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## President's Message



*Teresa Dreyfuss*

The sight of new students navigating our campus, the sound of the question, "Can you help me find the LRC?" ringing in the air, and the familiar heat of a late summer sun can only mean one thing – the start of the fall semester!

I am delighted to welcome each of you to the 2013-14 academic year. I know that many of our faculty, student leadership and staff worked very hard during the summer to prepare for the 2013-14 academic year. Our classified staff, faculty members, administrators, and student leaders have joined in the collective effort to provide a network of support to serve students from the moment they set foot on our campus. Rio Hondo College continues to offer outstanding classes and valuable services to our students and our surrounding community.

Our FLEX Day event on Aug. 23 featured a new theme titled "Understanding the Student Experience." Each of the workshops and breakout sessions were offered with this theme in mind so that all attendees could place their work in the context of the student perspective.

While we accept "Understanding the Student Experience" as our theme, it should also be a way of life for all of us. Understanding how a college works from the student perspective is a guiding principle that will help all of us to do our jobs even better than before.

I wish to thank you for your commitment to educating and serving our students. Each of you makes a unique contribution to the colorful tapestry of resources at the fingertips of our students. May you have a productive and rewarding academic year.

## Congresswoman Hosts Tri-COG Transportation Event at Rio Hondo College

Union Pacific Railroad President and Chief Executive Officer Jack Koraleski's first visit to California included a stop at Rio Hondo College on Aug. 27 for a meet and greet with the councils of government of the San Gabriel Valley, South Bay Cities and Gateway Cities. The event was hosted by Congresswoman Grace Napolitano.

The event, which was held in the Administration of Justice building, was designed for local officials and Koraleski to discuss transportation issues of the region. Due to its proximity to all the areas, Rio Hondo College was the perfect choice to host this rare and resourceful meet-and-greet session.



## Board Update



IT Director  
Gary Van Voorhis

The Board of Trustees granted a commendation to retiring Senior Financial Aid Analyst JoAnn Alva-Almanza, who had worked at Rio Hondo College for 34 years. She started in the Financial

Aid Office as a clerk/typist in 1979, and climbed up the ladder to her current position.

While Alva-Almanza was not in attendance at the Aug. 21 meeting, the Board recognized her dedication and hard work at Rio Hondo College.

“She served the District for many years and we want to give her our thanks for all her years of service,” said Board President Madeline Shapiro.

The Board also received an update on the new Rio Hondo College website by Information Technology Director Gary Van Voorhis.

The new and improved site is currently in the second of three phases, Van Voorhis said. At this point, staff members are undergoing content creation and management training while a web designer is working on the look of the site.

The third phase of the launch, which is scheduled for September, includes final proofing, going live and implementing ongoing maintenance.



## Save the Date

Community Welcome Reception for Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss on Thursday, Sept. 19 at 5:30 p.m. at the Clark Estate. For more information, call (562) 908-3403.

## Arts Dean, Psychological Services Head Bring Experience to New Positions

The start of the new school year at Rio Hondo College also welcomes new faculty and staff as the Board of Trustees has approved the appointment of two top positions at the College, including Dean of the Arts and Cultural Programs and Psychological Services Coordinator.



The Board of Trustees appointed Christopher Guptill as the new Dean of Arts and Cultural Programs and Interim Director of Continuing Education.

Guptill has extensive experience in arts programs at community colleges, spending six years as an instructor at

Ohlone Community College and another six years at Solano Community College as the managing director of theater operations.

His responsibilities included coordinating theater operations and budgets, restructuring programs to make them cost-effective and marketable, producing programs, helping create associate degrees and certificate programs, and more. Guptill has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Dramatic Art from the University of California, Berkeley, and a Master of Fine Arts degree in Theatre and Drama from the University of Wisconsin.

“Rio Hondo College has an exemplary arts program and my goal is to contribute to that while moving the program forward,” Guptill said. “I am enthusiastic about working with such talented students, faculty and staff.”



