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## President's Message



*Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.*

February has certainly been a month filled with good news, beginning with the notification from the Accrediting Commission that Rio Hondo College Accreditation has been fully reaffirmed. After many months of steady and focused work by our entire Accreditation Response Team, we were hopeful that this would be the outcome. We learned much during this time. I am confident that the procedures and processes now in place will keep the institution on a path of continuous improvement. On behalf of our entire college community, I would like to express gratitude to our ART Co-Chairs, JoAnna Downey and Katie O'Brien, as well as to everyone who participated in this essential endeavor.

Another success was the launch of our AccessRIO student information system with the Spring 2010 semester. Following years of efforts in data entry and by a myriad of classified employees, and with the assistance of faculty leadership and the administrative team, our students successfully enrolled online for the first time. No new comprehensive system is launched without a few glitches,

however, and we experienced some challenges with the waitlist process. By going the extra mile and implementing student-centered help stations around campus, everyone joined together to assist students during the first crucial week of the full semester. It was an exemplary case of customer service.

This issue of *The UPDATE* also includes a story on the next steps in the development of the AccessRIO system.

Our efforts to 'market' the RIOmail student e-mail accounts are continuing, as that connection is every student's ticket to receiving waitlist verification and information essential to their ability to enroll in the classes of their choice.

Two RHC students, Tim Aguilar and Alyssa Martinez have been selected for the 2010 Phi Theta Kappa All California Team. Phi Theta Kappa is the international honor society for two-year colleges and this is a prestigious honor.

Our Rio Hondo College *Annual Report to the Community, 2009* has been distributed throughout the District and to every employee. It is full of interesting information about our institution's accomplishments and goals, as well as a number of 'factoids' to help us showcase impressive milestones. Thanks to everyone who contributed information for this important document. I encourage our faculty and staff to continue to send items of interest for upcoming publications.

## Rio Hondo College Prepares for 2010 Census

The 2010 Census is approaching fast and the Rio Hondo Community is looking forward to contributing to the effort. Performed once every 10 years, the United States Census is an important process contributing to key decisions in both state and national policy. Census data determines such things as the number of seats each state will have in the U.S. House of Representatives, amount of federal funding each state and community will receive for local projects, locations for new facilities and services and other such governmental decisions. Businesses can also use census data to determine new locations for stores and housing.

"Making sure everyone in the San Gabriel Valley is counted in the 2010 census is critical for our future," said Cynthia Kurtz, President & CEO of the San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership.

April 1, 2010 is Census Day and the Rio Hondo College community will join with the rest of the San Gabriel Valley and the nation in filling out the census forms.

Rio Hondo College encourages everyone to participate in the short 10-minute form, one of the shortest in history, at only 10 questions. College students have been invited to apply for jobs assisting with the census, and interview sessions are being coordinated by the Career Center.

## Board Meeting

The February Board meeting was held at Columbia School Cafeteria in El Monte. The Community Mixer provided an opportunity for members of the public to meet and speak with Rio Hondo College Trustees. The Board meeting followed the mixer.

Board of Trustees President Angela Acosta-Salazar proved a commendation to Classified Retiree, Bruce Gallie for his years of service to the College.

Board of Trustees member Norma Edith Garcia provided a commendation to City of El Monte Mayor, André Quintero and thanked the city for its support of the College. Mayor Quintero (former Rio Hondo College Board of Trustee) thanked the College for serving El Monte and said he was excited for future partnerships.



Board of Trustees member Norma Edith Garcia provided a commendation to El Monte Union High School District Superintendent, Nick Salerno and Mt. View School District Superintendent, Lillian Maldonado-French for their efforts to form strong partnerships with Rio Hondo College.



Board of Trustees President Angela Acosta-Salazar proved a commendation to Rio Hondo College's Accreditation Team, describing it as a group of made up of "magnificent individuals" who came together and worked hard to submit a report to the committee that resulted in the College being fully-ac-

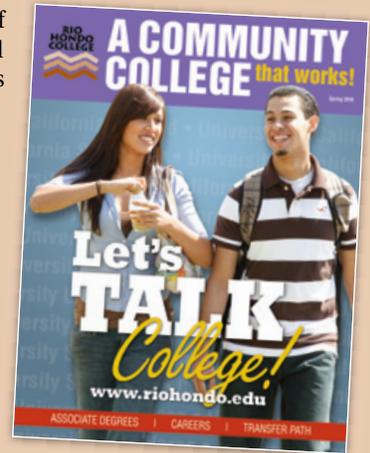
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## "Let's Talk College" Encourages High School Students to Consider RHC

As part of its focus on increasing awareness among high school students of the many options they have after graduation, Rio Hondo College developed a new publication, *Let's Talk College*. The new four-page brochure provides information to potential students on the many opportunities available at Rio Hondo College. *Let's Talk College*, was mailed to more than 6,000 seniors in the college's service area earlier this month. Seniors from high schools in El Monte Union High School District, Whittier Union High School District and El Rancho Unified School District received the publication at their home addresses.

