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Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope that all of the members of the Rio Hondo College community have had a restful and rejuvenating holiday season and I welcome you all back to the campus for the Spring semester. Many of you have been on campus during the intersession this month and can attest to the motivation and determination of your students. For this, the third year of intersession, classes were full and students were able to access the campus and get to classes even with the on-going *Building Access and Excellence* building program construction.

The closure of North Road at West Drive did not take place during the intersession, so all of us will be negotiating the road closures and finding some new parking areas as we begin the semester. With closure of Lot G, I too will be changing my routine and parking elsewhere. I know that these inconveniences

can be annoying, but they are only made worse when you are in a hurry. I hope that each of you will look at one of the many maps that are posted around the campus and available for you at the information booths and tram stops. There is also real time information and updates on the Rio Hondo College building programs website at www.riohondocollege.info under the navigation bar "Traffic and Circulation."

We can make Spring semester as smooth as Fall semester with your help. Please remember to plan ahead before coming to campus and allow yourself enough time.

I am pleased to report that the campus is bustling even with our break. There is a new Civil Engineering Design and Drafting Certificate and AS Degree Program, we are laying the groundwork for the MESA Program to begin next Fall, the CalWORKS Program is having a fundraiser and much more.

Once again, I want to thank you all for your hard work and dedication and welcome you back to Rio Hondo College.

CalWORKs Program Sponsoring Fundraiser

The CalWORKs program at Rio Hondo College provides temporary financial assistance and employment focused services that provide students with both the education and training that they need to succeed and become self-sufficient.

For many students, the CalWORKs program is the key that unlocks the door of opportunity and independence. In an effort to increase funding, the CalWORKs program is sponsoring a See's Candies fundraiser for Valentine's Day. Your contribution will help support and increase funding for our CalWORKs scholarships.

Your pre-paid orders will need to be placed on or before February 4th, 2008. All orders can be picked up in the CalWORKs office, room CI-174, located in the Campus Inn, during the week of February 11th from 9:00AM-11:30AM and 1:30PM-4:00PM.

For more information you may contact the CalWORKs offices at ext. 3100.



Construction Update and Traffic Report

At the beginning of each semester traffic and parking are the issues on everyone's mind. To answer some of those concerns Dr. Steven Lohr and the Rio Hondo College facilities team has put together some information.

RIO HONDO COLLEGE BUILDING PROGRAM REPORT

Projects Under Construction

- Library/LRC
- Central Plant/Infrastructure
- Maintenance garage replacement

Construction/Staging Sites/Roads

- Construction sites established (LRC: Lower quad/staging on west side of existing Library; Central Plant: Maintenance yard and in a portion of Lot B).
- Closure of several roads for construction of infrastructure for infrastructure project.

Strategies to Address Effects of Construction

Physical Elements:

- Phasing of work
- Closure of road only after opening up other roads
- Revised routes for travel; signage
- Lot F restriped; area between PE restriped
- Limit contractor parking to less impacted areas of campus; reduced contractor parking in Lot B

Management Elements:

- Additional security guards planned for beginning of semester to keep flow of traffic moving. Additional trams to facilitate transportation of students
- Construction deliveries restricted during peak morning hours to the extent possible
- Management of parking in Lot B
- Changed hours of key personnel to resolve issues before campus gets busy.

Communication:

- Publicized revised circulation route for east side of campus:
- Notice sent out to all registered students
- Maps to be posted in buildings
- Campus web page
- E-mail to be transmitted at beginning of semester; encourage staff/faculty to carpool
- Weekly facilities alerts
- Go Rio program Committee: Gil Puga, Jim Newman, Karen Koos and Dr. Martrinez

New Civil Engineering Design Technology Program

Rio Hondo College has a new Civil Engineering Design Technology Program. Rio Hondo College is one of three programs in the state at the community college level to offer this program. As a result of the new addition to the existing Architecture and Drafting program the new acronym is "ACEDD-GIS" – (Architecture / Civil / Engineering Design Drafting and GIS Program)



and laboratory testing which is essentially indoor work. Because of the strong demand for civil technicians, employment opportunities are good.