New Psychological Services Coordinator Dr. Denna Sanchez holds a bachelor's degree in psychology from California State University, Los Angeles, a master's degree in individual and family clinical psychology and a doctorate in clinical psychology from the California School of

Professional Psychology.

In the past, Sanchez worked as a counselor at California State University, Dominguez Hills, providing services to a diverse student population. Her duties included providing short-term individual, couples and group psychotherapy; case management; assessment; crisis intervention; and referrals. She also worked as a research consultant at Shields for Families, Inc. and as a psychologist at Stevens Institute of Technology.

“Students need to be nurtured, especially if they have a lot on their plates,” Sanchez said. “My job is to ensure they get the care and attention they seek in the best possible environment.”

## Leadership Academy Kicks Off New Year

Members of the Rio Hondo College Leadership Academy cohort kicked off the year by volunteering their time to help set up for the grand opening of Interfaith Food Center in Santa Fe Springs on Aug. 17-18.

The cohort, comprised of 13 Rio Hondo faculty and staff, is a yearlong program designed to enhance employees' capacity to be leaders at all levels of campus. Some graduates of the Academy have gone on to receive promotions, seek graduate degrees, sign up for community service or enter the public and private sectors.

In the program, staff members learn about conflict management, ethics and values, team building and more, said EOPS Counselor Dennyse Clark, who also serves as the faculty coordinator of the cohort.

“It's a really wonderful program,” Clark said. “Employees, whether they are faculty or classified staff who may otherwise never get to work together, get a chance to bond.”

Applications for the cohort are usually due in March and those who are accepted are usually alerted in late April. The time commitment includes a retreat and meetings from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on one Friday each month.

Those interested in joining next year's cohort and would like more information are encouraged to contact Dennyse Clark at [dclark@riohondo.edu](mailto:dclark@riohondo.edu)



## Rio Hondo Students Help MD Children be Happy Campers



Rio Hondo College Nursing Program students Cristina Medel, left, Allison Gray, Denise Castillo and Melissa Phillips spent a week volunteering their time at a summer camp for children with Muscular Dystrophy.

Their jobs were to administer care for the children while helping them get the most out of their camping experience.

"I have to say it was one of the most challenging weeks of my life, but the skills I have learned in the nursing program really helped me get through the week and help my camper have a great time," Gray said.

## Students Receive Supplies, Knowledge at 'School is Cool' Event

Nearly 100 children received backpacks, school supplies and valuable information at the seventh annual School is Cool event at Rio Hondo College on Thursday, Aug. 8.

Hosted by CARIÑO Partnerships for Families Collaborative, which is spearheaded by SPIRITT Family Services and funded by First 5 LA, School is Cool is designed to support families by helping them prepare for a successful school year.

School-aged students and their parents visited many of the information tables to learn about services offered to them throughout the year. Some tables had information on vaccination referrals, mental health services and domestic violence resources.

Rio Hondo College also hosted a table that provided information on the Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (C.A.R.E.), CalWORKS and other similar programs.

"Research shows that children who are exposed to higher education see it as a potential goal for themselves in the future, which makes Rio Hondo College a perfect partner," said SPIRITT Family Services Manager Connie Preciado-Gonzalez. "The whole event is conducive to parents and families becoming familiar with higher education and seeing it is a possibility for their children."

As an incentive to encourage children and families to learn more about the services available at School is Cool, CARIÑO handed out backpacks and school supplies to students who visited the tables, and whose families engaged with the vendors to learn more about their services.

The CARIÑO collaborative consists of local agencies working to prevent family violence and ensure the safety and healthy development of children and families in the San Gabriel Valley and Pomona areas.



School-age children attend School is Cool, an event that provides backpacks and school supplies to families who learn more about programs and services aimed at helping students of all ages.



A parent learns more about Rio Hondo College's Child Development Center.

## Coming Soon...

*Rio Hondo College's Inaugural*

**LATINO HERITAGE  
MONTH CELEBRATION**

Saturday, Sept. 14 from 1- 4 p.m.  
Entertainment, food and more!