*Let's Talk College* includes information on Rio Hondo College's associate degrees, career programs and transfer paths, highlights student support programs, compares tuition costs, describes campus life and intercollegiate athletic programs. It also features profiles of current Rio Hondo College students. "I liked how it was organized in sections," said Mountain View High School Senior, Marlon Sanchez. "I also liked the section of Student Support programs, online resources and how to apply online using CCC Apply – that was very informative."

To view the *Let's Talk College* piece, please visit, [www.riohondo.edu/president/PDF/LetsTalkCollege\\_MM1.pdf](http://www.riohondo.edu/president/PDF/LetsTalkCollege_MM1.pdf)



## New LCD TV Displayed in Learning Resource Center

The Rio Hondo College Learning Resource Center was recently given a brand new LCD television that was installed at the end of January. Now affixed to the wall of the main foyer and entrance, the new TV displays slides containing useful information for students and faculty. For example, during the first week of spring classes, one slideshow featured reminders and tips on AccessRIO, registration, and registration assistance centers.

Donated by Howard's Appliances in Pico Rivera in appreciation of the work done on their headquarters mural by Rio Hondo College art students last summer, the new LCD will be a major communication tool for the entire Rio Hondo Community. The message content of the display is managed by the Dean of Library and Instructional Support.



## Rio Hondo College Division of Arts & Culture Hosted Lively Selection of February Performances

The Rio Hondo College Division of Arts & Culture presented several unique events in February in the fields of art, music, theatre and more. The month of February offered some exciting opportunities for Rio Hondo students and neighbors to enjoy the performances.

These included lecture series by curator Aram Moshayedi on February 17; a vocal concert entitled "Fitting in: The Immigrant's Life" on February 19; a family event with puppets called "The Story of the Frog Belly Rat Bone" on February 20; a duo piano faculty recital on February 25; as well as a faculty art show on February 26.

For more information on upcoming events, please visit [www.riohondo.edu/arts/culturalevents.html](http://www.riohondo.edu/arts/culturalevents.html).

## Board Meeting continued from previous page



credited and off warning status. Acosta-Salazar applauded all involved for their efforts and success.



Environmental Sciences Professor Steve Katnik made a presentation to the Board of Trustees highlighting the Environmental Sciences program and how it benefits students. He provided information on how the program has grown over the years and what the future holds.



Vice President of Student Services, Henry Gee provided a PowerPoint presentation to the Board of Trustees, providing information on current educational partnerships with local school districts with a discussion about how such efforts increase the chances of more students meeting academic goals.

## In Memoriam

**Stephen M. Chapman**  
Instructional Assistant LAC  
1976-2009

**Dr. Leonard Grandy**  
First Vice President of Business  
Third Rio Hondo College  
Superintendent/President  
1963-1981

## AccessRIO Update – What's Next?



*Q: Now that we have experienced the first semester with the 'live' AccessRIO student information and registration process in place, what comes next?*

**Phase One** of the AccessRIO Project saw the implementation of three new electronic information management components.

- Academic Information for Students and Faculty
- Financial Aid
- Human Resources

All three of those new components consist of 'back-office' administrative functions and self-service functions where students faculty and staff can view and transact business such as applying for admission, registering, making payments, retrieving grades, and reviewing and accepting offers and disbursements of Financial Aid. There are multiple options in self-service to view the College's catalog and class schedule for current and future terms, etc.

Enhancing the new core components are other systems which conduct credit card payments, create images of supporting documents, and reporting tools to convert data into information.

**Phase Two** of the project consists of the implementation of three additional components to enhance and add value to the core components. They are:

- **AccessRIO Portal** – a web-based institutional portal (see below)
- **Workflow** – a tool that automatically routes information to selected populations based on actions taken by others, such as:
  - Hiring an employee automatically notifies all interested parties/offices of that action
  - Canceling or moving a class automatically notifies the students affected
- **DegreeWorks** – An online, web-based advising and educational planning tool that tracks student progress toward a stated educational objective.

