

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

COVERING JULY 2016



President's Message



Teresa Dreyfuss

Over the last month, Rio Hondo College has implemented new ways to inspire members of our community to pursue their dreams.

First, we welcomed about 120 seventh-graders from 10 area middle schools to the campus in mid-July for our sixth-annual CTE Academy.

Students explored a series of science-related fields, including building crystal radios, launching rockets, coding computers, designing structures and practicing First Aid.

It was amazing to see our talented educators instill so much knowledge and inspiration into these students, who now associate Rio Hondo College with a personal sense of accomplishment.

Next, we welcomed about 100 students from Cal State Los Angeles, who joined us to tackle basic skills. These classes can bog down college

freshmen, sometimes even discourage them from continuing their pursuit of a degree.

Rio Hondo College has created a partnership with Cal State L.A. to use its expertise to assist these students over this hurdle.

The partnership is a part of a two-year, grant-funded effort that is aimed at knocking down barriers to college success.

Rio Hondo College's amazing automotive technology program also grabbed the spotlight. The program was chosen as the Southern California site for Porsche auto maintenance classes because of the well-known strength of our facility and the sterling reputation of our faculty. The first round of classes quickly sold out, and plans are afoot to create a new round in 2017.

Altogether, these events are a great affirmation of our collaborative efforts at Rio Hondo College to serve all segments of our community.

CTE Academy Inspires 7th-Graders in District Area to Explore New Skills

About 120 area seventh-graders assembled car engines, built radios, launched rockets, practiced First Aid and explored computer coding through the popular Minecraft game during Rio Hondo College's popular annual CTE Academy, held July 18-22.

The program, offered for six years, allows students from five area school districts to explore science and technology career fields under the supervision of a cadre of Rio Hondo College instructors and students in Rio Hondo College's Career and Technical Education (CTE) program's Teacher Education Access & Career Highway.

"Our CTE Academy exposes students to an exciting array of career fields with a host of hands-on activities that bring to life academic instruction in science and math," Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss said. "We also get a chance to show these students the power of higher education."

The academy focused on three career sectors: Energy and utilities, information technology and transportation. Within those sectors, students explored automotive technology, radio construction and transmission, solid-fuel rockets, structural design, health science and coding by creating "mods" in Minecraft. *Continued on Page 2*



CTE Academy Inspires 7th-Graders in District Area to Explore New Skills ... 1, 2
Board Report..... 3
Rio Hondo College Assists Cal State LA Students with Basic Skills Courses..... 3
Freshman Welcomes Days Assist New Students in Learning the Ropes 4

Student Wins Grant from Philanthropic Group to Study Social Work..... 4
Rio Hondo College Training Classes on Porsche Repairs Sell Out 5
Rio Hondo Educational Center at Pico Rivera Takes Stage at Community Gathering 5

College Observatory Concludes Summer Star Viewing Nights..... 6
Save the Date 6

IN THIS ISSUE

CTE Academy Inspires 7th-Graders in District Area to Explore New Skills (Continued)

Each day included new hands-on activities as student teams pursued projects. For example, in the solid-fuel rocket project, students applied trigonometry and algebra to complete their rockets. In the small-engine project, students broke down and re-assembled a car engine. Along the way, they learned electrical theory, calculations and application.

Students hailed from 10 middle schools: Little Lake School District's Lakeside and Lake Center middle schools; Mountain View School District's Madrid, Monte Vista and Kranz middle schools; Valle Lindo School District's Dean L. Shively Middle School; El Rancho Unified School District's Rivera and North Park middle schools and the STEAM academy; and Bassett Unified School District's Torch Middle School.

The program has grown considerably since its first year, when 30 students were welcomed to Rio Hondo College's campus. This is the second year the program has offered a course in First Aid and CPR and the first year for structural design.

The academy is primarily funded by grants received by Rio Hondo College for career technical education and teacher training as well as the College's general fund. Participating school districts paid for student lunches.



Board Report

Rio Hondo College's Board of Trustees bid farewell to retiring *El Paisano* adviser John Francis, recognized the Office of Financial Aid for its efforts on behalf of students, and accepted \$211,000 in nursing grants during its July meeting.

Francis, one of the first students to enroll at Rio Hondo College, taught communications and languages at Rio Hondo College for 36 years.

During the meeting, the board presented a video recounting a celebration at the Office of Financial Aid for the team's effort on behalf of students.

The board accepted a \$97,000 grant for boosting nursing enrollment in 2016-17 and a \$114,000 grant for providing support services to existing nursing students.

The board also approved a slate of new employees and promotions:

- ▶ Interim Dean, Arts, Cultural Programs, Continuing Education and Contract Education: Dale Harvey
- ▶ Interim Grant Manager, Cal-SOAP: Yicel Paez
- ▶ Tenure-track counseling positions: Maribel De Leon, Laura Garcia, Jose Lara, Angelica Martinez, David Tieu.
- ▶ Non-tenure-track categorical counseling positions: Delmis Alvarado, Vanessa Chavez, Julio Flores, Lauren Maki, Diana Valladares, Christine Waugh

Finally, the board dedicated a great amount of time discussing a presentation on a multiple measures assessment pilot update given by Dean of Counseling and Student Success Dr. Mike Muñoz.



