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FOURTH ANNUAL PRESIDENT'S GALA

*Preparing Our Workforce –
New Careers in Technology*

Saturday, March 12

For more information,
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President's Message



Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

I would like to express my appreciation to all of you for your vital roles keeping operations smooth as we welcomed students back to campus for the beginning of the spring semester. Unit enrollment is 'flat' when compared to last year, which is perfectly logical as we have not altered the number of classes we offer in the interim. We are pleased to be able to maintain enrollment at this difficult time in our state's fiscal history.

You may have noticed that students found nearly 150 more parking spaces, thanks to creative planning and temporary use of a one-way route around lots A, B, and C for the first few weeks of class. Student parking also benefited from reclaiming 22 spots in lot A that were temporarily lost during the construction of lot H, and 25 reclaimed spaces in lot 1 created by moving construction trailers. Supplemental traffic management personnel helped keep vehicular traffic moving, in spite of construction activity and the usual 'first week' crowds.

Kudos to our Accreditation Response Team (ART) for their work preparing the October Follow up report submitted to ACCJC/WASC in October. At its January meeting, the Commission accepted the report without formal comment. We are on schedule and on track. Please see the story on page 4.

My appreciation to Russell Castaneda-Calleros, Dr. Paul Parnell, and to Interim Dean Rebecca Green for planning an uplifting event to showcase the signing of the proclamation marking the Rio Hondo College partnership with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing, the Housing Rights Center, and the Fair Housing Council of Orange County. Our students will benefit from new opportunities for internships, employment, and to learn more about civil rights advocacy. Such partnerships and ceremonial events do much to position the college in the national spotlight.

We are receiving almost daily communiqués from CCLC and the Chancellor's Office regarding various budget proposals as they come forth. None are encouraging, and most herald great fiscal trials for us in the months and years ahead. Vice President Dreyfuss is doing a splendid job keeping our fiscal ship afloat, and I need to remind everyone that every penny does count. Please save at every opportunity.

CalPoly Pomona Students Tour Rio Hondo Construction Projects

Engineering students from Cal Poly Pomona visited Rio Hondo College to tour construction projects. Led by Program Manager, Jim Sinsheimer (far left), the students were assigned to observe and photograph specific areas of a steel-frame building under construction. They toured through both the Student Services and Student Union buildings. Lou Valdez (far right), project manager for KPRS Construction Services, also participated in the student tour.



Board Meeting

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

Veterans Program Counselor-Coordinator, Sylvia Duran-Katnik, provide an update about the College Veterans programs. She highlighted programs and services available to veterans. More than 400 veteran (or dependent) students are certified by the VA for benefits. The Service Center provides services to nearly 2,000 student contacts each semester. She also shared how LA County has the largest veteran population, at 359,000. At Rio Hondo, veterans receive a variety of services including emergency loans, tutorial assistance, outreach, training and more.



Faculty Member Gil Puga provided a sabbatical leave presentation. He provided an overview of his sabbatical experience, noted the countries he visited and the various debate tournaments he attended while there. He traveled to nine countries and focused and studied different types of debate. He said his goal upon returning to campus was to increase student debate participation and to find practical applications for debate. He also thanked the Board of Trustees for his sabbatical opportunity.



Rio Hondo College Joins Forces with HUD to Launch Fair Housing Education Partnership

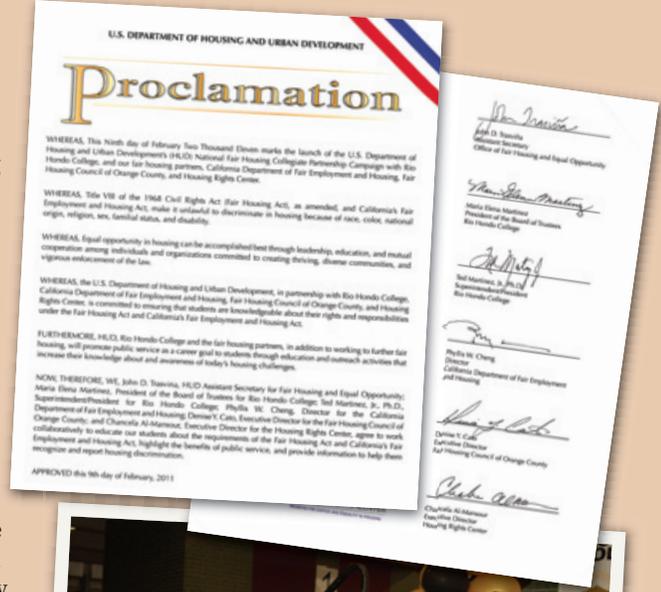
U.S. Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Assistant Secretary John Trasviña visited the campus to establish a new National Fair Housing Collegiate Partnership with Rio Hondo College (RHC) and the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) February 9. The new HUD-RHC-DFEH partnership, the first ever with a community college, will educate students about fair housing laws and equip them with skills for public service and civil rights careers. DFEH Director Phyllis W. Cheng and RHC Superintendent President Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D. joined Assistant Secretary Trasviña to kick off HUD's new education program during a housing resource fair, and proclamation signing at the college.

