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President's Message



Teresa Dreyfuss

April has been a very busy month! I encourage you to read about all the exciting and informative events that have been planned for our campus community, including the Spring Job and Internship Fair; the Transfer Conference, and the series of timely workshops coordinated by the 'YOU MATTER' Health and Wellness project.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our volunteers who have helped us orchestrate a full year of events to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Rio Hondo College. Our 50th Anniversary Task Force was comprised of a cross-section of campus representatives, including senior faculty, managers and confidentials, classified staff, as well as support staff and students. Together we have coordinated major events such as 'Rio Fest', the Time Capsule and 'Birthday Bash' celebration. Task Force members included Susan Herney, Teresa Buell, Martha Carreon, Russell Castaneda-Calleros, Lyla Eddington, Adele Enright, Nash Flores, Karen Koos, Jasmine Lopez, Shari Magnus, Don Mason, Mike Munoz, Jim Poper, Sandy Sandello, and Sylvia Viramontes.

Additional volunteers assisted in the planning and execution of the 50th Anniversary Celebration event April 19 at the Industry Hills Expo Center, where we presented new Medallion awards to 17 individuals who have made extraordinary contributions to Rio Hondo College through the years. Recipients who joined us for the event included Ted Snyder, Yosh Nakamura, Jean Prinz Korf, Don L Jenkins, Patrick Boyle, Dr. Manuel Baca, Dr. Judith Henderson, Mary Ann Pacheco, Ray Williams, Esteban Torres, Dr. Andy Howard, Congresswoman Linda Sanchez, Sylvia Southerland, Rich Casford, Owen Newcomer and Nick Salerno. Dr. Joan King Chamberlain, a founding trustee, received a President's Award Medallion. Planning committee members for this event included (in addition to the members of the Task Force) Howard Kummerman, Jennifer Burchett, Don Mason, Renee Gallegos, Rebecca Rayas, Angie Tomasich and Michelle Yriarte. I would like to thank everyone who attended this event, and helped us raise funds to support students and programs.

I am grateful to our Presenting Sponsor, Del Terra Real Estate, SVC, Inc., and to the Major Sponsor, Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe of the Fourth Supervisorial District, as well as our Host, Medallion, Patron's Circle and Event Sponsors for helping make the evening such a success.

We look forward to our 50th Commencement Ceremony next month, and will welcome Los Angeles County Sheriff Lee Baca as our guest speaker.

50th Anniversary Celebration Big Hit

On Friday, April 19, more than 400 attendees enjoyed a festive evening at the City of Industry Expo Center celebrating Rio Hondo College 50th Anniversary.



Board Update

Biology Professor Terry Keller provided a sabbatical leave report on his work in creating a new biology lab manual. In pursuit of this goal to create a manual that furthered student academic success and matched state curriculum, he visited more than 20 campuses to find out what they require in student readiness; he consulted with Rio Hondo science faculty as well as attended the National Association of Biology Teachers Conference, something he never had time to do before. His goal included cost savings for students: lab manuals can cost as much as \$100. His costs \$5 and much more precisely meets students' needs.

In his Sabbatical Leave Report Chemistry professor Matt Koutroulis said he created a chemistry lab manual. His motive was also to save students money. Because he found that many experiments in previously used manuals generated a lot of waste, he researched and authored as many experiments as possible that employed green chemistry. He also worked to replace expensive chemicals that were a financial burden on the program. In the end he created a chemistry lab manual that costs 90 percent less, uses less toxic chemicals and produces less waste.

In a Career Development Center report, Director Belen Torres-Gil said that from 2007 to 2012 the Center averaged 11,435 in-person contacts and 3,000 to 5,000 web site hits per month. In addition to providing career counseling and workshops, the Center will soon have a resume and job database called College Central Network where employers can post jobs and students can build and post resumes. Rio Hondo held its Annual Spring Job and Internship Fair on April 17, but Gil said many community colleges have discontinued job fairs because of the difficulty in getting companies to come. The Center is working on developing local partnerships and is adamant that it needs a job placement function.

Professor Shin Liu gave an update on Distance Education and Online courses. More women enroll in online courses even though there are more men in the college population, she said. Online students are working adults; more than 90 percent are in the 18-29 age group, are primarily in district, and view online courses as a supplemental component to their education. The Distance Education Program holds in person faculty training three times a month to help instructors train, modify their courses, and develop best practices.

50th Anniversary Celebration Big Hit (continued)

The presentation of 50th Anniversary Medallion Awards was the evening highlight. Founding trustee Dr. Joan King Chamberlain received the President's Award medallion. Recipients also included past Fellows of the College and to Distinguished Service Awardees:

Fellows of the College: Dr. Manuel Baca; Dr. Judith Henderson; Don Jenkins; Jean Korf; Yoshio Nakamura; Mary Ann Pacheco; Ted Snyder; Ray Williams and Patrick Boyle.

