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President's Message



Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

As we come to the end of our Fall 2011 Semester, it is gratifying to know that once again we have collectively served nearly 24,000 students. Together, we help students register, provide guidance and a full range of student services to help them enroll in a myriad of classes in dozens of academic and vocational disciplines. Throughout the semester, we encourage them, tutor them, provide targeted opportunities to meet their special interests and goals. We help provide a beautiful environment, and a vibrant campus life to grow future leaders and to enable them to develop their individual talents. We do this as a team, each of us contributing our own composite set of skills and knowledge to the enterprise.

Next year, there will be more challenges to face. We know that fiscal austerity will continue. We anticipate further changes in the expectations for student completion and success. We will continue to do our level best to maintain a stable curriculum and array of opportunities our community has come to expect.

Blessed with a well-managed fiscal operation, we are grateful to be able to maintain our employee base and our curriculum, even in the face of continuing economic crisis – certainly unusual for any public institution of higher education in California today!

We look forward to the joy of celebrating our newest facilities, the Administration of Justice Building, the Student Service Building, and the Student Union – all eagerly anticipated new facilities. The Physical Education Complex is well underway, and we look forward to the construction of the El Monte Educational Center.

Thank you for joining with our community at the President's Holiday Reception to share the spirit of the Holiday Season. Please enjoy your holiday time with family. I will look forward to greeting you in the New Year. I am grateful to each of you for your individual, dedicated and unique role in serving each and every student.

Snow Falls at the Child Development Center



At this year's "Snow Day" the Child Development Center (CDC), together with the Rio Hondo Leadership Academy, were able to provide a winter wonderland for children on December 9. Children were able to make snowballs, snow angels, snowmen, and could sled down a snow-covered hill.

However, the snowy fun did not stop there. With the assistance of the Leadership Academy, CDC staff was able to monitor the children's safety in the snow, while Academy members were able to provide further learning opportunities for the children. The Academy read winter-themed books, encouraged the children to make a collage, provided white mint-scented play dough for sculpting, helped children create "clean mud" made with grated Ivory Soap bars, and gave children the chance to participate in face painting. Warm apple juice and a homemade Ritz cracker snowman were available to the children for snacking.

The event was funded by money raised by parents and staff at the Center last spring.



Board Meeting

The Rio Hondo Board of Trustees held an Induction Ceremony and Reception Program for newly elected Trustee Vicky Santana and re-elected Trustee Gary Mendez at the Campus Inn before their December Board Meeting. Vicky Santana, who will represent Trustee Area 2, was sworn in by her brother, Miguel Santana, Chief Administrative Officer of the City of Los Angeles. Gary Mendez, resuming his post representing Trustee Area 4, was sworn in by the Karate Students of Tai Crane Karate Dojo in South Whittier.



Following the Ceremony, the Board resumed its meeting in the Rio Hondo Board Room to hold annual organization and election of officers. Immediate past Vice President Norma Edith Garcia was elected President. Trustee Santana was elected Vice President, and Trustee Madeline Shapiro was elected Clerk of the Board.



The Board also presented a special commendation to Yoshio Nakamura, former Rio Hondo Dean and Vice President for Community and Student Services, for his recent

Bronze Star Medal honor, received last month at the Congressional Gold Medal Ceremony in Washington D.C. Nakamura is an honored Japanese-American soldier who fought in WWII as part of the 100th Infantry Battalion and the 442nd Regimental Combat Team. Nakamura is also a noted artist with works in the Guggenheim Collection in New York and the Smithsonian Institute.

The Board also honored the retirements of three Classified staff: Delmira Miovsky, Cindy Reuben, and Richard Marino.

Summer Bridge Students Join Together for Holiday Gathering

A group of students from the Rio Hondo Summer Bridge Program gathered on November 29 for a Holiday Bridge Potluck that included team-building games and a guest speaker. Now in its second year, the Summer Bridge program aims to support incoming freshmen by providing them with tools and resources that will help them succeed in college. The Summer Bridge Program has doubled in size, with 80 students in its first year to 160 this year.



The team-building games and the lecture by Rio Hondo Counselor John Parra centered on a topic relevant to all students: Finals and dealing with the stress of studying. While Parra provided advice on how to study for finals, the games illustrated the important idea that everyone needs a team or, in this case, a study group. The games also made the literal point that during finals, or anytime a student has a goal to reach, it's necessary to remove obstacles that stand in the way of achieving that goal.



