



# Our History



**R**io Hondo College celebrates its 50th Anniversary in 2012-2013. Fifty is a wonderful milestone for any organization. We can only wonder if those civic-minded advocates who championed our cause in the 1960s had imagined that the 'college on the hill' would soar to the important regional resource it is today.

Longevity is itself hardly a virtue. It is the future that counts, and organizations must renew themselves. Rio Hondo College has evolved into a vibrant community with new ideas, cutting-edge curriculum, and a solid commitment to opportunity and service.

We invite you to join with other Rio Hondo College alumni and friends as we celebrate this historic year. Learn more at [www.riohondo.edu/foundation](http://www.riohondo.edu/foundation).



## Early Milestones

### 1960

Area voters established a Junior College District.

### 1962

Area expanded to include El Rancho Unified School District, necessitating election of a separate Board of Trustees.

### 1963

Dr. Phil Putnam hired as first president.

### May 1963

Board selected 'Rio Hondo' as college name. Other contenders were: Westlake; Junipero; Valencia; Bartolo; Santa Gertrudes; Don Pio Pico; Hillview; Highland; Friendly Hills; Richard M. Nixon.

### September 1963

First classes held at Sierra and El Rancho high schools.

### October 1963

\$12 million construction bond issue passed to construct a college for 4,000 students on the Pellisier Ranch property, the present location of the RHC main campus.

### 1964-1965

Classes held at former Little Lake School in Santa Fe Springs.

### Fall 1966

Rio Hondo College campus opened with an enrollment of 3,363 daytime students and 2,682 evening students.



# President's Message



**Teresa Dreyfuss**  
Interim President

**A**s the Interim President of Rio Hondo College, I am honored to serve in this important position and am mindful of the enormous work at hand.

As the College moves into its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, we can celebrate the many recent successes, including the construction of numerous new buildings, a positive accreditation, and a stronger financial footing than other area colleges due to fiscally conservative practices. As a member of the Rio Hondo community for 25 years, I am committed to maintaining the wonderful forward momentum that the College has enjoyed, serving our students and supporting our community by providing a strong, efficient academic program.

Like all community colleges in California, this year's budget will

challenge us, with the state calling for additional cuts, and we will have to implement bold and intelligent measures to remain fiscally solvent.

I believe it is critical that we maintain our work in promoting strategies for student success and retention, implementing the recommendations made by the Student Success Task Force, while also beginning the preparation for the College's next Self-Study for Reaffirmation of Accreditation set for 2014. And, as a college community, we will forge ahead with the search for a permanent President/Superintendent, working collaboratively to find a strong, competent, fair-minded person who can lead the College and serve our community.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Board of Trustees

for this honor and for their trust in my abilities. To this end, I look forward to this opportunity to contribute to the Rio Hondo community and appreciate the support and kind words I have already received from many on campus and in the community.

But none of us works alone. We are fortunate to have talented and dedicated faculty, staff, and administrators on our team who will be vital to promoting ongoing success that is tangible and measurable. We have thousands of students on our campus who seek knowledge and inspiration in our classrooms on a daily basis. Given the strength evident at every level of our team, there is no question we will continue on the positive trajectory our Board has set and our community expects.

On July 1 Teresa Dreyfuss took the helm as Interim President of Rio Hondo College, following the retirement of Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D.

A native of Taiwan, Ms. Dreyfuss first came to the College in 1987, and most recently served as Vice President, Finance and Business. She has also served as Chief Financial Officer, Controller/Business Manager, Business Manager, and Senior Accountant.

Dreyfuss has been instrumental in guiding and managing the \$245 million facilities construction program, known as 'Measure A' which is nearing

completion and which has transformed the aging hilltop campus into a modern institution with new educational centers to provide access for underserved areas of the Rio Hondo College service area.

Ms. Dreyfuss holds an MBA from the University of La Verne and a Bachelor's degree from the University of Chinese Culture. She has worked as a part-time instructor at both Rio Hondo and Los Angeles City College, teaching accounting and business classes for 10 years. She has also worked at Riverside Community College District as Director of Business.

## Class of 2012 Celebrated 49th Annual Commencement

**O**n May 24 more than 1,100 students marched across the Rio Hondo soccer field to receive their diplomas at the College's 49<sup>th</sup> commencement ceremony, making it one of the largest graduating classes in the College's history.

