• **Professor Michelle Pilati** has been appointed by the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges to the Credit by Exam Task force for the 2013-14 academic year. Congratulations, Michelle!

• **Dr. Adam Wetsman** has been appointed by the Academic Senate for California Community Colleges to the Accreditation Committee for the 2013-14 academic year. Congratulations Adam!

• **Professor Kathy Pudelko** received the “Teacher of the Year Award” which is presented by the California Association for Postsecondary Education and Disability (CAPED). Kathy was nominated for the award by faculty and staff in the Office of DSP&S. Congratulations Kathy!

• The Board took the following action at the October 9, 2013 meeting:
  
  o Approved the employment of Katharine Lampert, DSP&S Support Services Aide, Disabled Students;
  o Awarded the contract to West Edge Architects to update the Rio Hondo College District Facilities Master Plan;

**Announcements**

• **UPDATE ON ACCREDITATION** – Dr. Adam Wetsman, co-chair of the Accreditation Leadership Team, provided a progress update to the Board of Trustees on October 9th. He thanked the faculty standard co-chairs (Lydia Gonzalez, Kevin Smith, John Frala, and Vann Priest) who are putting in a lot of time without additional compensation. A survey will be going out to all faculty in order to obtain information on library services and other areas of the college. One renewed area of focus will be setting standards for the programs and services provided by the college. Updates were also given on the progress each
standard is making on collecting and assessing data. In the next few weeks, the writing process will begin, with Marie Eckstrom taking the lead as the accreditation writer.

- **STUDENT SUCCESS INITIATIVE INFORMATION SESSIONS** – On October 8th, President Dreyfuss, VP Gee and Dr. Munoz provided an overview to President's Cabinet and Planning and Fiscal Council of how the Student Success requirements, mandates, and funding guidelines will impact Rio Hondo College. Similar presentations will continue through the month of October to other constituency groups.

- **HISPANIC SERVING INSTITUTION (HSI) CONFERENCE** – On October 11, Trustee Acosta-Salazar, President Dreyfuss, VP Gee, VP Dr. Pierson, Dr. Holcomb and Dr. Munoz attended the regional Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) conference organized by USC’s Center for Urban Education. At this conference, they were able to learn more about the opportunities available to HSI institutions and were reminded about the responsibilities that come with identifying as an HSI institution. Given that Rio Hondo College has been an HSI for a number of years, our Administration needs to have updated information on how we can best serve our Latino students given the unique challenges and distinct barriers that Latino students face on a daily basis. Rio Hondo is a partner with USC’s Center for Urban Education and Dr. Holcomb serves on the advisory board for this new institute and was also a facilitator for one of the sessions.

- **PARTICIPATORY GOVERNANCE WORKSHOP** – On Tuesday, October 8, about fifty (50) attendees representing classified employees, faculty, and administrators attended the Participatory Governance workshop which was led by CCLC President and CEO Scott Lay and Statewide past Academic Senate President (and Rio Hondo College faculty member) Michelle Pilati. I was pleased to be joined by four of you (Board President Shapiro, Vice President Santana, Trustee Acosta-Salazar, and Trustee Garcia). During the session, I believe all attendees were able to understand that ultimate decision-making authority lies with the Board. However, all attendees understand that all employee and constituency groups must be engaged in the process of participatory governance.

- **STATE BAR DIVERSITY AWARD** – Rio Hondo College is part of a special education/government consortium that has been selected to receive the 2013 Education Pipeline Award from the State Bar of California. On Saturday, Director of Government & Community Relations Russell Castaneda Calleros attended the annual State Bar of California Diversity Awards Reception & Program in San Jose on my behalf and on behalf of the College. The State Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) led by Executive Director Phyllis Cheng – formed an innovative consortium with Rio Hondo College to train community college students on employment and housing investigations so students can learn substantive law and investigation methods. This consortium led to the establishment of the Rio Hondo College Fair Housing Clinic in 2011 and the placement of five Rio Hondo College students at the DFEH Office in Downtown Los Angeles.

