

## IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message

Board Meeting

Rio Hondo College Foundation  
to Host Annual Golf Tournament

New Semester Begins  
2010-11 Academic Year

Fire Academy Hosts  
State-of-the-Art  
Firefighting Courses

Summer 2010 Newsletter  
Distributed, Available Online

TELACU/Rio Hondo College  
Scholars Celebrate at Reunion

New South Whittier Educational  
Center Opened August 23

Grant News  
Introducing Dr. Ann Doty

FLEX Day Provided Opportunity  
for Professional Development

El Monte Union Pledge  
Compact Signed

Leadership Academy  
Introduces Cohort

Renee Gallegos Selected

Family Nights Prove Popular



## President's Message



*Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.*

We have begun the 48th Academic Year at Rio Hondo College! It appears that we will continue to serve record numbers of students, even given the fiscal challenges we continue to face. I am encouraged by the spirit of our teaching and learning community, and the commitment to student service and success we witness at every turn.

This issue of UPDATE is especially rewarding because it includes reports on so much progress that has taken place this summer. For example, we are launching a new and efficient method of Financial Aid disbursements, via a "Higher One" debit card for recipients to use. Administrators and staff worked diligently through the summer months to be able to inaugurate this impressive new service this semester.

Another summertime project is the series of four "Family Nights" held earlier this month for incoming students and their families. Planned by a committee of student services staff and others, these orientations helped new students get up to speed about campus life and expectations.

Let's not forget the FLEX Day planning itself, or the execution of the "El Monte Union Pledge Compact" with a special signing ceremony August 16.

The Summer Bridge Program, part of the Basic Skills Initiative plan, took shape with 100 new students learning the ropes for college success.

We are also celebrating the beginning of the first Rio Hondo College Leadership Academy, thanks to the work of a dedicated committee involved with researching similar programs and planning the best mix of elements for our college-specific program. I am sure this first cohort of Leadership Academy participants will gain much during this coming year.

You'll soon see a new large CNG bus on the tram route to help our students and campus visitors get around. This new Aero Elite Cutaway Bus, for 24 ambulatory passengers and with lifts for two in wheelchairs, is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Transportation through an \$111,000 grant assisted by Congresswoman Grace Napolitano.

I am sure everyone already appreciates the new look of the lower quad and construction progress made during these summer months.

Looking forward, I encourage everyone to continue working towards the goal of adding new associate degrees to our lineup so students will have even more choices. More choices for students will surely mean an increase in degree recipients in future years.



## Board Meeting

The Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees held its regular monthly meeting Wednesday, August 11.

Project Manager Jim Sinsheimer introduced Dr. Lance Williams of the Los Angeles Chapter for the U.S. Green Building Council to the Board of Trustees. Dr. Williams then provided information to the Board of Trustees on how the Learning Resource Center was honored with a silver award from the U.S. Green Building Council for its environmentally-friendly construction and design elements. He said, "This type of recognition is significant and not easy to come by. We commend Rio Hondo College for its hard work and efforts." Dr. Williams presented the Board of Trustees with a handsome-etched plaque, which will be displayed in the LRC.



## Rio Hondo College Foundation Holds Annual Golf Tournament

The Rio Hondo College Foundation will host the 6th Annual Rio Hondo College Golf Tournament **Friday, Oct. 29** at one of Southern California's finest golf courses, the Babe Zaharias at Pacific Palms Hotel and Conference Center in Industry Hills.

To register for the 6th Annual Rio Hondo Golf Tournament, or for sponsorship opportunities, please visit [www.riohondo.edu/foundation](http://www.riohondo.edu/foundation).



## New Semester Begins 2010-11 Academic Year

Most fall semester classes began August 23.



## Fire Academy Hosts State-of-the-Art Firefighting Courses

The Rio Hondo College Fire Academy hosted three free courses in Hydrogen Fuel Cell Firefighting in early August. The training was attended by various local officials and fire departments, as well as Rio Hondo fire cadets.

Sponsored by the United States Department of Energy (DOE), the Rio Hondo training marked the first time the DOE has delivered this course outside its permanent training center in the State of Washington.

The use of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies is emerging in certain parts of the country—through vehicle demonstration programs and early deployment of stationary fuel cells for on-site power generation. To help first responders prepare for hydrogen and fuel cell use in their communities, the DOE has developed hydrogen safety training for first responders.

Training for first responders is designed to educate them about the unique properties of hydrogen and the special characteristics of fuel cells and hydrogen vehicles, and to provide appropriate safety and emergency response information. The 8-hour course included classroom instruction, group exercises involving incident scenarios, a quiz, and a hands-on, live-fire exercise using a fuel cell vehicle (FCV) burn prop.