For more information, call  
(562) 908-3492.



## Rio Hondo College Employee Wins Prestigious Award

The California School Employees Association (CSEA) awarded Rio Hondo College Library Technician Sandra Rivera the Walter H. Blice Award for outstanding political service on Aug 1.

Affectionately known as the "Wally Award," the Walter H. Blice Award is given out to members who have expressed exceptional service through political activism. Rivera, the president of CSEA Chapter 477 at Rio Hondo College, earned the award for her longtime commitment to empowering fellow workers at the College and her counterparts throughout the region.

The Walter H. Blice Award, which has been awarded to members for 30 years, is known as the third highest award the CSEA bestows on a member. Only one award is given each year. Rio Hondo College Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss said it's no surprise Rivera was awarded such an honor.

"Sandra has provided steadfast leadership not only to CSEA, but to the entire Rio Hondo College community during the last several years," she said. "This award is well-deserved and serves to validate all of Sandra's contributions to this campus."



Rio Hondo College Library Technician Sandra Rivera, center, receives the Walter H. Blice Award from the California School Employees Association. She is joined by Area G Director Bill Rawlings, left, and Association President Allan Clark.



## Dates to Remember

### Last Add; Refund drop deadline

Full term classes	Sept. 4
Second Half	Oct. 24

### Drop without W

Full term classes	Sept. 16
First Half	Sept. 4
Second Half	Oct. 29

### Pass/No Pass petition due

Full Term classes	Sept. 26
First Half	Sept. 10
Second Half	Nov. 4

### Drop with W deadline

Full term classes	Oct. 28
First Half	Sept. 26
Second Half	Nov. 20

### Graduation petition deadline

Nov. 1

### Finals week

Dec. 9-14

### Holidays - College Closed

Sept. 2  
 Nov. 11  
 Nov. 28  
 Nov. 29  
 Nov. 30

## Arts Department Performs Broadway Hit at Summer Musical

The Rio Hondo College Department of Performing Arts presented its production of Tony-winning musical, "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" at the Wray Theatre July 25-28.

A family-friendly play that combines universal themes with unforgettable music, "Joseph" is a story based on the biblical story of Joseph and his coat of many colors. Like all Rio Hondo productions, "Joseph" was free to attendees.

Directed by Rio Hondo Performing Arts Instructor William Korf, Debra De Liso for dance and Linda Brown for music, the cast sang the entire show. The company included more than 40 Rio Hondo students.

"Joseph" is the first show to bring together composer Andrew Lloyd Webber (of "Cats" and "Phantom of the Opera") and lyricist Tim Rice (of "The Lion King").



## Faculty, Staff Learn About Student Experience at FLEX Day



Rio Hondo College faculty and staff started the new school year Aug. 23 with the annual FLEX Day event, filled with inspirational messages, informative workshops and general bonding among the participants.

This year's theme was "Understanding the Student Experience" and featured speeches from Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss, Board President Madeline Shapiro, Academic Senate President Adam Westman, Associated Students President Valeria Guerrero and more.

Due to recent events at other schools, employees also learned how to react during an active shooter emergency.

"We can never be too prepared for situations such as these," said presenter Facilities Director James Poper. "As staff and faculty, our students will look to us for guidance if this horrible situation ever took place on our campus. It is imperative that we have the answers and action they will seek."

Employees were also treated to an overview of the Student Success Scorecard and the Student Success Initiative.

After the initial welcome session, employees attended breakout sessions, where they learned more about new and innovative ways to work with students. Workshops included information on how to work with student veterans with brain injuries, dealing with disruptive students and learning to Skype with students so that they can feel more connected with their instructors.

Along with the workshops, employees were welcome to tour the new PE Complex and the Santa Fe Springs Fire Academy location, which also holds the Regional Homeland Security Training Center.

"FLEX Day is a wonderful opportunity for staff to grow and bond," Dreyfuss said. "This year's event was very informative on several topics we may soon be facing. It's good to know our faculty and staff are prepared."