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## President's Message



Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

As we approach the season and contemplate the holidays ahead, it is timely to express my appreciation to all for helping weather what has been a fiscally challenging year, but also one filled with accomplishments, student success, progress in many important areas and satisfaction!

I also extend my best wishes for a healthy and restful holiday season to all. To that end, we are pleased to announce that we have posted a direct link to H1N1 influenza information, located at the base of the college's website. Clicking on that link will provide everyone with a wealth of important information about staying healthy and what to do in case the flu strikes. Other information about our institutional plans to address H1N1 is posted on the "P" drive for employees to access.

We are especially appreciative of the work done this year by our Accreditation Response Team. I am pleased to report that we have received a draft of the visiting team's recommendations. While we are not at liberty to disseminate the confidential document, it is fair to characterize it as positive in tone. We look forward to receiving notice of formal action by the Commission at its January meeting and will distribute that information as soon as it is received.

Finally, I look forward to greeting everyone again in January as we prepare to welcome students for the spring semester. Enjoy a safe and pleasant holiday season.

*Rio Hondo College  
Wishes Everyone a  
Happy Holiday Season  
and Prosperous  
New Year in 2010!*



## Board of Trustees Meeting

The Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees held its regular monthly meeting December 9 on the College campus.

Board of Trustees President Angela Acosta-Salazar asked the Board to join her in commending retiring Faculty Member Rodney Sciborski and retiring Classified Member Stephen Chapman for their years of services to Rio Hondo College.

Rio Hondo College's Small Choral Group performed two holiday songs for the Board of Trustees and guests.



## Slavich Appointed Dean of Career & Technical Education



Rio Hondo College congratulates Mike Slavich on his recent appointment to Dean of Career & Technical Education. Formerly serving as the College's Interim Dean of Business since this fall, and the College's Interim Dean of Career Technical Education since 2008, Slavich started working at Rio Hondo College in 1984, where he served as a part-time Automotive Technology Instructor.

Slavich's entire teaching career has been at Rio Hondo College, where he has worked as a full-time professor, Automotive Technology Coordinator and Coordinator of the Vocation Education ACT. He earned his associate degree at Rio Hondo College, a bachelor of vocational education and master's degree from California State University, Los Angeles.

## Oath of Office Ceremony Welcomes Newly-Elected Board Members

An induction ceremony was held to honor and swear in newly-elected members of the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees Wednesday, December 9. Newly-elected members selected individuals to administer their Oath of Office. Angela Acosta-Salazar selected Whittier City Councilmember Cathy Warner; Norma Garcia selected City of El Monte Mayor André Quintero; and Madeline Shapiro selected Assemblymember Tony Mendoza.



## Board of Trustees 2010

The new Board of Trustees configuration is as follows

- Angela Acosta-Salazar, President
- Maria Elena Martinez, Vice President
- Gary Mendez, Clerk
- Norma Edith Garcia, Member
- Madeline Shapiro, Member
- Julio Flores Student Trustee

Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D. serves as Secretary to the Board



## Meet the Newly-Elected Trustees



### Angela Acosta-Salazar

*Trustee Area 3*

*President, Term of Office 2009-2013*

*Ms. Acosta-Salazar was re-elected to the Board of Trustees November 3, 2009. She represents Trustee Area 3, which includes the cities of Whittier and South El Monte.*

First elected to the Board of Trustees in 2005, Ms. Acosta-Salazar currently serves as the Vice President of the Rio Hondo College Board, representing the communities of Whittier and South El Monte. Her vision for the Rio Hondo College campus revolves around student success, which includes increasing vocational training, working to increase graduation and transfer rates, maintaining access to education and creating a college that serves the local and regional community.

Ms. Acosta-Salazar is employed by The Puente Project, University of California Office of the President, as the Coordinator for the Community Leadership/Mentoring Program in Southern California. In addition, Ms. Acosta-Salazar serves as an adjunct Professor at Los Angeles City College where she teaches Chicano Studies.