"Community colleges are a key partner as we reach out to new entrants into the rental and future homeowner communities, particularly in communities protected by the Fair Housing Act," said John Trasviña, HUD's Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. "Our partnership with Rio Hondo College benefits students, the community and their futures."

DFEH Director Phyllis W. Cheng added: "The Department of Fair Employment and Housing is delighted to partner with HUD to encourage students at Rio Hondo College to pursue careers that would ensure equal housing opportunity for all Californians. These students will be the leaders of the future."

This partnership is designed to promote fair housing and educate students about their rights under the federal Fair Housing Act and California's Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA), which prohibit discrimination in housing based on race, color, national origin, sex, religion, families with children, or disability.

In addition, RHC, the first community college in the nation to join in the partnership to sign a proclamation, will develop internships, classroom work, fair housing training, and community service opportunities with the DFEH and local fair housing groups and encourage students to consider public service as a career.



Spring Semester Off to a Smooth Start

The beginning of the spring 2011 semester at Rio Hondo College went smoothly, thanks to the availability of nearly 150 additional parking spaces, and supplemental personnel brought in to assist with traffic management. The AccessRIO electronic registration process has been active for a full year, which also helped students take care of enrollment matters online 24/7.

With multiple facilities projects underway in several locations, administration worked hard to ensure students were able to navigate campus roads and parking areas. Approximately 100 additional spaces were provided by creating a temporary one-way traffic configuration on Circle Drive around lots A, B, and C. Twenty-two student spaces were re-established in Lot A, thanks to the re-opening of parking lot H, and an additional 25 student spaces were reclaimed in Lot 1 when construction trailers were relocated. Enrollment is approximately the same as last spring. In spite of the State's budget difficulties, Rio Hondo College is striving to maintain a stable schedule of class offerings.

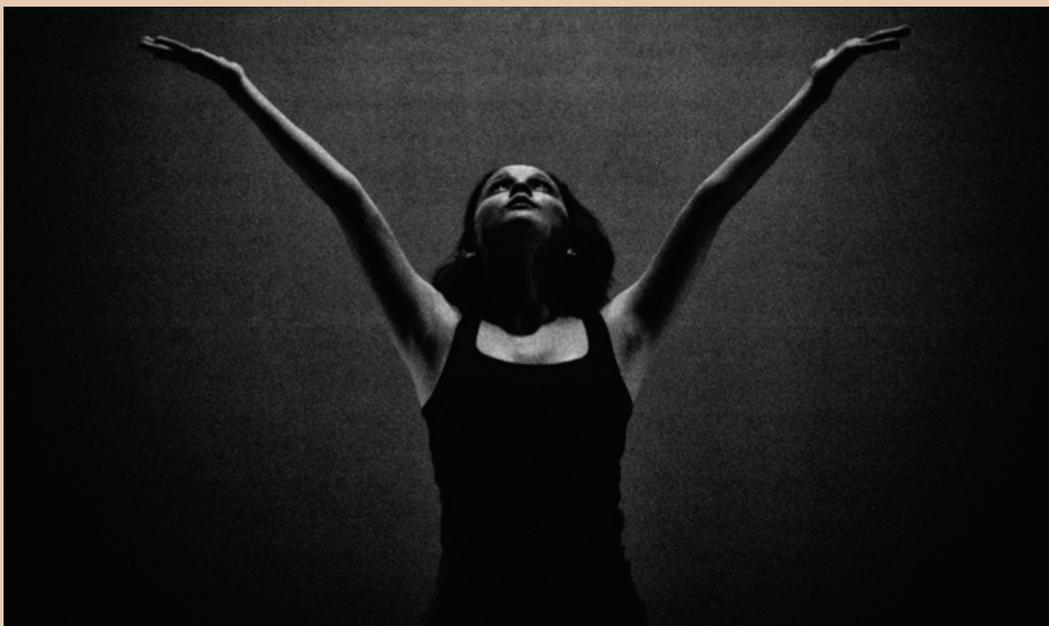


Dance Program Choreography Nominated for a 2010 Lester Horton Award

The Rio Hondo College Dance Program was recently honored with a nomination for Diana Sherwood's *History of Sky*, which premiered at the Evening of Dance concert at the Wray Theater last May. The Doris Humphrey inspired work was recognized by the Dance Resource Center of Los Angeles, a professional organization of dancers, choreographers, teachers, dance and arts professionals throughout Southern California.

