



PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2008

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

With the kick-off of Spring semester classes Rio Hondo College is, once again, filled with students and faculty and the energy that they bring to the campus. I am pleased to report that despite the challenges caused by the North Road closure, parking seems to be available for everyone. I am also glad that we have seen strong numbers of both new and returning students for the Spring semester.

Along with the continued progress of the *Building Access and Excellence* building program, the college is in the middle of a self study for WASC accreditation. Accreditation is an important indicator that the college is responsive to change and changing methods of academic delivery without ever losing sight of our high quality standards for student learning outcomes.

The Executive Summary from the Environmental Symposium *Educational Pathways to Green Jobs* has been released this month and the Board of Trustees held their February meeting in El Monte. All of this activity is a part of the on-going work that we are all doing together to make sure that Rio

Hondo College is an exemplary California community college, meeting the learning needs of its changing and growing population and developing a state of the art campus to serve future generations.

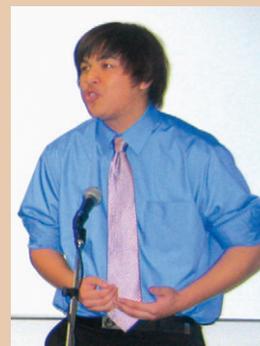
Debate Showcase

On February 25, 2008, the Rio Hondo College Debate Team hosted a Debate Team from Japan as the first stop of their American tour. The entire campus was invited to the two showcase debates and the audience was able to participate by offering up questions to be debated. The two debates allowed both the campus community and the district community to attend.

The Japanese debate featured *Akira Murakami*, a graduate student in Cultural Studies from Tokyo University. Akira was a competitive debater in 2005 and is highly involved in contributing to the Japanese Debate community. Also debating was *Tasaki Tomonori*, an English student at the University of Kitakyushu (Fukuoka, Japan). He is currently a member of the English Speaking Society at the University. He competed in 2005-06.

The Rio Hondo College debate included *Lori Ruiz* a second year Psychology student, who plans to transfer to UC Berkeley or UCLA when she finishes at Rio Hondo. Also, debating for Rio Hondo College was *Jeff Chang*, a first year debater who has competed in last semesters Fall Championships. He's a second year Psychology major who plans to transfer to either UC Berkeley or CSU Fullerton.

The forensics speech coaches were very grateful for the support from the community and a good time was had by all who attended.



Spring FLEX Day

Every term, all faculty gather the day before the semester begins to take advantage of professional growth opportunities and move forward on departmental work. These “FLEX Days” typically consist of a general morning session where the College President and President of the Academic Senate and CSEA offer updates on important campus directions and welcome newly hired staff, faculty, and administrators. Typically we then offer breakout sessions where all on-campus staff are invited to self-select workshops geared toward professional development, followed by Departmental meetings in the afternoon.

This last February 1st, our spring FLEX day was slightly different than FLEX Days past. The day began in our traditional way with a continental breakfast, welcoming of new staff and an update from Dr. Martinez about college goals. After greetings from CSEA and the Academic Senate, Research and Planning Dean Jacque Nagatsuka and Student Learning Outcomes Coordinator Matt Koutroulis discussed the SLO related tasks that needed to be accomplished that day. Essentially, the bulk of the time was to be devoted to departmental meetings aimed at SLO Assessment discussions, the development of Program level SLOs, or other departmental work.

In a post “FLEX Day” survey with 160 respondents, the feedback was quite positive. In fact 86% of folks agreed that the SLO and other departmental sessions were “engaging, productive, and provided valuable information.”

While discussing the assessment and meaning of Student Learning Outcomes is a mandated activity for Accreditation, the feedback from this FLEX day supports the fact that these activities are crucial to keeping a collegial focus on student success.



Environmental Symposium Executive Report Released

The Environmental Symposium Executive Report has been released, reporting the findings from the Environmental Symposium, *Educational Pathways to Green Jobs*. The symposium was hosted by Rio Hondo College at the Pacific Palms Conference Resort on Friday, October 5, 2007.