"Too often students are under-supported in their college careers," says Summer Bridge Coordinator Michelle Bean. "Students in the Bridge Program have a place to bond and ask questions. The fall follow-up component is critical to the continuity of our student advocacy and support."

MESA Students Attend Southern California Research Conference



Five Mathematic Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) students at Rio Hondo, accompanied by Professor of Physics, Vann Priest, Ph.D., attended the 2011 Southern California Council for Undergraduate Research Saturday, November 18.

Held at Mt. San Antonio College, the all-day conference featured oral presentations and posters from student researchers from over 60 community colleges, four-year colleges and universities, and other research institutions. Impressed with the quality of the research being done by undergraduates, Rio Hondo MESA students have become even more enthused about pursuing such innovative research.



EOPS Celebrates Holiday CARE Program

In early December, CARE Program students and their children came to the Campus Inn for a festive holiday gathering. As children created holiday arts and crafts and made a special item for their parent, CARE students decorated pictures of their children to hang on the Care Tree at the Extended Opportunity Program and Services (EOPS) CARE office for its annual adopt-a-child event. Everyone on campus was encouraged to come see the Care Tree, choose one of the decorated ornaments representing a child, and donate a holiday gift to them.

The CARE program serves low income, single parent students who are challenged by attending school full time while raising children. Currently 68 parents participate in the program with about 127 children.

EOPS primary goal is to encourage the enrollment, retention and transfer of students handicapped by language, social, economic and educational disadvantages and to facilitate the successful completion of their goals and objectives in college. EOPS offers academic and support counseling, financial aid and other support services.

Faculty and Staff Join Together for Season's Cheer at Annual President's Holiday Open House



Rebecca Green Appointed Dean of Behavioral and Social Sciences



Rebecca Green, who has been serving as Interim Dean of Behavioral and Social Sciences, was appointed to the position of Dean of Behavioral and Social Sciences by the Board of Trustees at its November meeting.

Green, who earned a Master's degree in Liberal Studies from California State University, Dominguez Hills and a Bachelor's degree in Sociology from California State University, Long Beach, has served as assistant professor of Sociology at Rio Hondo for the past five years. She currently participates in the SanFACC (the San Gabriel/Foothill Association of Community Colleges) mentoring program.

"I am both pleased and honored to be serving as Dean of Behavioral and Social Sciences. While I will certainly miss my time in the classroom, I look forward to serving students in this new and exciting capacity," said Green.

Congratulations, Rebecca!

Continuing Education Launches GREEN Program Curriculum



As a result of the success and popularity of the initial grant-funded "Giving Rio Hondo Environmental Education to our Neighbors (GREEN) Program, the RHC Continuing Education Department will offer a series of low-cost workshops early next year to assist local businesses with training and evaluations required by various regulatory agencies.

The workshops, which begin in January and run through May of 2012, will feature educational classes, seminars, "train the trainer" instruction, certifications and evaluations for businesses within the community. The goal is to assist in training employees in specific Environmental Health and Safety Programs, while providing participants who complete the workshops with certificates required by state and federal agencies.

Low cost on-site evaluations – which include assessments of Health and Safety, Energy Sustainability/Green Building, Department of Transportation, Environment Management, and Energy Management – are also available.

The goal of Rio Hondo College's Continuing Education department is to provide captivating and useful programs to our community that empower students of all ages to achieve educational, career, and personal goals in order to meet life's opportunities and challenges. The high quality instructional programs directly reflect the needs of the community and are held on campus and at many locations within the College district.



For more information, call Rio Hondo College Environmental Sciences Department at (562) 463-7501, email Steve Katnik at skatnik@riohondo.edu, or visit www.riohondo.edu/continuingeducation.

Parents in College Club Holds Successful Children's Book Drive

Rio Hondo's Parents in College Club held their first children's book drive November 5 at the Campus Inn. Students of Rio Hondo brought their children to sift through stacks of children's books of all sizes, and were allowed to choose five books to take home. Approximately three hundred children's books were donated for the event, gathered from faculty and staff at Rio Hondo.

"The children were very excited to be able to choose books to take home," said Parents in College Advisor, Angela Rhodes. "It was a truly moving experience to see so many children motivated and enthusiastic to read!"

Since the book drive was such a success, the Club will continue to accept books on an ongoing basis for distribution throughout the year to children in need.

Parents in College promotes the empowerment of parents to achieve greatness in their personal lives as well as in their college careers. The Club is a place for parents to exchange resources and ideas, and creates a support network for parents during their time at Rio Hondo.