Rio Hondo College Assists Cal State LA Students with Basic Skills Courses

About 100 students from California State University, Los Angeles are studying at Rio Hondo College this month to complete basic skills courses under the auspices of a two-year, \$2 million grant recently received by the community college district.

RIO IN THE NEWS! Click here to read more about Rio Hondo College helping Students in *The Community College Daily*.

The grant, one of five totaling \$10 million awarded by the California Community College's Chancellor's Office, provides Rio Hondo College with resources to work with area high schools, adult schools and CSU Los Angeles to improve the chances of college success for students with challenges in English and math.

"We are excited to be hosting these students on our campus and assisting them in achieving their dreams," Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss said. "Rio Hondo College offers a host of services that support students in their quest for a college degree and, with this grant, we will be expanding those services on multiple fronts."

At Cal State L.A., more than 66.1 percent of incoming freshmen test below college level in English or math. This is similar to remedial challenges at Rio Hondo College, which also enrolls a large population of first-generation college students who may lack cultural, familial or financial support. Students who do not complete remedial classes in a year tend to drop out or are dis-enrolled.

Rio Hondo College is targeting up to 2,500 Cal State L.A. students for remedial instruction, tutoring and other support each year. Students will take summer courses after high school to build skills before freshman year, receive aid in spring of their freshman year to complete remedial programs and enroll in summer classes after freshman year if they need additional assistance.

The current class of 100 students falls into the latter category – a number Rio Hondo College officials expect will double shortly.

Rio Hondo College will serve the students through a rigorous program of instruction as well as through a trio of intervention programs designed to support them.

RIO IN THE NEWS! Click here to read more about Rio Hondo College assisting Students in *The Whittier Daily News*.

For example, Rio Hondo's three-week Summer Bridge program includes an academic workshop that boosts student math preparation. Students can test into more advanced courses at the program's

conclusion. The program also provides students with additional tools for managing the transition to college. It serves about 330 students annually.

The college also offers a two-week math booster program called Springboard. Two-thirds of the students involved in pilot programs offered during winter intersession have tested at one to two math courses higher than they started.

Gateway Tutoring, a third program, provides supplemental instruction through peer tutors who assist with in-class activities and hold group-tutoring sessions outside of class. The program serves about 730 students annually.

In addition to offering classes and support services, Rio Hondo College also will work with area high schools and adult schools to ensure that curriculum in English and math aligns effectively with Rio Hondo and Cal State L.A. This will include a review of student academic records.

Freshman Welcome Days Assist New Students in Learning the Ropes

Rio Hondo College hosted Freshman Welcome Days on July 21, July 28 and Aug. 3 to assist new students in transitioning into their first year of community college.

The program, which ran from 8 a.m. to noon each day, featured a campus tour and workshops on how to become involved in extracurricular activities and how to navigate the online course catalog.

"The first few months on a new college campus are incredibly important in a student's career," Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss said. "We bring all of our resources together for Freshman Welcome Days to give our students the tools they need to be successful."

The Office of Student Life gave a tour of the campus and explained how new students can become involved in extra-curricular activities. Then students met with counselors to learn about the importance of their first year of college and how to be ready for the fall semester.

Finally, Rio Hondo's Office of Outreach showed students a host of important online resources including the AccessRio portal, the college course catalog and how to check for any missing requirements for financial aid.



RIO IN THE NEWS! Click here to read more about Rio Hondo College's Welcome Days in *The Whittier Daily News*.

Student Wins Grant from Philanthropic Group to Study Social Work

A Rio Hondo College student has received a \$1,200 grant from the Philanthropic Educational Organization's (PEO) Program for Continuing Education to pursue an associate degree in social work.

Oralia Alcorta, a single mother of six children, wants to start an organization that assists battered women with children and single women who have survived domestic violence and/or drug abuse. As a survivor of domestic violence, she is passionate about advocating for women suffering similar abuses.



"Oralia is a shining example of a woman who pushed through the difficult experiences she endured as a teenager and young adult to advance her education and create a better life for herself, her family and other domestic violence survivors," Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss said. "She is truly deserving of this award. Rio Hondo will do everything it can to assist her in achieving her goal to assist others."

Alcorta, 32, decided to ask the Department of Children and Family Services for assistance in 2014 so she could escape an abusive relationship. She started attending Rio Hondo in spring 2015 and expects to graduate as early as next summer. She wants to apply to USC and UCLA so she can obtain a degree in social work.

As a participant in Rio Hondo's work-study program, Alcorta serves as a case worker at the college, building her confidence by talking to students with similar experiences. After finishing school, she wants to start her career in social work as a parent advocate for women.