*Q: What is a Portal?*

A portal is a web-based site designed to serve an institution's users. Portions of a portal are for internal users only. It integrates and consolidates information for the sake of efficiency and convenience.

In a portal, all of the channels are automatically and constantly updated as changes occur.

The Rio Hondo AccessRIO portal is one specifically designed for higher education. It is highly configurable. At a minimum, from the single website, the public, students, faculty and staff can access:

- Personal and institutional calendars
- E-mail
- Institutional and individual class alerts (emergency campus closings, assignment deadlines)
- All or selected self-service features already in use from Phase One
  - Real-time correspondence between instructors and students and among students in the same class (called collaboration), as well as communication with counselors or advisors.
  - Submission of assignments
  - Campus and community events
  - Connection to the LRC
  - Responses to surveys

Certain portions of the portal are designed for the public at large while others are secured by individual user ID and password which in turn defines roles and privileges within the College. Once logged in, a concept called "single sign on" allows each user to navigate to any or all functions they are entitled to, without having to enter or re-enter passwords while going from function to function.

*Q. What are the benefits of the Portal?*

### For students

1. "One-stop" for the most frequently used functions and information
2. Individually configurable to navigate within and between functions.

### For faculty

1. Same benefits as students *plus*
2. Active communication with individual students or an entire class
3. Access to both student and human resources functions from one place
4. Seamless collaboration with Virtual College classes

### For staff

1. Ease of navigation within and between systems
2. Receiving work in a virtual "inbox" as a result of Workflows

### For administration

1. Frequently run reports or data-driven graphical representations (dashboard) can be run and displayed right back on the portal
2. Automatic routing of information to pre-defined populations

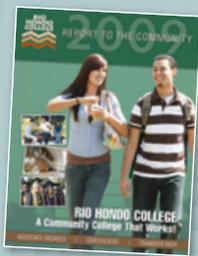
*Q. How is a Portal different from the college's main website?*

A. The appearance and functions of College's main website is established and maintained by the College's webmaster. While it anticipates where each user might want to navigate with links, it is not configurable by the individual user. Its format, func-

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## 2009 Annual Report Distributed to Community

Interested in learning more about the College's accomplishments in 2009? Want to know how many scholarships were given to students? Curious about the programs offered last year? Answers are included in the "2009 Report to the Community."



The 20-page report highlights 2009, students served, financial and building program highlights. The report was distributed by mail throughout the Rio Hondo College District. To view the report, please visit, [www.riohondo.edu/president/PDF/Annual%20Report%2009\\_MM1.pdf](http://www.riohondo.edu/president/PDF/Annual%20Report%2009_MM1.pdf).

## Rio Hondo College Basketball

Congratulations to Rio Hondo College's DeWayne O'Neal for being named to 1st Team All-Conference for the Roadrunners Men's Basketball team. Foothill Conference play started at the end of February as there is another full schedule of home and away events. Everyone is welcome and encouraged to cheer on our student athletes by attending an event. For more information, please visit, [www.riohondo.edu/pe/athletics](http://www.riohondo.edu/pe/athletics).

## Rio Hondo College Hosts AAUW Math/Science Conference

For the fifth consecutive year Rio Hondo College played host to the AAUW Math & Science Conference on February 26. The AAUW, or American Association of University Women, has been conducting this Math & Science Conference for 17 years. The event, which was attended by approximately 600 middle school girls this year, provided a series of workshops for participants.

All participants of the event and the AAUW were very grateful to Rio Hondo College for once again hosting this event and said they look forward to working with the College again in the future.

## AccessRIO Update – What's Next? *continued from previous page*

tions and content are somewhat fixed and designed to help web browsers locate various types of information about the College and its programs and services. It serves multiple audiences, internal and external web visitors. Large portions of a portal are configurable by the individual user so that the appearance, and "feel" and channels can be selected and arranged for frequency and ease of use. Because portals are individualized, alerts and announcements need not be global, and information can be "pushed" to specific individuals or groups to whom they apply.

### *Q. What is the implementation timeline for the Rio Hondo College Portal?*

A. The AccessRIO Portal Project was kicked off in late January when a cross-section of stakeholders

representing different facets of the College formed implementation teams. The teams are subdivided into organizational (functional) users and technical users. There are a series of organizational and technical training and consulting sessions and workshops that are scheduled over the next several months to discuss the portal's content, integration and configuration. It is expected that the portal will be available for general use by mid-September, 2010.