The increase was the result of focused efforts to help students complete their programs more efficiently, and to recognize the importance of seeking

an associate degree, even if they plan to transfer.

Commencement speaker and Rio Hondo alumnus Eric Rodriguez encouraged graduates to follow their dreams and always learn from their failures. Rodriguez, a veteran of the Iraq War, also talked to students about growing up with his family surviving on welfare and food stamps.

Mary Ann Pacheco, professor of English and literature, who is retiring, was honored during the ceremony by the Board of Trustees as a Fellow of the College.



# Student Success Stories 2012

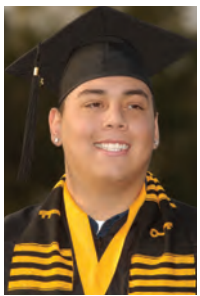


**JACQUELINE HERNANDEZ** – When Jacqueline Hernandez came to Rio Hondo College in 2008 upon graduating from El Rancho High School, she was unsure of her direction. With mostly C's in high school, she didn't have lofty academic goals. Michelle attended school part-time while working at a retail store. Math classes for her were difficult and discouraging, but she got through with help from her teachers. After a couple of years, Jacqueline discovered her passion – she decided to become a speech pathologist. With a clear goal in mind, Jacqueline left her job and dedicated herself to full-time studies. Soon after Jacqueline achieved straight A's while taking 18 units. She was on the Deans Honor List for both the 2011 Spring and Fall semesters. She says that she never thought she could do something like that, but at Rio Hondo College she learned she was capable of doing better. Now Jacqueline has achieved a degree in Social Behavioral Studies. Accepted to Cal State Fullerton, Cal State Long Beach and Dominguez Hills, she will transfer to Cal State LA, the next step on her path to eventually earning a master's in Speech Pathology.



**MICHELLE VIGIL** – Michelle Vigil had her challenges as a full-time nursing student, balancing responsibilities as a single parent to two young children and caregiver to her ill grandmother. But Michelle persevered. After all, it was her schoolwork at Rio Hondo that helped her rebuild her sense of self-worth after a two-year struggle with drug addiction. Determined to turn her life around Michelle came to Rio Hondo in Spring 2009. After just two semesters she was accepted into the LVN nursing program.

Resolute in achieving her goal, Michelle and her children eventually moved in with her grandmother so she could care for her. She spent hours on the bus everyday traveling between her various responsibilities and campus. Michelle recently lost her grandmother, but she has gained a sense of confidence and achievement she never thought possible. She will take her state board exams in August and is preparing to transfer into an RN program next spring. She is certain she will see through her long-term goal to become a successful nurse practitioner. Michelle says she knows other students here have similar troubles and obstacles, but if she can realize her full potential, so can they.



**ANTONIO LANDGRAVE** – Antonio Landgrave credits the forensics class he took during his first semester at Rio Hondo for putting him on the road to academic success. Antonio, who graduated from Santa Fe High School in 2010, had never participated in forensics before but Professor Libby Curiel saw his potential and persuaded him to join the team. Antonio says the things he learned during his two years competing on the forensics team helped him in all his classes. He became a better communicator and through competitions had the chance to travel to other colleges and universities around the state. Antonio worked part-time as a stock/cashier associate to finance his education throughout his time at Rio Hondo. Still, he graduated in exactly four semesters, earning an associate degree in General Studies: Social Sciences. Antonio is transferring to San Jose State University this fall to double major in history and communications. Antonio says he achieved his goals by making good use of the many available resources at Rio Hondo. He frequented the Career and Transfer centers put to use the time management skills he learned in his Counseling 101 class.



**RAYMOND YU** – Raymond Yu's journey to graduation began nine years ago when he first came to Rio Hondo College. As a person with Autism as well as learning disabilities, Raymond had endured misperceptions throughout his life as someone unable to succeed in elementary and high school. Raymond, however, was determined not just to attend college, but do well and graduate. Indeed, he graduated with a 3.25 GPA and a major in Architecture. Raymond says that college was often challenging due to his communications skill problems; he is grateful that his aide kept him focused on his educational endeavors and the Disabled Students Program provided so much assistance and support. While at Rio Hondo Raymond really enjoyed learning AutoCAD for design and drafting, and developed a special interest in computer technology. Raymond is looking forward to completing a certificate in Computer Information Technology, the next stop on his academic journey.