From 2001-2006, Ms. Acosta-Salazar directed the HOPE Leadership Institute (HLI), a nine-month program designed to train Latina women from across the state in vital advocacy skills, enabling them to create fundamental change within their local neighborhoods to develop healthy communities across California. A cadre of approximately 250 women were trained under her direction.

Ms. Acosta-Salazar has experience in voter registration campaigns, community economic development as well as research and event coordination.

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## Financial Aid Workshops

As part of Rio Hondo College's goal to make college accessible, mandatory financial aid workshops are scheduled for the months of January and February in the Wray Theatre for any student who is receiving aid and for students interested in applying for it in 2010-11.

Attending these workshops helps increase awareness among students of the financial aid services they are eligible for and available to them. In 2008-09, Financial Aid disbursed nearly \$10 million to approximately 3,500 PELL Grant recipients. To date, for the 2009-10 year, which is at the mid-way point, Financial Aid has already disbursed nearly \$7 million to nearly 4,000 Rio Hondo College students.

The January 2010 workshop dates are:

- Jan. 22 ..... 9-10 a.m.
- Jan. 22 ..... 2-3 p.m.
- Jan. 25 ..... 10:30-11:30 a.m.
- Jan. 28 ..... 10:30-11:30a.m.

## Vice President of Student Services Receives Prestigious Award



Vice President of Student Services, Henry Gee, received the inaugural NASPA Region VI Community College Professional Award at the Western Regional

Conference. NASPA, or the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, is the leading voice for student affairs administration, policy and practice. The inaugural Region VI Community College Professional Award is a great honor for both Gee and for Rio Hondo College.

Congratulations Henry!

## Meet the Newly-Elected Trustees *continued from previous page*

Ms. Acosta-Salazar is a graduate of the University of California at Irvine and received a Master's of Arts degree in Community & Regional Planning from the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque. Ms. Acosta-Salazar currently resides in Whittier with her husband and family.



### **Norma Edith García**

#### **Trustee Area 1**

*Member, Term of Office 2009-2013*

*Ms. García was elected to the Board of Trustees November 3, 2009. She represents Trustee Area 1, which includes the City of El Monte.*

Ms. García was elected as a member of the Rio Hondo Board of Trustees November 3, and will represent the City of El Monte. She is excited to work with Rio Hondo College President/Superintendent Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr. and her fellow Board of Trustees and is ready to work for the betterment of the Rio Hondo College campus community.

Presently Ms. García serves as the Deputy Director of the Planning and Development Agency for Los Angeles County Parks and Recreation.

Previously, Ms. García served as the Community and Environmental Deputy to Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors Gloria Molina and was responsible for policy development in a myriad of environmental and open space issues. Prior to that, she served as an Associate Regional Planner for the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG).

Ms. García is an active participant in numerous civic and professional organizations, including El Monte Coalition of Latino Professionals (emCLP), Latino Urban Forum and Hispanics Organized for Political Equality (HOPE). She currently serves as the Chair of the California Community Foundation's 'Community Building Initiative.' Ms. García formerly served as the Chair of the El Monte City Planning Commission and the Watershed Conservation Authority for the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles River Watersheds.

Ms. García has been honored as the 49th Assembly District Latina of the Year in Community Involvement, graduated from the HOPE Leadership Institute and was awarded a Conflict Resolution Fellowship through the U.S. State Department. Ms. García attended Citrus Community College, transferred and graduated from UCLA, earning a B.A. in Political Science and M.A. in Urban Planning.



### **Madeline Shapiro**

#### **Trustee Area 5**

*Member, Term of Office 2009-2013*

*Ms. Shapiro was elected to the Board of Trustees November 3, 2009. She represents Trustee Area 5, which includes East Whittier.*

Ms. Shapiro was elected as a member of the Rio Hondo Board of Trustees November 3, and will represent East Whittier. As an educator and teacher herself, Ms. Shapiro is aware of the importance of education and eager to begin serving at Rio Hondo College.

Presently, Madeline Shapiro is a member of the California Teachers Association/ Association for Better Citizenship Committee for her district and is a member of the CTA State Council for her local association. She also serves as an elected delegate for the state Democratic Party in the 56th Assembly District.

