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President's Message



Teresa Dreyfuss

In spite of all the dismal budget news we receive from Sacramento, I wish to commend our employees for helping to conserve resources to protect class schedule and employees. And that's exactly what we accomplished in 2011-2012! We just completed the official 'close' of the 2011-2012 fiscal year. The good news is that we have an ending balance of \$ 1.0 million greater than anticipated in our tentative budget, bringing our ending balance to approximately \$ 5.2 million. As a result, we will need to reduce our FTES by only 750 compared to the previous estimate of 1,500. Therefore, we will need to have 250 net section cuts, rather than the 500 we originally anticipated we would need to cut in 2012-2013. Thanks to all for your efforts to help us save precious resources. I have asked the deans to make sure to live within their budgets to insure we do not overextend our fiscal capacity.

Our FLEX Day August 17 set the tone for our 50th Academic Year. Thanks to Trustees Garcia, Shapiro, and Santana for joining us for the morning general session and for everyone's participation in the Keynote Session titled 'Unconscious Bias' presented by CTA staff development consultants.

Also, I wish to thank you for participating in the 50th anniversary photo on the new grand staircase. Employees filled all three tiers! I have asked senior staff members and others to form a 50th Anniversary planning Task Force. Stay tuned for information about plans for the exciting celebratory year ahead!

Welcome and congratulations to Dr. Kenn Pierson upon his permanent appointment as Vice President, Academic Affairs.

I continue to receive good wishes and excellent support campus-wide. I know it will be an outstanding year. Thank you all for all you do.

Staff Gathers on FLEX Day to Pose for 50th Anniversary Photo

On one of the hottest days of the summer FLEX more than 300 employees and 15 emeriti showed their true Rio colors, literally and figuratively, by gathering on the new grand staircase for a 50th anniversary photo.



Board of Trustees



The Rio Hondo Physics Program boasts a high success and retention rate, said Dr. Vann Priest, who discussed the state of the Physics Program in a special

presentation at the August 8 Board of Trustees meeting. Over the course of five semesters, 87.9 percent of physics students stayed within the program (a higher rate than Rio Hondo as a whole). Grants are key to keeping the program running and providing students with scholarships, Priest said. He added that some students continue using Rio Hondo as a resource after leaving, returning from CSUs and other universities to take physics classes when classes at those institutions are full or no longer offered.



Joaquin Mendez, facilities custodian, was honored prior to the board meeting for his retirement from Rio Hondo College. Congratulations and best wishes!

FLEX Day

Campus bustled with the presence of full- and part-time faculty and classified employees on Friday, August 17, as they gathered to prepare for the upcoming academic year, the 50th in Rio Hondo College history. FLEX Day provides time for faculty and staff to participate in developmental activities related to staff, student and instructional improvement.

The morning introductions included a State of the College/Budget Update from Interim Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss. Attendees also heard remarks from Katie O'Brien, staff development/FLEX coordinator; Norma García, president of the Board of Trustees; Adam Wetsman, Academic Senate president; Colin Young, Rio Hondo College Faculty Association president; Sandra Rivera, CSEA president; Valeria Guerrero, ASRHC vice president; and Matt Koutroulis, SLO coordinator.

A keynote session titled "Unconscious Bias" was presented by Reena Doyle and Lisa Adams of the California Teachers Association.

A highlight of the day occurred just before lunch when everyone gathered on the staircase between the lower and upper quads for a 50th anniversary photo. Even on one of the hottest days of the summer, everyone (including more than a dozen emeriti) showed their true Rio colors, literally and figuratively! All three levels of the staircase were filled with smiling and enthusiastic Rio Hondo College employees.



Leadership Academy Retreat

A cohort of 13 from the Rio Hondo College Leadership Academy traveled to Pomona's Kellogg West Conference Center in August to cultivate and develop their leadership skills and to engage in brainstorming regarding new campus projects.

During the weekend retreat the group also traveled to the Interfaith Food Center in Whittier for a day of service. At the Food Center the cohort cleaned and organized the organization's warehouse.