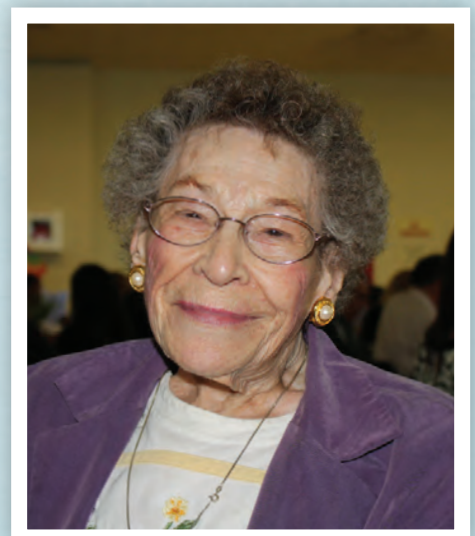
## We're Looking for Rio Hondo College Alumni

If you've taken even one class at Rio Hondo College, you can proudly say you're an alumnus, a distinction that includes such former students as 91 year-old Barbara Hudspeth. A member of the first class, Hudspeth joined the four-year-old alumni association just last year.

**"I had a good education at Rio Hondo and just wanted to help out," she says.**

Joining the Association has its advantages: beyond the opportunity to stay connected to the Rio Hondo family and network with other alumni, you have access to both the Fitness Center and Learning Resource Center.

To join the Rio Hondo College Alumni Association, contact [rhcfoundation@riohondo.edu](mailto:rhcfoundation@riohondo.edu) or call the President's Office 562-908-3403.



## College Installs Four Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

The Rio Hondo community as well as the general public can now charge their electric vehicles on campus, thanks to four recently installed Electric Vehicle Charging Stations.

Made possible via a grant received through the ChargePoint America program, 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 new Administration of Justice building.

"We qualified for this program in part because of the Rio Hondo College alternative energy program," says Technologies and Energy Professor John Frala.

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.

The 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.

Drivers can reserve a charging station space and time by texting to the station site via smart phone to reserve space. Certain smart phones and applications also notify 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. For more information about using the charging stations, visit [www.chargepoint.net](http://www.chargepoint.net).



The grant received through the ChargePoint America program was made possible by a grant funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act through the Transportation Electrification Initiative administered by the Department of Energy.

# Regional Homeland Security Training Center A Capstone of Collaboration

**R**io Hondo College is home to one of the state's premier community college-based Public Safety programs that includes the Fire Academy, Wildland Fire Academy and now the new Regional Homeland Security Training Center, which opened in Santa Fe Springs with great fanfare last January.

The new three-acre facility allows Los Angeles County first responders to receive coordinated training to uniformly respond to natural disasters or terror events. It houses training 'props' for regional agencies to conduct trainings to respond to a variety of

disaster scenarios. Currently, more than 145 first responder agencies train at Rio Hondo College, up from 85 just two years ago.

The regional training facility, under construction for three years, is the newest of six regional training centers in Los Angeles County; it was the first to receive a certification of review in August 2011, which was conducted by a team of California Emergency Management Agency (Cal-EMA) and California Fire Marshal Office specialists. The Santa Fe Springs Fire Department and Rio Hondo College share the facility.

The facility is result of the excellent collaborative relationship between the College and the California Fire Services, as well as regional fire agency partners, relationships that extend back many decades.

The project began when the Department of Homeland Security selected Rio Hondo College as a homeland security regional training center to serve Los Angeles County and deliver training to area first responder agencies.

Congresswoman Grace Napolitano secured \$300,000

in federal appropriations funding to purchase site lighting equipment and live fire training props. She secured \$500,000 in federal appropriations funding as well to purchase a clean-burning CNG bus for shuttle service on the college campus.



## Administration of Justice Building Opens

**R**egional law enforcement representatives joined Rio Hondo College officials to celebrate the grand opening of its new Administration of Justice (AJ) Building with a special ribbon-cutting ceremony on June 14. United States Marshall David Singer and Santa Fe Springs Fire Chief Alex Rodriguez both spoke to the significance of the AJ Building in training law enforcement officials for the region.

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. Groundbreaking took place in 2009.