- **NATIONAL COMING OUT DAY FESTIVITIES** – ASRHC and the Office of Student Life & Leadership have teamed up to plan a series of events on campus in recognition of National Coming Out Day, which was Friday, October 11. From October 16 through October 30, ASRHC – thanks to funding from the Student Mental Health Grant – ASRHC will offer a series of panels, activities, and events designed to raise awareness of LGBT contributions, inclusion, and diversity. The title of the campaign associated with these activities is “Respect our Differences”. On Wednesday, October 16, ASRHC will lead all students and attendees in a Unity Walk at the Rio Breezeway, which will culminate in a Pride Fair at the Mid Quad.

- **READING LITERACY FESTIVAL** – On Thursday, October 10, The Division of Communications and Languages hosted Rio Hondo College’s inaugural Reading and Literacy Festival. At this celebration of literacy, reading instructors hosted a festival for children and families off campus who were invited to join Rio Hondo community members for an afternoon of reading, learning, and enrichment. Renowned
children's author Julie Marmmano who authored “Rhinos Who Surf” served as the keynote speaker and visited with attendees after her remarks. This celebratory event featured information booths, reading activities, story circles, and a magic show that entertained the children who I hope will be future Rio Hondo students. This festival was an overwhelming success with robust attendance and a well-organized program. We are proud of our Reading Department for spearheading such a meaningful community-based endeavor and grateful to numerous Communications & Languages team members for assisting in various capacities.

- **EVENING COLLEGE SUPERVISION SCHEDULE**, Hours are 5:00 p.m. – 10:30 p.m., Room A119,

  Direct Dial Number: 908-3437

  Monday, Oct. 14 – Yolanda Emerson, Director, Human Resources
  Tuesday, Oct. 15 – Dr. Mike Muñoz, Assoc. Dean, Student Services
  Wednesday, Oct. 16 – Henry Gee, VP, Student Services
  Thursday, Oct. 17 – Stephen Gabriel, Manager, Mechanical & Electrical Svcs.

- **El Paisano** - Student Media Advisor John Francis took a team of El Paisano staff writers and editors to the Journalism Association of Community Colleges (JACC) Southern California Conference at Cal State Fullerton over the weekend. Our students received seven accolades as follows:
  - General Excellence: La Cima Magazine
  - Third Place Illustration: Robert Flores
  - Third Place Sports Writing: Mauricio Chavez
  - Fourth Place Layout Tabloid: Krystyn Bristol
  - Honorable Mention Bring-In Photo: Lalig Tarbinian
  - Honorable Mention Feature Writing: Jazmin Lucero
  - Honorable Mention Sports Photo: Krystyn Bristol

- **Forensics Team** - Last Friday, the Forensics Team participated at Irvine Valley College’s Free-for-Me NPDA Debate Tournament. Debate Coach Grant Tovmasian led five debate duos into competition, while Adjunct Instructor Awndrea Lassiter served as a guest judge. Debate partners Turner Lynch and Victor Wright earned gold medals, as did debate pair Felix Rodriguez and Andrew Perez. All five debate teams fared competitively through multiple rounds. Congratulations Forensics Team!

- **Governance Manual Review** – The review of the Governance Manual has been completed by all constituent groups and accepted by the Board at the October 9, 2013 meeting. The following councils/committees have been revised and met the requirements stipulated on the Rio Hondo College Participatory Governance Structure document and will be included the 2014 Governance Manual:
  - Academic Deans Council
  - Basic Skills
  - Distance Education Committee
  - Equipment and Technology Committee
  - Formal Review Process of Governance Committee
  - Instructional Technology Committee
  - Planning Fiscal Council
  - Program Review
  - Sabbatical Leave Committee
  - Staffing Committee
  - Student Discipline Committee
  - Student Grievance Committee
• Student Success and Support Programs Committee

• Athletic Events week of Oct. 13 - 19

WOMEN’S Soccer –
Oct. 15, vs. Victor Valley, Home @ 2:00 p.m.
Oct. 18, vs. San Bernardino, Away @ 2:00 p.m.

MEN’S Soccer –
Oct. 15, vs. Victor Valley, Home @ 4:00 p.m.
Oct. 18, vs. San Bernardino, Away @ 4:00 p.m.

WOMEN’S Water Polo –
Oct. 16, vs. Cerritos, Home-Palm Park @ 3:00 p.m.
Oct. 18-19, Citrus Invitational, Away- All Day

WOMEN’S Volleyball –
Oct. 16, vs. Cerro Coso, Home @ 5:30 p.m.
Oct. 18, BYE

MEN’S & WOMEN’S Cross Country –
Oct. 18, Mt. SAC XC Invitational, Mt. San Antonio College @ 10:00 a.m.