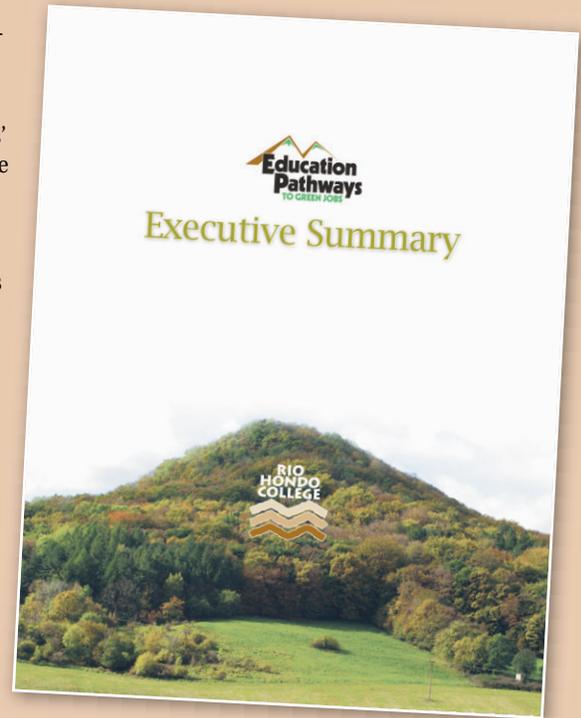
The event brought academics, industry leaders, students, and community members together to brainstorm about innovative curriculum that will prepare students with occupational and technical training to enter the green workforce. There were five facilitated breakout sessions on Waste Management, Water and Waste Water Management, Alternative/Efficient Energy Systems, Environmental Health and Safety, and Land-Use Planning and Environmental Restoration. The event was sponsored by Upper San Gabriel Valley Municipal Water District, the Sanitation District of Los Angeles County, and the Central Basin Municipal Water District.

As promised in October, the “white papers,” which are a culmination of the group sessions, facilitators’ comments, and survey responses on the state of the industry, have been returned to the College. To make sure that all of the participants can be a part of this process, the College has condensed the “white papers” into an executive summary that has just been made available.

The summary will be sent to all those that participated in the symposium and copies are also available upon request. Additionally, for any one seeking a collection of all of the “white papers” those are also available upon request to:

Dean Karen Koos
Rio Hondo College, Math and Science
3600 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, CA 90601
562-692-0921 ext. 3523 • kkoos@riohondo.edu

The executive summary will be the first of an on-going correspondence between the College and symposium participants. This model for curriculum design is meant to be on-going and responsive to the changing needs in industry and government. *The Educational Pathways to Green Jobs* symposium has opened the door for this kind of focus on several areas and more symposiums are planned for the future.



Rio Hondo College Trip to Washington D.C.

From February 11-13, Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr., Trustee Gary Mendez and Russell Castaneda-Calleros attended the National Legislative Summit (NLS) which was organized by the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC) and the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT). The purpose of the conference, held at the Marriott at Wardman Park in Washington D.C., was to inform community colleges about 2008-09 federal budget issues and federal legislation that could impact colleges across the nation. Experts focused on issues such as The Higher Education Reauthorization Bill, Perkins funds, Pell Grant funds, and Education Tax Credit reform just to name a few. Furthermore, while in town, Dr. Martinez, Mr. Mendez and Mr. Castaneda-Calleros visited with several of our congressional representatives to thank them for previous support and to inform them about new initiatives that are in need of federal support during the upcoming year. Some of the representatives that Dr. Martinez met with included Congresswoman Grace Napolitano, Congresswoman Hilda Solis, Congresswoman Linda Sanchez and Congressman Adam Schiff. Furthermore, Dr. Martinez met with staff representatives from the offices of Senator Dianne Feinstein, Senator Barbara Boxer, Congresswoman Lucille Roybal-Allard, Congressman David Dreier, and Congressman Gary Miller.



Construction Update

Construction is continuing full speed ahead. Several changes have taken place with regard to street closures. Central Plant has been reopened. North Drive between West Road and Circle Drive East has been closed. Circle Drive West between Central Drive and Vocational Way has been closed. The former student drop off area on Central Drive (near Wray Theater) has been closed due to construction activity.

The Library and Learning Resource Center project is proceeding rapidly. The contractor should begin pouring the first floor slab on grade before the end of March. Construction of the retaining wall is well underway. The Infrastructure project has closed North Drive as well as Lot G (the parking lot behind Administration). The Central Plant project appears to be back on track, as the contractor has nearly finished regrading the hill behind the new Central Plant building area.



The Pedestrian bridge is also under construction and the concrete cast-in-drilled-hole piles and pile caps have recently been poured. Construction on this project is anticipated to be completed in the summer of 2008. The Maintenance Facility Upgrades are nearly complete. Asphalt has been placed and the new fuel pump has been installed. It is anticipated that the work will be substantially completed within the next few weeks.

