino Heritage Month Celebration on Saturday, Sept. 14.

The event, co-hosted by the Division of Arts and Cultural Programs and Student Life and Activities, featured traditional Latin American entertainment, an El Grito contest, community and student information booths and delicious food from local restaurants, including Frantones, El Tepeyac, Taquizos and more.

"Rio Hondo College is known for its diverse student population and its rich culture," said Arts and Cultural Programs Dean Christopher Guptill. "With this event, we welcomed the community to share in the beauty of this culture, as well as let them know more about the College."

The Plaza de la Raza Youth Mariachi and Folklórico ensembles performed throughout the afternoon. Attendees also learned about ongoing campus activities and student organizations, and had their pictures taken with Rex, the Rio Roadrunner.



Arts Abound at Rio Hondo College

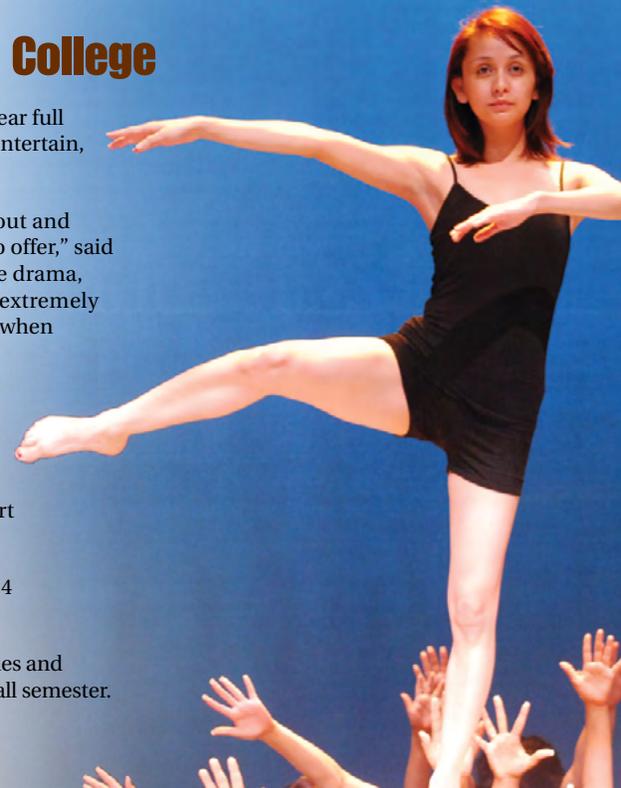
The Division of Arts and Cultural Programs have a year full of shows and performances that are guaranteed to entertain, amaze and delight the community.

"This year we really want the community to come out and enjoy all that our Arts and Cultural Programs have to offer," said Christopher Guptill, dean of the program. "We have drama, comedy, high art – you name it. Our students are extremely talented and it's always a treat to see their reactions when people take an interest in their work."

One of the year's most stimulating events is SUR: Biennial, a celebration of Los Angeles art and its importance as a critical epicenter of today's art scene. SUR: Biennial is a collaboration between the Rio Hondo and Cerritos colleges and the Torrance Art Museum. It runs from Oct. 17 to Nov. 18.

SUR: Biennial will kick off with a reception on Oct. 24 at the Rio Hondo College Art Gallery.

Several concerts by Rio Hondo's choral groups, art sales and holiday-themed performances are all on tap for the fall semester.



New Staff to Lead Departments



Bruce A. Noble

At the Sept. 11 meeting, the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees tapped two new staff members with vast expertise to fill two important positions within the College.

Bruce A. Noble, a Pepperdine University MBA graduate, has been selected as the Interim Project/Grant Manager for the College. He will plan, develop, schedule, monitor and evaluate assigned grant programs, among other duties.



Nellie Hernandez-Garcia

The Board also voted to hire Nellie Hernandez-Garcia as the Interim CalWORKS Counselor/Coordinator.

Hernandez-Garcia has a master's degree in counseling, a bachelor's degree in business administration and a career counseling certificate from California State University, Los Angeles.

As the CalWORKS Counselor/Coordinator, Hernandez-Garcia will be responsible for assisting in the development and implementation of a marketing and recruitment plan, preparing the budget, attending local and regional CalWORKS meetings, assisting in the gathering of data for reports, serving as a liaison with off campus agencies including DPSS/GAIN, and facilitating the CalWORKS Advisory Committee meetings.

"Both Mr. Noble and Ms. Hernandez-Garcia bring a wealth of knowledge to these important positions," said Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss. "They are very committed to the success of the College and its students."

Roadrunners Pitch In During Rim Fire

Roadrunner Fire Crew 77 deployed to help battle the Rim Fire just outside Yosemite National Park, a blaze that has already claimed nearly 30,000 acres since breaking out in August.

Seventeen recent graduates of the Wildland Fire Academy were on the frontline of one of the largest wildfires in California history, which has so far burned 400 square miles, said Tracy Rickman, coordinator for the academy.

"It's huge for our program because we directly train them on the education side, and they go right into a job," he said. "Wherever there's fire burning, that's where they're going to go."

The team worked as a Type 2 Hand Crew to help battle the blaze, using chainsaws, shovels and pulaskis to reestablish the perimeter of the fire so it can be contained and eventually extinguished. The Roadrunners were deployed for two weeks.



Students 'Discoverio' at Event

The average high school in California has between 1,000 and 2,000 students at any given time. At Rio Hondo College, there are more than 18,000.

Between new classes, new ways of learning and holding down work and a social life, students can feel lost in a place so big. That's why on Sept. 17 and 18 the Associated Students of Rio Hondo College hosted Discoverio, an all-inclusive resource fair that introduced students to campus clubs, organizations, resources and student services.

"A lot of students don't know all the resources available to them at Rio Hondo," said AS President Valeria Guerrero. "With this event, we hope to inform them so that they know where to go when they need help."

Along with all the information, including a visit with the GO RIO transit partners, the students were also invited to have fun. The ASRHC hosted a pie-toss booth in which students took aim at their favorite administrators.



Student Services Vice President Henry Gee, center, was the aim of many students at the pie-toss booth during the Discoverio event, with AS President Valeria Guerrero, left, and Student Trustee Caroline Carroll.