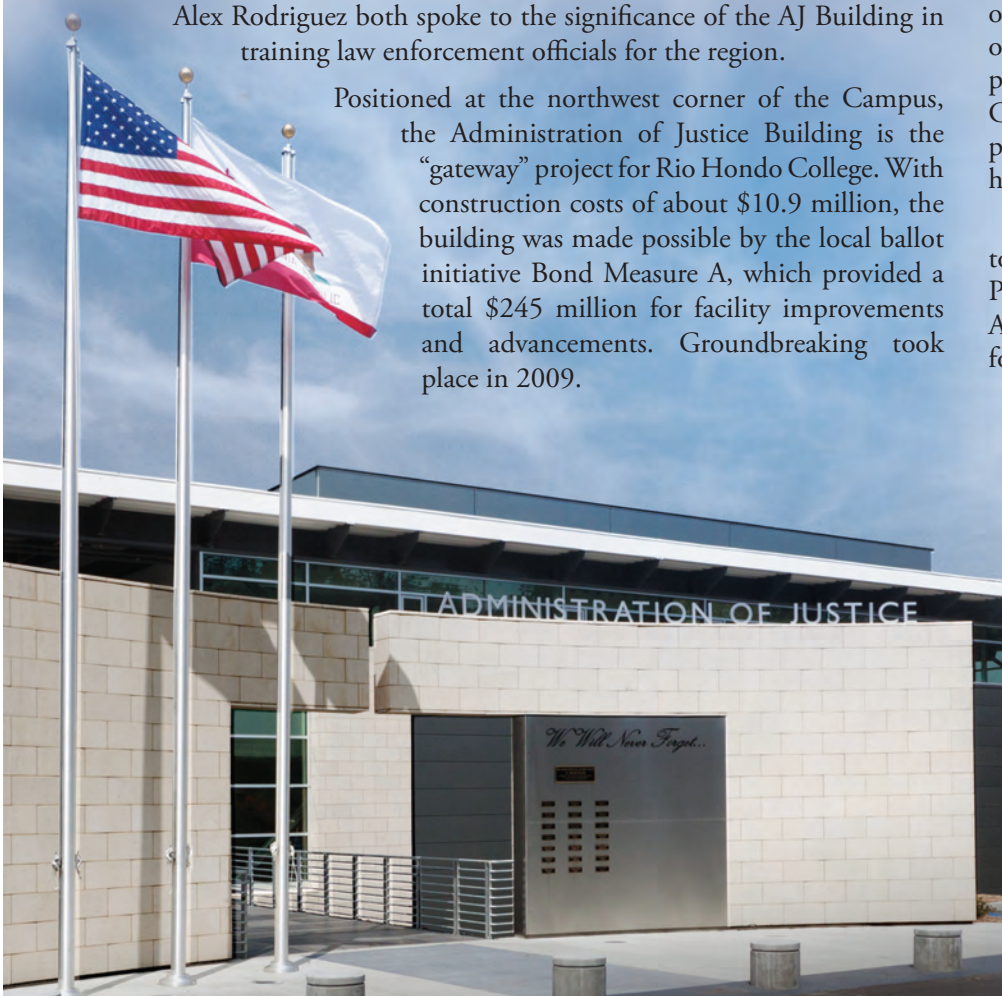
The building's three floors of approximately 32,000 square feet provides needed housing for multiple programs within the College's Division of Public Safety, including delivery of the associate degree and transfer programs for Administration of Justice, Corrections, and Fire Technology programs. The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



# Facilities Update

A major modernization and facilities construction program has transformed Rio Hondo College into a spectacular 21<sup>st</sup> century learning environment. The project began in early 2004 when administration developed a master plan to define the goals, budget, quality and schedule of the necessary improvements. The community expressed its support for the improvement program by approving Bond Measure "A"

The program focused on upgrading existing campus facilities and constructing new infrastructure and facilities to support the expanding school population; it also saw the construction of several new buildings to enhance learning for generations to come.

## RECENTLY-COMPLETED PROJECTS

### Learning Resource Center



The 94,000 square-foot two-story building anchors the south end of the central campus area. The library features a huge book stacks area. The room and its adjacent reading room offer natural light through a continuous high thermal performance glass wall that affords a panoramic view of the San Gabriel Valley. The building features energy efficient glazing, a green roof area and earned a Silver LEED certification.