Each year, the DRC honors works from Southern California with its Horton Awards (named after the American Modern Dance pioneer Lester Horton). The awards are given in various categories with Rio Hondo College in the Excellence in Short-form Choreography division.

This nomination is both an honor for faculty member Diana Sherwood and to the Rio Hondo Collective dancers, who performed the work on tour in LA and Orange County. Dance Program Director, Alyson Cartagena, is ecstatic. "I am so very pleased with the progress and accomplishments of the dancers. There really is no better award than to be recognized by the Dance Resource Center in LA. In the world of concert dance, this is the ultimate recognition."



Rio Hondo College Celebrates Nursing Program's 100 Percent Exam Pass Rate

At Rio Hondo College, students are encouraged to study growing industries and are taught by highly-qualified professors to be career-ready upon graduation. Recently, the College had 100 percent of its nursing program students pass the National Council Licensure Examination (NCLEX), which is required by all State Boards of Nursing in order to practice.

As a result of offering students high-quality faculty and staff and under the guidance of Health Science & Nursing Dean: Connie Austin, students who took and passed the NCLEX between October and December 2010, passed at 100 percent surpassing both the California State Average, which was 77 percent for the quarter and the National Average Pass Rate, which was 86 percent for the quarter. Such success also impacted the College's annual pass rate, which is now 96.7 percent compared to the State's annual pass rate, which is 76 percent.

"We are incredibly proud of the nursing program Rio Hondo College offers students. Such exam results are a great indicator of how successful our program really is," said Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., Rio Hondo College Superintendent/President. "I would like to congratulate our faculty and staff for preparing these nurses to do so well on their national licensing exam and commend our students for a job well done."

The NCLEX exam, also known as the National Council Licensure Examination, is a standardized exam that each State board of nursing uses to determine whether or not a candidate is prepared for entry-level nursing practice. Most of the questions of the NCLEX-PN exam are worded multiple choice questions. In recent years, however, the Boards of Nursing have added broader questions that do not involve multiples choices.

Rio Hondo College Earns Gold Standard Award for Internet-based Assessment Testing

Rio Hondo College was recently selected as a Gold Standard Award recipient by Castle Worldwide, Inc. for its Internet-based testing. The certificate is awarded to testing centers that have demonstrated outstanding performance by meeting or exceeding the following criteria:

- Offering at least eight hours of Castle Worldwide, Inc. testing weekly.
- Consistently scheduling Castle Worldwide, Inc. testing dates at least 60 days in advance.
- Has made zero requests to reschedule candidates due to scheduling errors.
- Has received zero substantiated complaints from testers lading to free or reduced reschedules
- Consistently receiving "Satisfied" or "Very Satisfied" ratings from candidates who respond to the post-exam survey

The College is one of the few Castle Worldwide, Inc. test centers in this region that offers internet based testing. Some examples of where the tests are being administered include, Athletic Training Board Certification, Gastroenterology Nursing Certification, the California Council for Interior Design Certification, the Regulatory Affairs Professional Society, the International Association of Forensic Nurses and the Certification Commission of the National Association of Medical Staff Services.

According to Dean of Counseling & Student Development, Dr. Walter Jones, this honor is something to take great pride in, "This award is a confirmation of the vitality of our Assessment Office and its continued commitment to providing a competent and secure testing environment for the college and the community."

Rio Hondo College on Track, Continues to Meet Accreditation Expectations



At its Commission meeting in January, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) accepted without formal comment Rio Hondo College report regarding progress the College had made in reaching milestones in the development and implementation of Student Learning Outcomes (SLOs). The report was submitted by the College to the ACCJC in October 2010.

The Commission did note good progress in the development and assessment of SLOs, specifically the development of a timeline for reaching the Commission's 2012 deadline for meeting SLO Standards, to evaluate the effectiveness of the SLO assessment process, and to implement training for members of the college community.

Key highlights of the October report included:

- More than 98 percent of Rio's active courses are associated with SLOs.
- Rio Hondo closely monitors progress through the use of the SLOlutions content management system
- Rio Hondo has collected assessment results from more than 1,400 of the sections offered in the past year.

"This is exceptionally good news for Rio Hondo College," said Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent/President. "We continue to identify valid and reliable data and use of authentic assessment, and to implement a system of quality control to ensure meaningful and accurate assessment of student learning throughout the College. It is a complex process designed to assure our students and community that we are able to identify learning outcomes as well as our students' success in reaching them."

Next, the College will be filing a routine Midterm Report October 15, which regularly takes place in the third year after each comprehensive evaluation.