## Summer 2010 Newsletter Distributed, Available Online

Rio Hondo College has recently distributed the Rio Hondo College News, Summer 2010 Newsletter throughout the District. It is available on campus as well as online.

The newsletter highlights the 2009-10 year and includes articles on commencement, faculty and student honors, faculty profiles, and a listing of new Fall 2010 classes, facilities updates.

To view the new publication, please visit the college website or come by Marketing and Communications Department for a copy.



## TELACU/Rio Hondo College Scholars Celebrate at Reunion



Esmeralda Figueroa, Gustavo Fernandez and Tanya Cobas (with her daughter) are three of 18 nurses who received scholarships between 2004 and 2010 through White Memorial Medical Center's (WMMC) partnership with TELACU and Rio Hondo College. They gathered for a reunion lunch at the hospital on July 27. All 18 are currently working at WMMC. Each year 10 \$10,000 scholarships are given to nursing students in their last semester and 65 scholarships have been awarded since the program began in 2003.

## New South Whittier Educational Center Opened August 23

The South Whittier Educational Center (SWEC), the latest addition to the Rio Hondo College Measure A "Building Access and Excellence Program" offered first classes at that site August 23.

A 3,200 square-foot satellite center classroom building made specifically to bring Rio Hondo College classes and services to the South Whittier Community. The facility, located on the L.A. County "STARS" Administration Facility Site, was developed in conjunction with the LA County Sheriff's Office



and has been a priority for the Board of Trustees and administration. The Center offers a variety of classes to the community as well as a courtyard for student and staff use. It will also provide accommodations for G.R.E.E.N. Program seminars and Continuing Education classes.

Rio Hondo College Superintendent/President, Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., sought the advice and recommendations of the Community Advisory Committee, as well as the SWEC Administrative Task Force to prepare a class schedule, and operating frame work in anticipation of the opening of the Center. The Fall 2010 class schedule includes:

- Information Systems & Computer Applications (CIT 101 - 3 units) on Mondays/Wednesdays from 9:40 to 11:05 a.m.
- Career Exploration and Life Planning (COUN 151 - 3 units) on Tuesdays/Thursdays from 9:40 to 11:05 a.m.
- Intermediate Composition for Developing Writers (ENGL 35 - 3 units) on Tuesdays/Thursdays from 3:30 to 4:55 p.m.
- College Composition and Research (ENGL 101 - 3 units) on Mondays/Wednesdays from 11:15 a.m. to 12:40 p.m.
- English as a Second Language (ESL 010 - 3 units) on Tuesdays/Thursdays from 5:25 to 6:50 p.m.\*
- Basic Mathematics (MATH 020 - 3 units) on Tuesdays/Thursdays from 9:30 to 10:55 a.m.
- Elementary Algebra (MATH 050 - 4 units) on Tuesdays/Thursdays from 11:15 a.m. to 1:45 p.m.
- Introductory Psychology (PSY 101 - 3 units) on Mondays/Wednesdays from 9:40 a.m. to 11:05 a.m.
- Public Speaking (SPCH 101 - 3 units) on Mondays/Wednesdays from 11:15 a.m. to 12:40 p.m.

### Continuing Education Classes:

- Medical Transcription (SWEC 101) available as an online course Wednesdays/Fridays.
- Introduction to Microsoft Word (SWEC103) available as an online course Wednesdays/Fridays.

The RHC South Whittier Educational Center is located at 14307 Telegraph Road in Whittier. A grand opening is scheduled to be held September 10.

\* Begins September 1.

## Grant News: Introducing Dr. Ann Doty



Dr. Ann V. Doty, a 27-year-veteran of higher education who turned her attention full-time to teaching four years ago, is playing a major role in Rio Hondo College's mission to provide the very best for its students as a Senior Resource Consultant, assisting Rio Hondo with grants management. Prior to coming to this position, Doty served as Director of Research, Planning and Grants at Irvine Valley College where she developed the program review and learning outcomes process and training for faculty.

Doty has also previously served as the Director of Undergraduate Research Programs at the University of California Riverside. She has taught in Health and Human Services for the last 10 years developing online nutrition, wellness, women's health, and teaching exercise science courses. She was also Curriculum Chair for the Emeritus program at Saddleback College and wrote more than 70 curricula to meet student learning outcomes proficiency standards.

A researcher by trade, Doty's seasoned career in higher education has included five accreditation visits. She has served on the board of the Research and Planning Group of CA designing effective practices in assessing student learning, and wrote a paper on the benefits of community colleges for Hispanic students for the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges. With the League for Innovation in the Community College, Doty designed and staged national conferences and surveyed community college leaders on best practice. To view the Fall 2010 Grants Newsletter, please visit the Grants Development Office Home Page at [www.riohondo.edu/ecd/grantdevelopment/index.htm](http://www.riohondo.edu/ecd/grantdevelopment/index.htm).