Several projects have been designed and submitted to DSA for review, including the new PE Complex, the Administration of Justice building, the Student Services Building, the South Whittier Center, and the Terraced Walks project. In addition, DSA approval has been received for the Applied Technology Building Renovation and the new Rio Hondo Parkway. The County of Los Angeles is currently reviewing the design of the Rio Hondo Parkway intersection with Workman Mill Road. In addition, the El Monte Center, a project developed by the City of El Monte, is under design. According to City officials, the design is approximately 30% complete.

GEAR UP Update

GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is a federally funded program designed to significantly increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. The Rio Hondo College GEAR UP: I'm Going to College Program provides academic services and activities to students at Madrid Middle School and Mountain View High School.

Some of the key services that are offered through the program are After-School Tutoring, Educational field trips, Academic/Pre-College counseling, Summer Enrichment Program, Financial Aid workshops, Parent education workshops, Professional Development, Postsecondary workshops, Technology enhancement, Scholarship assistance and College Tuition assistance.

Already, 485 Madrid Middle School students have enrolled in the after-school program for extended day learning with an average of 200 students daily attendance. Twenty-two teachers and ten GEAR UP tutors provide supplementary instruction to the students in the areas of language arts (reading, writing), mathematics, and homework assistance.

The program has a newly developed website where all of the information and achievements of the program can be found: www.riohondo.edu/gearup.

President's Trip to White Memorial Hospital

On Thursday, February 7, Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr. and Russell Castaneda-Calleros were given a tour of White Memorial Medical Center in East Los Angeles. President and CEO Beth D. Zachary hosted Dr. Martinez as he visited various departments throughout the hospital, noting that they are in the middle of an ongoing construction project, much like Rio Hondo College. Also present was Senior VP of Clinical Operations and Chief Nurse Executive Lynne Whaley, RN, who introduced Dr. Martinez to nearly a dozen Rio Hondo graduates who now work as full-time nurses throughout White Memorial. President Zachary and Dr. Martinez discussed what White Memorial and Rio Hondo could do to work more closely together as Rio Hondo continues to prepare nurses for employment at White Memorial Medical Center. Dr. Martinez learned of an innovative partnership with TELACU which provides financial assistance for Rio Hondo nursing graduates to fill positions at White Memorial Medical Center.

Valentine's Day Celebration

The Confidential Employees which assist the President, Vice Presidents, and Director of Human Resources held a Valentine Luncheon on February 14, 2008. This group tries to meet at least once every couple of months to share and support one another.



Rio Hondo Police Academy takes Second Place in Statewide Competition for Training Excellence

Chief Dave Singer from the Whittier Police Department and Chairman of our Police Academy Advisory Board, nominated our Police Academy for the 2007 California Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training Award for Excellence in Training in the Organizational Achievement category. After a review of nominations from 21 of the 41 Police Academies throughout California, the Commission awarded Rio Hondo College the Runner-Up Award (second place) in the statewide police academy competition. The California Highway Patrol was awarded first place.



Dean Joe Santoro extends congratulations to the men and women of the Rio Hondo College Police Academy. He is very proud of their hard work, can do attitude and the dedication to duty they show on a daily basis. Their commitment to training the current and next generation of law enforcement professionals is obvious and very much appreciated by the Dean.

Jacqueline Nagatsuka

Dean of Institutional Research and Planning

Has just been awarded a Doctorate in Educational Leadership from University of California Los Angeles

AccessRio Project Update

Since the beginning of the year many activities have been planned and started on the AccessRio project. On January 23rd, the official project kickoff took place with SunGard Higher Education (SGHE) signing the Project Definition Document (PDD) and the Communication Plan. The Banner Implementation Group (BIG) continues to meet every first and third Monday of the month. They are working with SGHE and the project management team to establish training needs, resource allocations and process definitions. The AccessRio Executive Committee meets once a month to review project status, resource needs and policy decisions.

The work on the first phase of the Business Process Analysis (BPA) is 70% completed. The BPAs will assist the trainers, consultants and RHC functional staff with fitting Banner to the processes of Rio Hondo and help change existing processes for better service to the students and college community. As this work continues, the processes that cross many functional areas will be studied and incorporated into the requirements of the project.

Work on the initial Data Standards' document is nearing completion. These standards will be used for data migration to Banner and for future data input and enhancements. In February, a fact finding session was held with the lead Human Resources consultant from SGHE, Julie Monfette, to determine which parts of the Banner system will be used at Rio Hondo. This session set the BPA process in motion for Human Resources and helped create the HR training plan.