### Applied Technology Building

The existing 40,000 square-foot facility was renovated and expanded to meet the curriculum requirements for training tomorrow's automobile technicians. The completed facility provides the ability to train students in alternative fuel technologies such as hybrids, electric and future hydrogen powered vehicles.

### Central Plant and Campus Infrastructure

Improvements included installation of new chilled water, new hot water and new fiber cable throughout the central campus area. The fiber optic cable backbone provides high speed internet, data transmission and phone service throughout to all buildings.

### South Whittier Educational Center



This facility offers various educational programs to the community. The annex adds three classrooms, an office for the counselor and a lounge for students, faculty and staff.

### Campus Quad Renovation



The bridge connecting the upper and lower quads was demolished and replaced with a series of stepping plazas connected with stairs and ramps and lush landscaping to provide a more open, access friendly space connecting all of the central campus buildings.

### Administration of Justice Building

The three-story building accommodates classrooms, staff offices, physical training rooms, lockers and showers for the police training program. The design is highly contemporary featuring glass, metal panels and large roof overhangs for shading to control solar heat gain.



### Student Services and Student Union Buildings



The Student Services Building houses various student programs, clubs, organizations and other student service programs, as well as Admissions, Counseling and Financial Aid. The ground floor of the two story 14,000 square-foot Student Union Building contains a new cafeteria and kitchen. A new student lounge occupies the second floor. The two buildings are linked with open bridges and are connected to the campus via bridges to the Upper Quad.

### Regional Public Safety Training Facility

The existing facilities were renovated to provide additional classroom and faculty office spaces. The six-acre site was also augmented with a number of training props including a confined space, urban rescue, hazardous materials, tank car, tank truck and roof access simulators.

### Blue Light Emergency Phones



These 27 special phones provide direct contact to campus security in the event of an emergency, enabling prompt response of aid.

### Pedestrian Bridge

The Pedestrian Bridge connects lot "A" to the Applied Technology Quad, giving pedestrians easier access to the Science building second level and Upper Quad.

## IN CONSTRUCTION

### PE Complex



The 41,000 square-foot PE Complex will feature weight training, team rooms, a new locker facility and staff offices. Two new swimming pools will replace the existing aging swimming pool.

### East Campus Vehicular Drop Off Zone

Drivers can safely drop off students with easy access to the Student Services Complex.