The PEO chapter in Upland recommended Alcorta because of how she overcame many challenges to follow her dream of assisting women and children who survived domestic abuse.

PEO Continuing Education Grant applicants must be female, a citizen or legal resident in the U.S. or Canada, enrolled in a certification or degree program, living and studying in the U.S. or Canada for the duration of their studies, spent at least 24 consecutive months of their adult lives not attending school and will complete their program within 24 months of receiving the grant.

Rio Hondo College Training Classes on Porsche Repairs Sell Out

Rio Hondo, selected as the Southern California site for Porsche training classes, quickly sold out for a July 9 class on complete vehicle review of the Porsche Cayenne and a July 10 session focusing on vehicle diagnosis of the Porsche Sports Car.

The program is run by South San Francisco Technical, which provides training to European automotive specialists. Rio Hondo hosted South San Francisco Technical training classes on BMWs in June and will hold a new round of classes on the Porsche Panamera and sports car diagnosis on Aug. 13 and 14, respectively.

Each class has a capacity for about 30 students at a cost of \$300 each per day.

South San Francisco Technical chose Rio Hondo because of the College's sterling reputation as a top-notch repair facility. Rio Hondo previously served as the West Coast training facility for Bosch European Training.

Training in Porsche repairs is a high-demand field. The complex new auto technology requires high-quality technicians to diagnose and conduct repairs.

Rio Hondo College is finalizing its 2017 schedule for four additional sessions based on the success of the 2016 program.



Rio Hondo Educational Center at Pico Rivera Takes Stage at Community Gathering

Rio Hondo College Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss invited about 50 local residents at a July 23 community coffee to attend the grand opening of the Rio Hondo Educational Center at Pico Rivera, set for 4 p.m. Aug. 11

Dreyfuss shared how the new educational center will offer more than 25 classes this fall semester, including evening courses. The Pico Rivera center is Rio Hondo College's third satellite campus.

The coffee, hosted at the Pico Rivera Senior Center by Assemblywoman Cristina Garcia, included discussion of the state budget, local water issues and homelessness.



RIO IN THE NEWS! Click here to read more about Rio Hondo College's new educational center in *The Whittier Daily News*.

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bit.do/riohondocollege

Serving the communities of

- El Monte
- South El Monte
- Pico Rivera
- Santa Fe Springs
- Whittier

and portions of:

- Norwalk
- Downey
- La Mirada
- City of Industry
- Los Nietos*
- East Whittier*
- South Whittier*
- West Whittier*
- Avocado Heights*

*Unincorporated communities within our District

Mission Statement

Rio Hondo College is committed to the success of its diverse students and communities by providing dynamic educational opportunities and resources that lead to degrees, certificates, transfer, career and technical pathways, basic skills proficiency, and lifelong learning.

College Observatory Concludes Summer Star Viewing Nights

Rio Hondo College's Gordon D. Crowell Astrophysical Observatory will hold its final free, public viewing night for this summer at 8 p.m. Friday, Aug. 12.

The observatory is home to one of the largest telescopes available to the public throughout Southern California. Guests should arrive 15 to 20 minutes early. Park in Lot C in front of the Child Development Center. The walk to the observatory is about half a mile uphill. Flashlights are not required. Viewing is contingent on clear weather. For information, call 562-692-0921, ext. 3742.



Save the Date



4 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 11:

Rio Hondo Educational Center at Pico Rivera grand opening, 9426 Marjorie St., Pico Rivera

5 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 17:

First-Year Family Night

Tuesday, Aug. 16 to Friday, Aug. 19:

Open Registration for Fall Semester 2016

Saturday, Aug. 20:

Fall Semester 2016 begins



Rio Hondo Educational Center at Pico Rivera

Providing Educational Opportunities to the Community



Grand Opening



Ribbon Cutting

Thursday, August 11, 2016 at 4:00 p.m.

Rio Hondo Educational Center at Pico Rivera

9426 Marjorie Street • Pico Rivera, CA 90660 (across from El Rancho High School)

Please RSVP by August 8 at (562) 908-3403 or email myriarte@riohondo.edu

www.riohondo.edu/picorivera

**RIO
HONDO
COLLEGE**



START RIO... GO ANYWHERE!

Start your future at

Rio Hondo College

by registering now for Fall 2016!

Classes begin:

Saturday, August 20

For only \$46 a unit!

DID YOU KNOW RIO HONDO COLLEGE?

- Is among one of the top 25 community colleges for Hispanic students nationwide.
- Is the first community college in California offering a Bachelor's Degree in Automotive Technology.
- Offers a Pathway to Law School program to one of six top California law schools.
- Offers 23 associate degrees for transfer that guarantee transfer to California State Universities, 50 associate degrees and 60 certificates.
- Is one of the top community colleges in the state at transferring underrepresented minorities to University of California campuses.

Schedule of classes available online at
WWW.RIOHONDO.EDU