Over the last several months training has started in the areas of Student Services, Financial Aid and Technical Services. As the full scope of training and resource needs was realized, it was decided to reschedule implementation of the student system from Summer 2009 to intersession January 2010. This rescheduling will allow additional time for staff to learn the new system, provide for additional system tests and allow communication to the students about the changes to the registration and financial aid processes.

As you can see, there are many activities taking place on this important project. To help us communicate with all staff, faculty and managers an internal Web Site has been created. Please visit it often to check on status, training schedules, planning activities and other announcements. Your participation in the project is welcome and needed. The Web Site can be found at <http://accessrio.riohondo.edu>, it requires a valid Rio Hondo E-mail account to enter. Go take a look today, check it often and be involved when you can. You are always welcome to contact our project management team. David Bell can be reached at (562) 692-0921 ext. 4851 or djbelle@riohondo.edu and Jack Raubolt can be reached at (714) 328-6931 or jraubolt@riohondo.edu.



Board Meeting in El Monte

The Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees hosted a Board Meeting and Community Mixer at Mountain View High School, 2900 Parkway Dr. in El Monte on Wednesday, February 20, 2008. The Community Mixer began at 5:15 pm with members of the public having the chance to speak with Rio Hondo College Trustees, and the Board Meeting began at 6:00 pm.

The mixer began with a wonderful performance by the Mountain View High School Jazz Ensemble. Community members were able to mingle with administrators, staff, faculty and Board members from Rio Hondo College. The Rio Hondo College color guard began the meeting with the presentation of the colors and the pledge of allegiance.

During the open comment the College Counselor from Mountain View High School thanked the Trustees for the wonderful work that is being done on that campus, both through GEAR UP and the outreach efforts of Dean Antonio Flores, the counselors at Rio Hondo and Vice President Henry Gee.

Presentations were given by Mike Munoz, the Director of the Rio Hondo College GEAR UP program. Mr. Munoz thoroughly explained the work that GEAR UP is doing both at Madrid Middle School and at Mountain View High School. He shared with the Board that strategic planning has begun on how to create a blueprint of the GEAR UP program and institutionalize the relationships that have come from the grant and how to keep the good work going.



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BOARD REPORT

for the Board Meeting

February 20, 2007

Meeting in the community of El Monte

Consultant Services: The Board of Trustees approved the Consultant Services of the following for the Foster/Kinship Care programs:

- Julissa Marilyn Castillo
- Beatriz Lopez
- Karen Nutt
- Marcela Roldan
- Christina Maria Auer-Arriaga
- Martha O. Godinez

The Board of Trustees approved the Consultant Services of the following for the GEAR UP Program:

- Maribel De Leon
- Maricruz Campos

The Board approved the consultant services of Irma Archuleta to help seek funding from foundations and private sources and Henry Jacobs to write two specific grants for the Nursing Program.

Award of Bid #1125 Automated Target System:

The Board of Trustees approved and awarded Bid #1125 – Automated Target System to California Building Evaluation and Construction, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$82,000.

Subsidy Contract with the South Coast Air Quality Management District for Reduction in Air Pollution Attributed to Go Rio Bus Pass Program:

The Board of Trustees approved a subsidy contract with the South Coast Air Quality Management District for the purpose of subsidizing the “Go Rio” bus transit pass.

Approve Instructional Services Agreements:

The Board of Trustees approved an agreement with the City of La Habra Heights Fire Department to provide Administration of Justice and Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certified classes for police departments and Wild Land, EMS and Fire Technology.

Acceptance of Bid Substantially Completed – Bid #1117 I.T. Electrical Upgrade:

The Board of Trustees accepted as complete the work performed under Bid #1117 the *I.T. Electrical Upgrade*, according to the specifications and conditions as of February 1, 2008 and authorized the filing of a Notice of Completion with the Los Angeles County Recorder.

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BOARD MEETING IN EL MONTE

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Russell Castaneda-Calleros shared with the Board that Rio Hondo College will receive \$282,000 as the result of the work of Congresswoman Hilda L. Solis (CA-32). The program, *Tune In Tune Up*, establishes a partnership among the Office of Congresswoman Hilda Solis, Rio Hondo College, East Los Angeles College and community organizations in the San Gabriel Valley to provide a free roadside emissions test event.

Finally, Dr. Paul Parnell presented to the Board and to the Community the partnerships between Rio Hondo College and the City of El Monte, including courses in Arts and Culture, Business and Applied Technology, Public Safety, Social Sciences and Community Services.