Ms. Shapiro has taught in the East Whittier City School District for more 20 years, where she has been actively involved as a teacher and leader. She also has served as president of the East Whittier Education Association.

Ms. Shapiro began her career in accounting but became interested in education after the birth of her daughter. She began as a parent volunteer and became an instructional aide and substitute teacher while earning a teaching credential from California State University at Fullerton.

Ms. Shapiro grew up in Pico Rivera and attended public schools, including Rio Hondo Community College, before earning a Business Administration degree from California State University at Long Beach. She moved into the East Whittier area before the birth of her daughter more than 31 years ago. She also has a son and granddaughter.

## Rio Hondo College's Bond Fund Earns "Clean" Audit

An independent Certified Public Account audit of Rio Hondo College's use of bond funds provided by Measure A has recently been completed with no audit exceptions for the performance audit and financial audit.

In an effort to ensure that Measure A Bond Funds have been expensed properly and effectively on the college's building programs, Rio Hondo College completed an audit performed by accounting firm Vasquez & Company LLP.

Vasquez & Company LLP audited the financial statements of the Measure A General Obligation Bond Fund of Rio Hondo Community College District as of and for the year ended June 30, 2009, and issued their report thereon dated October 16, 2009. The audit was conducted in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in *Government Auditing Standards* issued by the Controller General of the United States. The audit was released in two separate reports; *Performance Audit and Audited Financial Statements*.

### Performance Audit

Measure A was passed by the District's voters in 2004. Its revenue provides funds to campus construction and facilities improvement at Rio Hondo Community College. The projects funded by Measure A were reviewed and analyzed in the *Performance Audit* as follows: Fire Fighter Training Facility in Santa Fe Springs, Police Training Facility for Rio Hondo Police Academy, Student Services and Student Activities Building, Upgrade Campus Lighting and Alarm System, Replace/Repair Building Components, Campus-wide Efficiency Repairs, Campus Building Improvements, Information Technology Upgrade, Campus-wide Infrastructure, El Monte and South Whittier educational centers, Facilities Master Plan, Relocation/Acquisition of Temporary Facilities, Central Plant Maintenance, Lot A Bridge, Landscape, Seismic Retrofit, Facilities Building/Garage/Fuel Tank, Learning Resource Center, Applied Technology Remodel, and Physical Education Complex.

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## New Networking Group for Architecture, Drafting and CAD Alumni Hold First Meetings

Over the course of his 30-year career at Rio Hondo College, Architecture & BIM/CAD Professor Jay Sunyogh has taught thousands of students. For several years, he has kept in touch with many – finding out where they are working and how they are doing. As part of his sabbatical project, Sunyogh decided to establish a new alumni association for former students involved in the award-winning program of Architecture, Civil, Engineering, Design, Drafting (ACEDD) & BIM/CAD Technology at Rio Hondo College.

Two initial meetings were hosted at Rio Hondo College this month to plan the new alumni association. Approximately 24 alumni attended the two meetings. As a result of the meetings, the alumni association will have an electronic social networking component to help participants stay in touch after attending meetings. Both a blog and Facebook page have also been created as well to help alumni stay informed about future meetings and activities.



For additional information on this, please contact Professor Sunyogh at [jsunyogh@riohondo.edu](mailto:jsunyogh@riohondo.edu) or visit the program's web site at [www.riohondo.edu/cad](http://www.riohondo.edu/cad).

## Rio Hondo College Helps Students' Children with Holiday Gifts

The holidays can be an expensive time. Gifts, travel and holiday meals can add up quickly. And for students, those costs, compiled with the costs of education, can be even more challenging. During this holiday season, however, for a select few single-parent students at Rio Hondo College, what seemed "impossible" is *possible*.

That's why, for the 12th year now, Rio Hondo College's C.A.R.E. program has hosted its "Adopt-A-Child" event.

Rio Hondo's EOPS, or Extended Opportunity Program and Services, is dedicated to aiding students facing economic and educational challenges. An extension of those services known as C.A.R.E., or Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education, is designated to aid single parents with their educational costs.