## FLEX Day Provided Opportunity for Professional Development

FLEX Day 2010 welcomed faculty back to campus for the beginning of the 48th Academic Year.

The morning's agenda included campus updates on facilities, construction projects, budget and SLOs/ Accreditation. Highlights and next steps regarding AccessRIO were also presented.

Participants enjoyed an All-Staff Luncheon, which was hosted by the President's Office.

Special awards were presented to individuals receiving "Caught in the Act" and "Spotlight on Collaboration and Innovation" awards. Awards, coordinated by Staff Development.



*Caught in the Act Award – Dr. Martinez, Alyson Cartagena*



*Caught in the Act Award – Dr. Martinez, Christine Aldrich*



*Spotlight Award – Dr. Martinez, Colin Young, Mike Javanmard*



*Spotlight Award – Dr. Martinez, Gabriela Olmos, Kats Gustafson, Shin Liu, Zulma Calderon*

## El Monte Union Pledge Compact Signed Rio Hondo College, El Monte Union High School District, UC Irvine Join Forces to Help Students Go To College

Officials of Rio Hondo College and El Monte Union High School District (EMUHSD) joined forces with the University of California at Irvine (UCI) August 16 as they each signed the "El Monte Union Pledge Compact," creating a seamless pipeline from high school to college and university for local students.

This partnership provides participating students one-time priority registration at Rio Hondo College and/or admission to and/or guaranteed transfers to attend UCI after graduating high school. The first group of students to benefit from the "El Monte Union Pledge Compact" will be the graduating seniors from the Class of 2011.

Students have the option to attend Rio Hondo College immediately after high school or apply directly to UCI. In order to benefit from the partnership at Rio Hondo College and transfer to UCI, students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average and have 30 transferable units. In order to go directly to UCI after high school, students must complete a high-school curriculum and be designated as UC Eligible in the Local Context (those students in the top four percent of their high-school class).

At the event, officials of the three educational partner entities participated in a formal signing ceremony to inaugurate the compact. Those present included: Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent/President, Rio Hondo College, Nick Salerno, Superintendent, El Monte Union High School District and Dr. Manuel Gomez, Vice Chancellor of Student Affairs at UCI. Abel Tovar, a senior at El Monte High School, spoke on behalf of the students in the El Monte Union High School District.



"Today is a great day for the students of the El Monte Union High School District," said EMUHSD Superintendent, Nick Salerno. "Creating this pledge compact truly establishes a direct pathway for our students to take them from our high schools to institutions of higher learning. This compact benefits our students and our community."

The "El Monte Union Pledge Compact" represents the culmination of nearly five years of collaboration and builds upon established educational partnerships, such as the GEAR UP program, which is designed to prepare students and their families for college.

"The goal of the "El Monte Union Pledge" is to put as many students as possible on the path to higher learning as well as improve local college-going rates," said Dr. Martinez. "This program is yet another example of the many ways Rio Hondo College works to serve our communities, and we expect it will benefit local students for years to come."

## Leadership Academy Introduces First Cohort

The Leadership Academy recently formed its first cohort, which was taken to a retreat at the Cal Poly Kellogg West Conference Center. The Academy's cohort includes: back row, left to right: Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr. (Superintendent/President), Russell Castaneda Calleros, Dennyse Clark, Jennifer Bartz, Vanessa Chavez, Gloria Reyes, Sally Willsey, Rebecca Rayas, Angie Tomasich, Cameron English, Fred Othmer, Adam Wetsman, Marta Munoz, Mark Gutierrez and front row, left to right: Jennifer Tanaka, Rachel Garcia, Christine Aldrich, Laura Verdugo.



## Renee Gallegos Selected

Renee Gallegos was recently selected to serve as Senior Administrative Assistant to the Vice President of Academic Affairs for Rio Hondo College.



Gallegos has served as an Administrative Assistant in the President's Office since 1996. Prior to that, she has held other positions at the College, including a Clerk Typist II, a Personnel Clerk II as well as a Clerk Typist I & II since 1988.

Congratulations Renee!

## Family Nights Prove Popular Bring in Record Numbers of New Rio Students and Families

To help new students experience a smooth transition to college life, Rio Hondo College recently hosted Family Nights, which were designed as an orientation and welcome for students who planned to attend, as well as their families to the campus. The events were held the evenings of Aug. 10, 12 and 16 and a Spanish-session was held on Aug. 17.

More than 350 students and their families attended Family Nights, which was a significant increase from last year's attendees for a single Saturday Family Day. All participants experienced an event filled with free activities that highlighted all the College has to offer its new students, including campus clubs, academic departments, extracurricular activities and much more. College staff and student volunteers were also available to answer any new student questions.