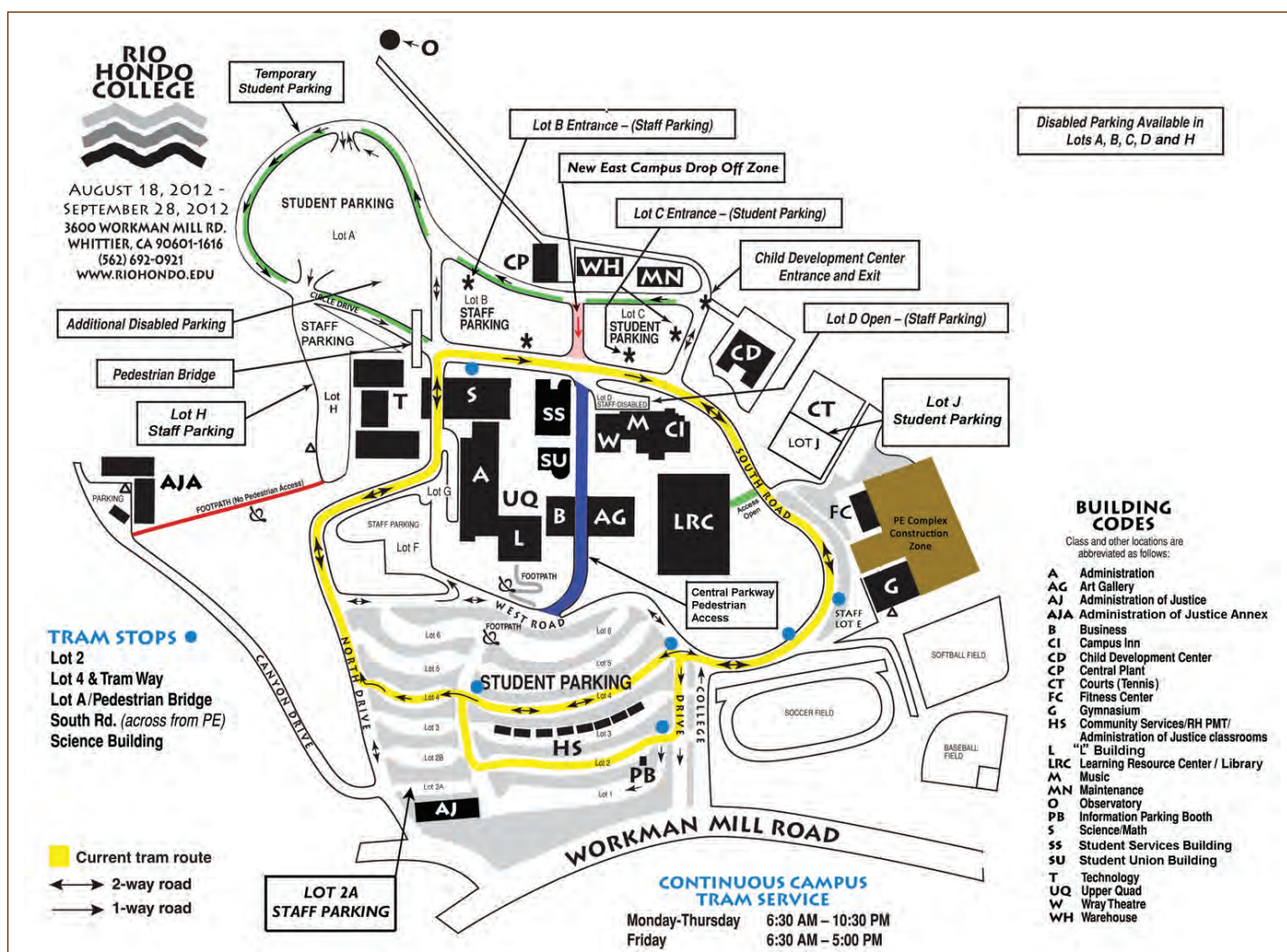
### Lower Level Parking Terrace Stairs

A series of concrete stairways and pathways are designed to separate pedestrian and vehicular traffic through all levels. Students parking in these areas will be able to transit to and from the campus in a safer, more relaxed manner.

### El Monte Educational Center



The four classroom educational center will offer informal educational space as well as a public meeting area.



# Students Garner Benefits From Targeted Success And Retention Initiatives

Emerging data show Rio Hondo students are clearly reaping benefits from the targeted efforts to boost student success and retention within basic skills courses.

Basic skills are foundational skills in reading, writing, mathematics, learning and study skills, and English as a Second Language, which are considered necessary for students to succeed in college-level work.

These programs have become key components of Rio Hondo's comprehensive student success model, which recruits, guides, places, and supports students from pre-matriculation through completion.

For instance, incoming students who participate in the four-day Summer Bridge program are more likely to take and pass math in their first semester than incoming students who don't; and 97 percent of students who participate in the First Year Experience Program persist through their first year of college.

Rio Hondo began these targeted efforts about five years ago when the California Community Colleges

(CCC) created its Basic Skills Initiative, a comprehensive and strategic effort to serve the educational needs of the increasing number of California community college students entering college at basic skills levels. It is a key project in addressing the goal of student success and readiness in the California Community College System Strategic Plan.

In 2006/07 Rio Hondo received special categorical funding from the CCC to create a college action plan. In subsequent years, the College developed strategies, applied the funds toward the creation of the Office of Student Success and Retention, and began implementing the new programs.

When the state's Basic Skills funding was cut in 2010, Rio Hondo applied for and received \$3.2 million Federal Title V funds to continue to initiate and expand its student success models.

"Those funds not only salvaged our developing program efforts but allowed us to expand them," says Dr. Robert Holcomb, assistant dean of Student Success and Retention. "Our next step is to broaden and

institutionalize these programs so that they're not just serving a selected few but helping all incoming students to attain successful academic pathways."

After five years, Rio Hondo College has gathered the first comparative data sets regarding the Student Success and Retention programs, and the first-year incoming students they primarily serve. Program highlights include:

**First Year Experience Program (FYE):** Promotes academic achievement among entering college students in a supportive, integrated and innovative learning environment. Students are placed in the same math and counseling classes for the academic year. Ninety-seven percent of these students persisted through their first year of college.