Each Christmas a "Giving Tree" is established in the EOPS office and a "Giving Board" is posted on the wall. C.A.R.E. students (this year all of whom are single mothers), post pictures of their children. The Rio Hondo College Community is then welcomed to "adopt" a child, or multiple children, from the board and buy them a holiday gift. The gifts are bought, wrapped and put under the "Giving Tree." The gifts are given to the C.A.R.E. students at the Holiday Luncheon Workshop (which was held on December 16) for the parents to give to their children on Christmas. The Luncheon also features a raffle of gifts from private donors.

"Each year the Rio Hondo College Community continues to show its generosity. Administrators, faculty members and even students take part in the 'Adopt-A-Child' event," says Laura Verdugo, a C.A.R.E. specialist at Rio Hondo. "In these tough budget times especially, that generosity is appreciated."

One Rio Hondo College faculty member in particular has continued to show her generosity. Angela Rhodes, who recently had a child of her own, adopts between 20 and 30 children each year.

This year, just as in years past, the "Adopt-A-Child" event has helped single parents and their children enjoy the holidays.



## “Clean” Audit

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Vasquez & Company LLP concluded that, “Based on the procedures performed, we determined that Rio Hondo Community College District has properly accounted for the expenditures of the Measure A General Obligation Bond Fund. Further, we noted that the Bond Fund was not used for salaries of school administrators or other operating expenditures.”

### Audited Financial Statements

Vasquez & Company LLP also released its findings pertaining to the internal control over financial reporting. In planning and performing this audit, Vasquez & Company LLP considered the Rio Hondo Community College’s Bond Fund internal control over financial reporting as a basis for designing their auditing procedures for the purpose of expressing their opinion of financial statements.

They stated: “We did not identify any deficiencies in internal control over financial reporting that we consider to be material weaknesses.”

As part of obtaining reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements of the Rio Hondo Community College District’s Bond Fund are free of material misstatement, Vasquez & Company LLP also performed tests of its compliance with certain provisions of laws, regulations, contracts and grant agreements, noncompliance with which could have direct and material effect on the determination of financial statement amounts. They concluded: “The results of our tests disclosed no instances of noncompliance that are required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.”

In conclusion, the external audit conducted on Rio Hondo Community College’s Bond Fund revealed its success as all funds were properly accounted for, no deficiencies in internal control were detected and no instances of non-compliance were reported.

# Environmental Education Advisory Committee Highlights Interns Success

Rio Hondo College Environmental Education Advisory Committee members attended the Environmental Education Advisory Committee and Internship Appreciation Breakfast earlier this month. Highlights included nearly 25 interns and 10 companies being recognized and invited to share their successful internship experiences and projects. Some examples of projects included students working at waste water treatment facilities, some working at solid waste facilities managing the solid waste that comes in from local cities and other students worked at a battery recycling firm, where they were involved in the water treatment there.

The agenda included a welcome, a spring semester update, information on spring semester community service courses, an update of any new Environmental Sciences Department Courses; the GREEN Program’s Small-Business Grants and highlighted any requests for spring internships.

The event also provided the Advisory Committee with the opportunity to recognize Rio Hondo College interns for concluding a successful internship experience and the companies that hired them for continuing to build partnerships with the College. Companies that attended included the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, Santa Fe Springs Fire Department and others.



*Advisory Chair Steve Katnik, Environmental Science Professor and Gary Duran, Intern Instructor.*



**Bottom (Left to Right)** Interns: Jacob Gomez, Aaron Martinez, Eric Simonoff, Adriana Ortiz, Markus Perez, Anthony Galluzzo, Mark Huang (EcoLab), Juan Muñoz, Liz Berokoff. **Top (Left to Right)** Melonee Cruse (Harvey-Mudd), Gary Armstrong (LACSD), pail Dial (LACSD), Steve Chorch (IQ), Richard Clavesilla (IQ), Ernesto Perez (Intern), Dave Snyder (LACSD), Gary Duran (RHC Intern Instructor), and John Arcuri (Intern)