Trustee Andre Quintero honored Teresa Caro, a Rio Hondo College student, who was the recipient of the El Monte Coalition of Latino Professionals. The requirement for the award is excellent academics coupled with a strong commitment to community service.

This Board of Trustees works diligently to represent the interests of the communities that they serve and the Community Board Meetings provide an opportunity for them to share what is happening at Rio Hondo College, while also having the opportunity to hear the community's questions about the college.

The meeting was attended by Assistant City Manager Dante Hall from the City of El Monte. Several other dignitaries were there including: Benita Duran, Deputy District Director for Representative Hilda Solis; Juliza Perez, Field Representative for Hilda Solis; Ruth Gonzales, Trustee from Valle Lindo; Joseph Gonzalez, City of El Monte Council Member; Angelita Gonzales-Hernandez, Assistant Principal Arroyo High School; Peter Knapik, Director of Curriculum at Mountain View High School; Bobby Salcedo, Assistant Principal, Mountain View High School; and Mike Daly, Assistant Principal Mountain View High School.



Bus Pass Purchase – City of Montebello:

Staff and Montebello Bus Lines officials concluded a discussion regarding the cost of bus passes for the “Go Rio” bus program. Montebello Bus Lines will honor the pass as full fare for each trip taken by the pass holder. The Board of Trustees authorized the contract with the City of Montebello to cover the cost of those passes for the Spring 2008.

Non-Resident Tuition – Revised: Each year, the District is required to evaluate and adjust, if necessary, its Non-Resident Tuition based on a formula provided by law. Non-Resident Tuition is the per-unit cost charged to students who have not resided in the State of California for more than one year. The law provides that the District may charge the District’s per-unit cost of education or the state’s average per unit cost of education.

The Board of Trustees tabled the Non-Resident Fee of \$170 per unit, starting fiscal year 2008/2009 until their board Retreat on February 23, 2008.

Surplus Property – Science Equipment:

The Board of Trustees approved the consignment of obsolete and broken science equipment to a local auction house for disposal sale.

Rio Hondo College Partnerships with the El Monte Community

Rio Hondo College is committed to strengthening the connection that the College has with the communities that it serves. At the February 20, 2008 Board of Trustees meeting Dr. Paul Parnell, Vice President of Academic Affairs, presented to the Board of Trustees and the community some of those partnerships that are working well within the City of El Monte.

The college has classes from several different programs including TV 165, Music 140, and the Summer Theatre Program from the Arts and Cultural division. From Business and Applied Technology Division there is an Auto 101 class that is being taught at Mountain View High School and it will be offered again in the Spring. The college hired the automotive instructor for this class as a part-time faculty member at the college.

The Public Safety Department has and will continue to respond to regional needs and contribute to the economic future of the region through leadership in service and education through partnerships and Instructional Service Agreements with the following public, private, and non-profit organizations, including: California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST), California Office of the State Marshall, Angeles and Sierra National Forests Services, American Red Cross and Pinkerton Government Services.



From the Social Science Division, the AmeriCorps/Teacher, Reading & Math Development Partnership (TRMDP) has 50 Rio Hondo College students that perform 25 hours of community service and it effectively integrates community service with academic learning. Some of the college’s educational partners include: East Whittier School District, El Monte City School District, El Rancho Unified School District, Los Nietos School District, Mountain View School District and Whittier City School District.

Rio Hondo College students also help in after school programs throughout the district including: Stone Soup, Reach for the Stars and Aspire. There are also several different Community Services classes being taught at Mountain View High School. Some of those classes are How to Talk to Anyone, Everyday Etiquette, Professional Dining Savvy, Dining Skills for Children, Teen Etiquette, Dining Skills, Profiting from Fixer Uppers and Self-Publishing.

The College continues to reach out to the community through educational offerings, college information days, and the creation of satellite campuses and is hopeful that more opportunities will be available.

Women’s History Month Conference Friday, March 14, 2008

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Kim Baldonado

Anchor/Reporter, KNBC-TV

WORKSHOPS INCLUDE

- Dating Bill of Rights
- Breast Self Examination
- Psychological Impressions of Dress
- The Reality of Being a Teen Parent
- Martial Arts
- On-line Predators
- Self Defense
- The New Faces of HIV
- Nutrition..What Women Need to Know

Conference participants: 300 junior and senior high school students from WUHSD. Schools in attendance: Whittier, La Serna, Cal Hi, Pioneer, Santa Fe, and Frontier.

**RIO
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COLLEGE**