### *Q. What comes next?*

A. In the March *UPDATE*, we will provide more information about DegreeWorks and Workflow and Phase III of the AccessRIO implementation.

## Spring 2010 Semester Begins with Focus on Customer Service!

Rio Hondo College launched its new AccessRIO student information and registration system for the Spring 2010 semester. The first full week of classes was February 1-5.

To provide an extra measure of support and guidance during the first week of classes, Rio Hondo College president and administrative team offered additional help from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily in the College's Board Room. There, students received one-on-one opportunity to make second or third-choice selections if they were not successful in enrolling in first-choice classes. Computer labs with technicians were also available to students to assist them with any registration and online help they needed to add classes to their schedules. Faculty leadership, including Mike Javanmard and Colin Young led tutorials in the use of the new system for faculty as part of the Flex Activities.



## Rio Hondo College Receives \$100,000 Grant from Southern California Edison for Green Education Scholars

Rio Hondo College has recently received a \$100,000 Edison Grant in recognition of its opportunities for students "green" technology. The grant money, which will go toward scholarships for students who are enrolled in green technology programs, is intended to promote education for green jobs and green campuses. Pictured from left to right; Dr. Paul Parnell, V.P. Academic Affairs; Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr., Superintendent/President; Karen Koos, Dean of Mathematics and Science. They accepted the grant check from Sylvia Southerland, Regional Public Affairs Manager SCE. Southerland is also the past president of the Rio Hondo College Foundation.



## RHC Encourages Students to Activate RIOmail Accounts

In order for students to reap all the benefits of the new AccessRIO system, they must activate their RIOmail accounts. Student Services personnel have been recruiting new accounts since the beginning of the semester. However, the count of active accounts is still less than 7,000. The RIOmail campaign will continue throughout the semester. Faculty and staff are asked to encourage students to activate their RIO mail account. Our goal is to have 12,000 active accounts by spring break. Remember, students NEED to activate these email accounts (which they may redirect to their preferred email account if they so wish) in order to receive information essential to using the waitlist feature of the new AccessRIO system. They will also be able to receive campus emergency notifications, but **only if** they activate their RIOmail accounts.

### Campaign efforts included:

- ▶ During the first week of the semester and throughout February, PC stations were set up in the UQ and Campus Inn for students to use to activate their accounts
- ▶ Flyers were distributed with instructions to labs around campus on how to activate
- ▶ Flyers were emailed to all staff to help encourage activation
- ▶ ASB put information on their Facebook page about RIOmail
- ▶ Information was included in the President's weekly e-messenger
- ▶ ASB, ICC and Student Ambassadors have been informed on how to activate so they can help others
- ▶ Postcards about the benefits of RIO-mail activation will be mailed to all currently enrolled students prior to registration for summer term



## College Receives Full Reaffirmation of Accreditation

Rio Hondo College President Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D. recently announced that the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges, took action at its meeting January 6-8, to accept the College's Follow-Up Report, remove warning, and to reaffirm accreditation.

According to Martinez, the action removes the 'warning' sanction the College received in 2009, and restores the College's full accreditation. The complete text of the Commission's letter, as well as the Evaluation Team's Follow-Up report, is posted on the College's website. The College is required to complete a Follow-Up Report by October 15, 2010, addressing a progress recommendation regarding Student Learning Outcomes.

Martinez commended the members of the Accreditation Response Team (ART) who documented the institutional progress we made meeting the recommendation put forward by the Commission one year ago, "We learned much and created strong new organizational frameworks in the process. Special thanks to ART Co-chairs Katie O'Brien and JoAnna Downey, and to those who chaired committees. Our institutional commitment to the integrated planning process paid handsome dividends as well. I appreciate the efforts of all who contributed to the full restoration of accreditation without sanction."

While the previous warning sanction (the least severe of the Commission's sanctions that might have been levied) was in place, the College moved forward to refine the planning process, move forward on Student Learning Outcomes development, and to implement a series of other operational modifications specified by the Commission. Throughout the process, Rio Hondo College students continued to be eligible to transfer units earned at the College and to receive Financial Aid.



A celebration honoring the College's reaffirmed accreditation was held in the Board Room with Rio Hondo College stakeholders and members of the Accreditation Taskforce.