**Gateway Tutoring Program:** Trained tutors work with specific instructors, attending their classes and facilitating group study sessions for students. Currently 30 course sections use Gateway tutors per semester, serving upward of 1,000 students. Eighty-four percent of students who attend tutoring sessions pass the target class with passing

grades, which is 10 to 20 percent higher than those not participating.

**Early Alert Program:** The program helps faculty identify students who are experiencing attendance and academic difficulties; identified students then receive support services. All basic skills courses are included in this program.

**Summer Bridge:** Incoming students who participate in the four-day extended orientation are more likely to take and pass math in their first semester.

**Fast Track Accelerated Learning Program:** Serious and committed entering students are placed in the same English and reading classes. Rio Hondo expanded the number of cohort learning communities from one serving 29 students during fall 2011 to five cohorts serving 113 students during 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.

## 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
<b>Unduplicated Total*</b>		<b>113</b>

\* 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.*

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

### 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.*



# Student Success & Retention

## 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:

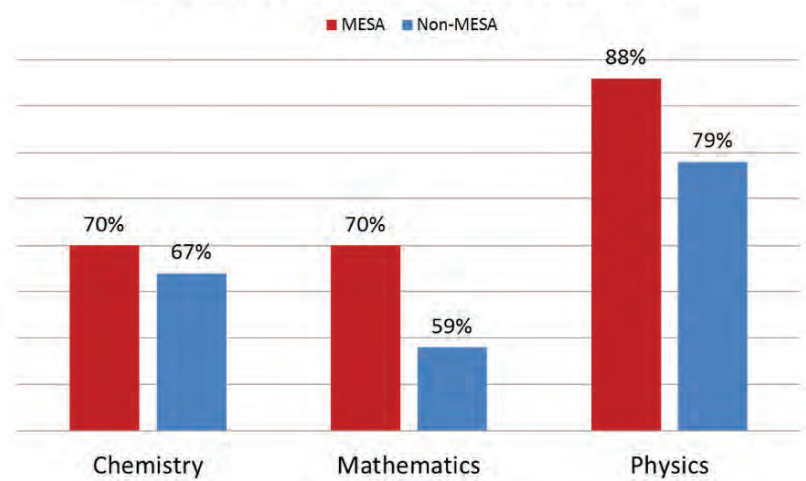
Of the 171 students that were served during the academic year 40 received their AA/AS degrees.

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.

### Success Rates for 2011-12



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*



## New Roadrunner Mascot Logo

A new Roadrunner mascot logo is showing its face (or, in this case, beak) around campus. Rio Hondo College athletics have used various iterations of the desert bird since it was chosen as the College mascot during the first year of classes in 1963-1964. The updated look is used on athletic team uniforms, on Rio Gear



sold in the Bookstore, and is incorporated in the new Rio Café signage. Student government has also adopted the new logo. Go Roadrunners!

## Academic Schedule



Apply and register early to get the classes you want!

Fall Classes begin week of August 20, 2012

- Module A - Aug. 18-Oct. 12
- Module B - Oct. 13-Dec. 8

Open registration for new students begins Aug. 13.

Enrollment fees for California Residents are \$46 per unit, as established by the California State Legislature.

Degree and Certificate Programs

[www.riohondo.edu](http://www.riohondo.edu)

Check out Virtual College classes for online options!

Parking permits for all campus lots are required effective August 18.

## Community College "Top 100" Lists Include Rio Hondo

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 87<sup>th</sup> in the nation and 23<sup>rd</sup> in the state for associate degrees for all disciplines awarded to minority students; as 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation and 13<sup>th</sup> in the state for associate degrees awarded in all disciplines to Hispanic students; and as 29<sup>th</sup> in the nation and third in the state for homeland security, law enforcement, firefighting and related protective services.



# Faculty Profiles

Here's a brief introduction to a few Rio Hondo College faculty members.

## DORALI PICHARDO-DIAZ

Counseling professor Dorali Pichardo-Diaz is passionate about helping students find their way, through their college experience and into their lives.

"I feel fortunate that I can make a difference in the lives of students by helping them build self-confidence, explore majors and careers, and guide them through the journey of self-exploration," says Dorali who teaches Counseling, College and Life Success, and Career Exploration and Life Planning. "I love knowing that I get to make a difference in the lives of students on a daily basis."

Dorali began her journey at Rio Hondo College as a part-time counselor, a position she held for two years before serving as a full-time counselor for four years.

Dorali enjoys watching students who are undecided at the beginning of the semester grow into informed, confident decision makers by the end.