MEN’S Wrestling –
Oct. 19, South Duals, Palomar College- All Day

• Arts & Cultural Programs - Oct. 17-Nov. 18, SUR Biennial

• Special Board Workshop – Saturday, October 19, 10:00 am – Review Mission Statement and Accreditation, Standard IV.

• Regular Board Meeting - November 13, 2013, 6:00 p.m.

Have a specific question that you would like asked and feel others may want to know as well? Forward them to Sandy Sandello in the President's Office for inclusion in next week's e-Messenger.
Chancellor’s Budget Workshop - On Tuesday, Interim Vice President of Finance and Business Phil Luebben joined President Dreyfuss to attend a budget workshop that was organized and hosted by the Chancellor’s Office. At the workshop, they learned that the 2013/14 budget is much more complicated than 2012/2013. President Dreyfuss will be preparing Rio Hondo’s 2013-2014 budget based on the information released from the workshop so the budget will be ready for board approval at the September 11th Board meeting.

Department of Fair Employment and Housing Award - On Tuesday, President Dreyfuss learned from the Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) that their innovative partnership with Rio Hondo College has earned an award from the State Bar of California. The State Bar of Governors has chosen the DFEH-College partnership to receive the State Bar of Education Pipeline Diversity Award, which was established to recognize outstanding efforts of law-related educational programs that train and support students to become interested in the judicial system and careers in the legal field. You may recall that Rio Hondo College has worked with DFEH to create fair housing internships, to host Fair Housing Week, and to host a Fair Housing Institute for working professionals and students.

El Monte Promise Scholarship Recognition – On Wednesday, the City of El Monte recognized Rio Hondo College students who are recipients of the El Monte Promise Scholarships. The recognition took place during the intermission period of the summer “Summer Concerts in the Park” program at Arceo Park in El Monte, just down the street from our El Monte Education Center. El Monte City officials were pleased to be able to recognize our hard-working students.

“School is Cool” Resource Fair – On Thursday, Rio Hondo College hosted SPIRITT Family Services’ annual “School is Cool” Community Resource Fair for about 100 residents of the surrounding community. SPIRITT Family Services is a non-profit organization that has provided social services to working families for over 25 years. SPIRITT has offices in Santa Fe Springs and South El Monte. Child Abuse Reduction Intervention and Neighborhood Outreach (C.A.R.I.N.O) is the specific SPIRITT program that connected with our Government & Community Relations and CalWORKS
Near 30 exhibitors attended this resource fair to distribute school supplies, back-packs, and resource materials to visiting families.

**OFF CAMPUS PARKING** – Under the direction of the President, the Director of Facilities and the Director of Government and Community Relations connected with Mr. David Bui at Majestic Realty on Thursday to request the use of a parking lot on Crossroads Parkway to provide overflow parking for students during the first four weeks of school. We are pleased to report that Majestic Realty has given verbal agreement to allow the College to use the lot at 12851 Crossroads Parkway. Staff will follow up with Majestic officials on paperwork so the lot is available by the first day of instruction. This connection was made possible by our consultant Leon Garcia.

**SPECIAL BOARD STUDY SESSION** – On Wednesday, August 7th, the Board conducted a roundtable study session on Emergency Preparedness and Crisis Management led by a team which included Don Mason, Dr. Ygnacio Flores, James Poper, Tracy Rickman and Dr. Dyrell Foster.

**BOARD RETREAT** – The Board of Trustees held their annual Board Retreat on Saturday, August 10th and reviewed the following items:

- CEO Selection Process
- Educational Master Plan
- Institutional Planning Process Update
- Board Self-Evaluation
- Board of Trustees Goals
- Governance

**Events**

- **FLEX Day** – Friday, August 23, 2013, 8:00 am Continental Breakfast; 12 noon All Staff Lunch
- **Regular Board Meeting** – Wednesday, September 11, 2013, 6:00 p.m.

**Question(s) of the week**

Have a specific question that you would like asked and feel others may want to know as well? Forward them to Sandy Sandello in the President’s Office for inclusion in next week’s e-Messenger.