



Subject: The Spirit of a Stranger's Generosity

Dear MCC Colleagues,

I am grateful to work with amazing individuals who embody the *Rio Hondo Cares* motto. Thank you for all you do to make Rio Hondo College a giving and supportive environment.

My educational journey was aided by the generosity of many individuals who gave of their time and checkbooks.

One of my most vivid memories was the summer before my senior year in high school. I was selected to participate in the "Youth Citizenship Seminar," a week-long leadership institute at Pepperdine University. It was a life-changing experience for me to be away from home, live in a college dormitory with diverse individuals, and meet greats like Coach Tommy Lasorda and George Foreman. I learned to dream big and to see myself as someone who could make a difference.

My parents could never have afforded to send me to this prestigious program. The opportunity was only made possible by a generous donor. Someone I didn't even know. His generosity made a lasting impression that I will never forget.

I feel like I need to honor the spirit of a stranger's generosity and pay it forward.

I don't think I'm alone. I bet there are many of you with similarly impactful experiences. I honestly would love to hear about yours.

Rio Hondo College offers programs that can make a life-changing impact on our students. As managers, we do our best to ensure every dollar in our budget is spent to serve our students in the best way possible. Yet, the dollars are limited, with no budget funds left to help a student in financial need.

Today there is an opportunity for us to contribute collectively to raise money for our student scholarships and programs. I began making a small monthly donation to the RHC Foundation upon my hiring in 2016 and recently increased my donation.

If you have not already, please join me in making a donation.

Please visit the Faculty/Staff giving page. You can give via payroll deduction, credit card or check.

Thank you for enhancing our students' journey to and through Rio Hondo College.

Respectfully,

Ceci

Cecilia G. Rocha

*Acting Dean, Institutional Research and Planning
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