Distinguished Service Awards: Rich Casford; Dr. Andy Howard; Owen Newcomer; Nick Salerno; Congresswoman Linda Sanchez; Sylvia Southerland; Esteban E Torres.

Celebration Sponsors

Presenting Sponsor

Del Terra Real Estate, SVC., Inc.

Del Terra is proud to be a partner with Rio Hondo College in the successful development and implementation of its \$330 million construction bond program, and now to be joining the College and all its stakeholders in celebrating its 50th Year Anniversary. The dramatic improvements and transformation of the College's campus and its facilities is a testament to the dedication and foresight of the Board of Trustees, its administration, the faculty and its students. Del Terra congratulates Rio Hondo College on its 50th Year Golden Jubilee, and may it have many more to come!

Luis D. Rojas,
President & CEO

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RioSource Gets Boost from Mental Health Grant



RioSource, created to serve as an online community resource center for students, faculty and staff, has received a much needed boost from the Mental Health Grant, which has allocated money to help update and market the project. "Receiving the funds has been both perfect timing and a blessing," says Marta Munoz, student services assistant in the Calworks Office who spearheads the project. "Now we can give the web page a facelift." The funds will go towards paying a dedicated part-time employee to help build and maintain the site.



A project of the first cohort of the inaugural Leadership Program, Rio Source debuted at Flex Day 2012. "We hope it will eventually provide assistance for various constituencies: student, faculty, staff, and members of the community, ranging from support services for specific groups to being a community liaison for in-service opportunities," says Munoz.

"RioSource fits into the bigger picture of the mental health grant by addressing two of its major objectives," says Dr. Dyrell Foster, dean, Office of Student Affairs, who is project director of the grant. "To increase student's awareness and their use of social services and community resources and to expand community partnerships and collaboration with local agencies and organizations"

Tenure and Academic Rank



Tenure Recipients

Congratulations to faculty who advanced tenure: David Dawson, Arts & Cultural Programs; Karen Gottlieb, Nursing Program; Dianne Holcomb, Counselor/Coordinator of the Transfer Center, and Alonso Garcia, Communications and Languages.



Academic Rank

Presidential Finalists and Community Forums

After an extensive national search, the Board of Trustees announced in mid-April six presidential finalists recruited from a rich pool of candidates from throughout the state, region and nation. As part of the vetting process, each presidential finalist participated in a public forum. The college community as well as the general public attended the public forums that took place on campus on April 25 and 26. Each forum included a brief introduction of each candidate followed by a question and answer session. Comment forms were collected at each forum and given to the Board of Trustees for review.

The Rio Hondo College presidential finalists are (in alphabetical order):

Dr. Manuel Baca, Professor of Political Science at Rio Hondo College

Dr. Linda Gates Black, Vice Chancellor for Student Success at Tarrant County College, TX.

Dr. Barbara Blanchard, Vice President of Academic Affairs at Grossmont College, CA.

Ms. Teresa Dreyfuss, Interim Superintendent/President at Rio Hondo College.

Dr. Rajen Vurdien, President of Fullerton College, CA.

Dr. Kevin Walthers, President of Las Positas College, Chabot-Las Positas Community College District, CA.

Students Offered Athletic Scholarships

Top notch execution and skill demonstrated by talented Rio athletes have resulted in athletic scholarship offers from universities across the United States.

Two-time wrestling team captain Abel Avila received an exceptional 61 wrestling scholarship offers. His impressive list of athletic accomplishments in 2013 includes four tournament championships, Southern California Regional Champion, Academic All American, All American, First Team All-Conference. He was also voted Outstanding Wrestler. Avila was also undefeated in an incredible 32-0 in his weight class.



"Wrestling has taught me the importance of hard work," says Avila. "Every day in the wrestling room I would be pushed to my limits. I learned to push myself that extra mile, on and off the mat. Being a college wrestler is probably the toughest thing I could ever do, going to school full-time, enduring an intense two and a half hour practice and on most days, working a five hour shift."

The math major will attend Notre Dame of Ohio (ranked second in Nation DII) on a full scholarship. Notre Dame features the second largest athletic department out of the 53 colleges and universities in Ohio.

"Abel is a great team leader and the hardest working wrestler in the room," says head coach Mike Tellez.

Volleyball players Katherine Lozano and Christina Sevier have recently signed national letters of intent with liberal arts college Henderson State University in Arkansas. Sevier was the starting libero for the 2011 and 2012 seasons. She earned 2011 and 2012 Foothill Conference Honors and was nominated for conference MVP.

Starting setter Lozano earned All Foothill Conference Honors and was selected to play on the All-Tournament Team for the San Diego City Invitational. Her performance earned her the volleyball team recommendation for the Rio Hondo College Female Athlete of the Year award.