"I also enjoy the diverse student population that I work with," she says. "I am highly passionate about working with first-generation college students."

Before coming to Rio Hondo, Dorali was a part-time counselor and instructor at Long Beach City College, Santa Ana College, Cerritos College, El Camino College and Cal Poly Pomona.

Dorali attended California State University, Long Beach, where she received three bachelor's degrees in Sociology, Spanish and Translation/ Interpretation Studies. She then earned a master's of science in counseling with an emphasis in Student Development and Higher Education (SDHE). She has completed post graduate work at Loyola Marymount.



Dorali Pichardo-Diaz



Jennifer Tanaka-Hoshijo



Daniel Osman



Brian T. Brutlag

## JENNIFER TANAKA-HOSHIJO

Jennifer Tanaka-Hoshijo is in her fifth year at Rio Hondo teaching health and physical education classes, lecturing in fitness and wellness and theory of coaching, and coaching the women's soccer team.

Finding creative ways to encourage students to make their physical health and well-being a priority is Jennifer's main focus. "It's exciting when they recognize and embrace the connection between the mind and the body," she says.

She enjoys witnessing the growth of the students in her classes and hearing of their progress in life. Graduation is her favorite day. "You see the joy in the faces of students and families and you hope you contributed just a little bit to that feeling for them," she says.

Jennifer worked in the corporate world for eight years, traveling all over the globe as a director for a major sporting goods manufacturer before deciding she really wanted to work with students.

In addition to Rio Hondo, Jennifer has coached women's soccer at El Camino College and Long Beach City College. In coaching education, Jennifer has successfully pursued the United States Soccer Federation (USSF) "A" License, USSF "National Youth" and National Soccer Coaches Association of America's "Premier" in Brazil, the highest coaching education licenses available in the US.

She has a bachelor's degree in psychology and social behavior from UC Irvine, a master's degree in organizational business leadership from Chapman University, and a master's of science degree in physical education from Azusa Pacific University.

## DANIEL OSMAN

Now in his seventh year teaching English Literature and English Composition at Rio Hondo, Daniel continues to find teaching literature fascinating.

"Fictional narratives are like Rorschach tests," he says. "How we interpret them often says as much about us as the narratives themselves. I take a lot of pleasure in getting students to venture into strong, confident 'readings' of assigned literature."

Daniel is just as impressed by Rio Hondo students themselves as by their reading adventures. "They have a hardscrabble work ethic and a kindness I haven't encountered in any other student body," he says.

Daniel earned a bachelor's of arts in English from Wesleyan University and a master of arts in English from Cal State Los Angeles.

He has also been a lecturer at the University of Southern California, a teaching associate at Cal State Los Angeles, and an adjunct instructor at L.A. City College, West L.A. College, and Santa Monica College. He has also taught at TELACU's Veterans Upward Bound program.

## BRIAN T. BRUTLAG

In his four years at Rio Hondo, Brian Brutlag has taught a variety of sociology classes that range from Sociology 101 to Sociology 120: Perspectives of Sex and Gender.

To explain his intrigue with sociology, Brian refers to French Sociologist Pierre Bourdieu, who said "Sociology is a martial art, because it is the best self-defense against the absurdities of the world. If you want answers to the meaning life and the world, ask a sociologist."

"The faculty and staff I work with at Rio Hondo are the most caring, supportive people that I have ever met," says Brian. "They've welcomed me into the Rio Hondo family with open arms." He is especially grateful for Dean Rebecca Green, a fellow sociologist, Instructional Division Secretary Rene Tai, and his office mate Scott Dixon.

Brian has an associate degree from Waubensee Community College and a bachelor's degree in Sociology/ Anthropology with a Criminal Justice minor from the University of Illinois Springfield. He received a master's of arts from Northern Illinois University in sociology with an emphasis in inequality (sexuality, gender, race, and disability).

RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS

**RIO HONDO COLLEGE**  
3600 Workman Mill Road  
Whittier, CA 90601  
562.692.0921

Non-Profit Organization  
U.S. POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
Whittier, CA  
Permit No. 70

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Angela Acosta-Salazar  
Norma Edith Garcia  
Gary Mendez  
Vicky Santana  
Madeline Shapiro  
Marcus Gomez  
Teresa Dreyfuss  
Interim President