Institutional Research and Planning (IRP) has established a collection of SLO/Assessment references. Twenty titles are available for faculty interested in learning more about the process of assessment in general as well as the development of SLO assessment processes and evaluating their effectiveness. The references are available for check out in the IRP office.

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New Support Program Addresses Need for CTE Teachers

In response to the current shortage of Career/Technical Education teachers in California, Rio Hondo College, in association with multiple partners, has formed the Career Technical Education – Teacher Education Access and Career Highway (CTE-TEACH), a program intended to prepare students to teach in math and/or science based CTE Industry Sectors and Career Pathways. Under the new program, Rio Hondo and its partners will promote, recruit and assist high school and college students, as well as industry professionals, in exploring a career in CTE teaching.

The project is funded by Career Technical Education – Teacher Preparation Pipeline (CTE-TTP) grant funds. In addition to Rio Hondo College, partners in this task include: Whittier Union High School District, Cal-State University, Los Angeles, Tri-Cities ROP, Los Angeles County Regional Occupational Program and Los Angeles Metro. Targeted industries include Transportation, Engineering and Design, Health Science and Medical Technology.

Current CTE-TEACH activities offer paid teacher assistant positions to senior high school students and RHC students who are interested in exploring a teaching career in the targeted industries. Challenges faced by the nation and specifically by the Rio Hondo College service area include the lack of awareness by students about this specialized career pathway opportunity. Counselors report that students enrolling in CTE classes – such as automotive, health, or engineering - often do so because it leads to a higher skill and high-wage job.

For more information about the CTE-TEACH program, contact Lea Martinez, Project Director, at 562-463-3152 or e-mail at lmartinez@riohondo.edu.

Rio Hondo College Graduate Receives Prestigious Scholarship



Former Rio Hondo College student Reina Ferrufino, now attending UC Berkeley, recently received the Minerva Scholarship, issued by the Women's Conference as part of its WE Educate Program, to assist her as an "outstanding California woman in her pursuit of higher education." Ferrufino was one of five Hispanic women, among the 20 statewide recipients, to receive the \$5,000 scholarship. The Women's Conference was initiated in 2003 by former California First Lady Maria Shriver.

"I was extremely excited to learn that I had received this high honor," said Ferrufino. "I am very thankful to Ms. Shriver, the WE Educate Program, and the Hispanic Scholarship Fund, through whom I learned of, and obtained this scholarship."

Ferrufino, 20, began her education in Honduras, where her family located in 1996 and remained until moving back to the United States before her junior year of high school. After being inspired by her older sister, Frances, and brother, Armando, both of whom also attended Rio Hondo; Reina began taking classes in the summer of 2008, following her graduation from Whittier High School. "There are so many experiences that I benefited from at Rio Hondo College, such as meeting and interacting with the approachable, caring and outstanding faculty members," said Ferrufino. "The knowledge and passion the vast majority of Rio Hondo professors have is inspiring, and I grew both intellectually and personally thanks to them."

In her two years at Rio Hondo, Ferrufino became involved with a number of programs and clubs on campus, which included the Honor's Transfer Program, Alpha Gamma Sigma, the Extended Opportunity Program & Services Program and the Learning Assistance Center, where she served as a tutor in math, business law, sociology, anthropology, astronomy, English and Spanish. Ferrufino also participated in community programs such as the Whittier Police Explorer program and Teach2Fish, a nonprofit organization that focuses on helping children in Tijuana, for which she currently serves as Assistant Coordinator.

Now at UC Berkeley, where she is majoring in Sociology, Ferrufino recently finished her first semester with a 3.6 grade-point-average. In her short time at Cal, Ferrufino has become very involved, serving as the Alumni Chair of the Latino Pre-Law Society, and translating paperwork for ISLA, a nonprofit focused on helping immigrant women facing domestic violence.

In the future, Ferrufino plans to attend law school and contribute to social change. "My hope is to establish organizations that will benefit the underprivileged," she said. "These organizations would provide individuals who live in poverty with counseling and economic support. As an attorney, I would like to dedicate time to giving free services to people who live in poverty. Someday, I would like to start my own law firm where I could directly apply my skills to fighting for those who experience inequality."

Never quick to forget her past, Ferrufino says that it is thanks to her education at Rio Hondo College that she is able to succeed today. "I would have to reiterate my gratitude for the knowledge the Rio Hondo College faculty provided me with," said Ferrufino. "The Honor's Program prepared me for the challenges I would face at Cal. UC Berkeley is very hard, but I feel capable of succeeding there and on my future plans due to this program. The merits I accomplished at Rio currently benefit me and will continue to benefit me in the future."

Club Rush Works to Engage Students