The Interfaith Food Center is situated nearby the Rio Hondo College South Whittier Education Center. Established in 1983, it's the second largest food bank in Los Angeles County.



Rio Hondo Roadrunners Fire Crew Completes Summer Assignment



The Rio Hondo Roadrunners returned from a 20 day assignment to the Angeles National Forest on August 26. The crew, comprised of Rio Hondo students, received positive comments in camp and from folks on the fire line, such as division supervisors, on their work ethic, level of fitness and cohesion.

The Roadrunners are a Type II hand crew formed in 2001 as a joint venture between U.S. Forest Service and Rio Hondo College.

Student Parking Permits Now Required Effective First Day of Class

Students can avoid parking tickets by remembering that student parking permits are required for ALL student lots effective August 18, including weekends.

A 'Banner' Year



Campus is now festooned with colorful light pole banners commemorating the College's 50th Anniversary Celebration year. Bearing the phrases "A Community Legacy" and "Commit, Pursue, Achieve," the 65 banners enthusiastically capture the ideals that Rio Hondo has embodied since classes first began in 1963.

Board of Trustees members and Interim Superintendent/President Dreyfuss will present banners to each of the City Councils in the Rio Hondo district for their local display in the coming months.

Student Help Center



Student Services provided a helping hand to students by opening a temporary Student Help Center August 15 and 16 and on August 20 - 22. Staff, faculty and administrators were available to assist students with questions and AccessRIO navigation.



A festive balloon arch created by Aracely Tamayo greeted students coming to the Career and Transfer Centers.

Kenn Pierson, Ph.D. Appointed Vice President of Academic Affairs



Dr. Kenn Pierson, who has served as interim vice president of Academic Affairs since early July was appointed to the permanent position by the Board of Trustees at its August 8 meeting.

Pierson, who first came to Rio Hondo College in 1997, served as the dean of Communications and Languages since 2008.

"After six weeks serving in the position as interim, I have gained an even deeper appreciation for the challenges that lie ahead for Rio Hondo College, particularly with the budget," says Pierson. "I've also come to recognize the need for all constituent groups (faculty, administration, classified staff, students, Board of Trustees) to work collaboratively in addressing those challenges. At the same time, I have been gratified by the commitment all groups have shown to work collaboratively as we move forward."

Pierson came to Rio Hondo College from the University of Washington in 1997 and worked as an English instructor from 1997 to 2008 when he became interim dean of Communications and Languages. Pierson was subsequently appointed permanent dean in 2009.

SAVE THE DATES

Rio Hondo celebrates the completion of two important construction projects with upcoming ribbon-cutting ceremonies:

East Campus Passenger Drop-Off Area

The new East Campus Passenger Drop-Off Area will be celebrated on Thursday, September 20 at 10 a.m.

The Drop-Off Area, adjacent to Parking Lot C, provides a safe drop-off spot for passengers who then have easy access to the Campus Quad and Student Services and Student Union buildings.

South Whittier Educational Center Annex

The South Whittier Educational Center Annex will have a ribbon-cutting ceremony to inaugurate the recent additions on Tuesday, September 25, 11:30 a.m.

The annex, located at 14307 E. Telegraph Rd., adds three classrooms to the existing facility, office space and a student/faculty lounge.

Celebrating 50 Years! First-Year Memories

What special memories do you hold from your first year working on campus?

Ray Williams, Professor of Biology remembers how, in 1968 he was "*the first person in our biology department to know about and use a tape recorder*" and had to "*convince others it was the way to go instead of reel-to-reel.*"

Shari Magnus, Human Resources coordinator, cites fashions in her first year of 1973 as "*polyester, platform shoes, perm hair and Dittos.*"

Rudy Martinez, Classified, Library, recounts entertainer El Vez performing for a Mother's Day event in 1998.

Judy Pearson, director, Admissions and Records, remembers the College going live with online registration in 2005.

Employees and emeriti contributed these first-year memories and recollections and many more in a special memories brochure that also features historic photos of early campus days.