2012 team captain Amanda Gomez is currently attending Sterling College in Kansas. Gomez received Foothill Conference Honors.

"These athletes had a huge impact on the great success of the 2012 season. They are both excellent volleyball players and I just know they will continue to succeed at Henderson State," says head coach Teddi Esko. "They have worked very hard to get to this point of transferring and their athletic scholarships are much well deserved."

The Rio Hondo Baseball team has seen an impressive amount of partial and full scholarships offered to several players. Athletes who recently obtained full scholarships include Christian Ibarra (LSU), Kevin Ponzon (Vanguard), and Andrew Mistone (Ole Miss).

Ray Williams Selected Fellow of the College



Former faculty leader and current adjunct instructor Ray Williams has been selected as the 2013 Fellow of the College. Williams was a Medallion recipient at the College 50th Anniversary Celebration on April 19 and will be honored at Commencement on May 23. Williams is known for his pioneering contributions to the field of teaching biology and environmentalism and his innovative environmental curriculum.

Williams came to Rio Hondo in 1968 and taught numerous science courses that included environmental biology, marine biology, general biology, and outdoor biology. His long-time dedication to environmental activism has led him to serve as president of Friends of Newport Bay; chairperson of the Hillside Preservation Task Force, City of Whittier, and Chairperson of the City of Whittier Open Space Advisory Committee. He compiled biological data regarding the west end of the Puente Hills for the past 42 years, particularly of the Rio Hondo College Wildlife Sanctuary. In the 1970s Williams was a key player in the establishment of a Rio Hondo College faculty association as a collective bargaining unit. In 2003 he received the Hayward Award.

Throughout his teaching career, Williams particularly enjoyed taking his students on field trips to outdoor environments, sometimes places they had never before visited. "So many of them had a different world open up to them," he says.

ACA Forum Event

Senator Dr. Ed Hernandez briefed students, faculty, and community leaders about The Affordable Care Act (ACA) at an April 11 event hosted by the Office of Government & Community Relations in partnership with the Division of Health Science & Nursing.

The ACA fills in current gaps in coverage for the poorest Americans by creating a minimum Medicaid income eligibility level across the country. Beginning January 2014, persons under the age of 65 with income below 133 percent of the federal poverty level will be eligible for Medicaid. For the first time, low-income adults without children will be guaranteed coverage through Medicaid in every state, and parents of children will qualify as well.

The Senator discussed the history of ACA legislation, the impending benefits exchange, the impact of ACA on the workforce, and a summary of state bills he has sponsored or co-sponsored with respect to ACA implementation in California. Senator Hernandez, a Rio Hondo alumnus now representing the 24th Senate District.

Graduation Announcement

Rio Hondo College will hold the 50th Annual Commencement Ceremony Thursday, May 23, at 6 p.m. on the College Soccer Field. The ceremony will take place on a brand new stage outfitted with a Jumbotron.

This year's commencement speaker is Leroy "Lee" D. Baca, who commands the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, the largest Sheriff's department in the nation. Ray Williams will be honored as Fellow of the College.

Visitor parking will be in lower parking Lots 1 - 6 and Lots A and C. Disabled parking will be in Lot E. Attendees wishing to reserve disabled seating should call Student Life and Leadership at (562) 908-3427.



Publications Receive Recognition for Excellence

Rio Hondo College award-winning publications and other communications efforts were honored in the annual Pro Awards competition, held at the recent annual CCPRO statewide conference.

Rio Hondo College received two first-place awards:

- 50th Anniversary Celebration Banners in Outdoor Media Category
- Revamp of Roadrunner Logo Image in "Before and After" Category

The College also received two second-place awards:

- Pocket Folder "50th Anniversary – A Community Legacy"
- Charles Cropsey Photo Award for Dance Photo – 'Lifting Air'



Leadership Retreat

On Friday, April 5, Interim President Teresa Dreyfuss welcomed more than 70 members of the college community, including students, staff, faculty and administrators, as they gathered in a retreat setting to hear institutional planning process reports and to kick off the development of a new Educational Master Plan. Participants also reviewed the institutional goals and objectives, and made recommendations to update the goals and create measurable objectives. Howard Kummerman, Dean of Institutional Research and Planning, coordinated the retreat, assisted by IRP staff.



Students Donate Bowls to Combat Homelessness

Rio students participated yet again in the Family Promise of San Gabriel Empty Bowl event, for the second year making and donating more than 70 bowls to fight against family homelessness. The event took place on April 21 in Sierra Madre. For \$35 attendees could choose a hand crafted ceramic bowl and fill it with soup donated by local restaurants. All proceeds went toward helping homeless return to homes.

Participating ceramic artists also included art students from Pasadena City College, Mt. San Antonio College, East Los Angeles College, and Azusa Pacific University.