To get a certificate in Civil Design Technology, a total of 45 units must be completed. To acquire the Associate of Science degree, it is necessary to complete the general education requirements of Rio Hondo College in addition to the specialized 45 units.

This new program enhances the award winning "ACEDD-GIS" program and promises to provide both practical training and a high quality education.

The Civil Design Technology program includes both a certificate/A.S. degree and provides the student with the skills necessary for employment as a civil engineering technician in a variety of work settings. Program emphasis is placed on such topics as surveying, materials, site development, and construction inspection as they relate to civil engineering.

Civil Engineering Technicians work surveying, field testing, in construction supervision and testing which is essentially outdoor work. At the same time they also work drafting, doing design

Rio Hondo College Awarded the MESA Program

Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement, a California Community College Program (MESA/CCCP) has just been awarded to Rio Hondo College. MESA is a nationally recognized program, with high transfer and success rates for its participating students. MESA/CCCP enables educationally disadvantaged students to prepare for and transfer to a four-year college or university with a major in a math-based degree in areas such as engineering, computer science, mathematics and the sciences. Through MESA, students develop academic and leadership skills, increase educational performance, and gain confidence in their ability to compete professionally.



MESA has particular interest in and focuses on students from those groups who historically have had the lowest levels of attainment to four-year and graduate level programs. By closing this achievement gap, MESA students and graduates will be better able to make significant contributions to the socioeconomic well-being of their families and their communities.

The MESA components are structured to assist students in their math and science courses. These components help build an academically-based peer community to provide mutual student support and motivation. This community of learners is what sets MESA apart from other programs. The program's main components are a dedicated Student Study Center, Academic Excellence Workshops, Tutoring Services, Orientation courses, assistance in the transfer process, career advising, links with professional organizations, and industry and professional development workshops.

During the Spring 2008 Semester, Dr. Gisela Spieler-Persad, the coordinator of Rio-MESA, will be implementing the program with the help of the campus community. In the Fall 2008 the first students to take advantage of the support that MESA offers will be on the Rio Hondo College campus. The faculty of the Math & Science Division is thrilled to have this program at Rio Hondo and know it will be a tremendous help to our students.

Many people have made the MESA program possible and should be acknowledged for their support including: the Board of Trustees, Dr. Martinez, all of the Vice-Presidents, and Mary Haskins, former Rio Hondo College grant writer, for her outstanding work in helping to make this program a reality.

For those of you that are not yet aware North Road will be closed from West Drive by the end of January. This closure will close Lot G and all of those that currently park there will need to park in Lot F. Lot F has been restriped to create more room and additional handicap spaces have been created in Lot D to accommodate the road closure. The closure will be in effect until April 2008.

As far as parking, here are some parking tips that can make your campus travel a little less stressful. **GIVE YOURSELF PLENTY OF TIME.** Once the lots are full at the top of the campus, traffic will be redirected and you will be unable to drive to that part of the campus.

- Park at appropriate spaces
- There will be an increase in traffic assistance and tram service
- Check the Rio Hondo College Building programs website for the most up-to-date traffic and parking information at www.riohondocollege.info
- Give yourself at least an additional 30 minutes to get to class
- Use the "Go Rio" bus program and then you don't have to park. You can use the "Go Rio" website to plan your trip at <http://www.riohondo.edu/GoRio/>
- Take Hybrid or On-line courses. To register call 562-692-0921 or at the Rio Hondo College website www.riohondo.edu
- Find out about incentives for employees to Carpool at <http://www.riohondo.edu/facilities/rideshare.htm>
- Ride your bike
- Park in the lower lots and take the tram.

Your cooperation and patience is appreciated during this time. Let's all work together to be safe and patient while we look to the future of this campus.

BOARD REPORT for Meeting January 16, 2008

Consultant Services: The Board of Trustees approved the Consultant Services of Harvey Schmelter-Davis to present a two day training course on Distance Counseling for 15 Rio Hondo college counselors and Bonnie Rennie to provide sign language interpreting for college staff.

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The Rio Hondo College Foundation Inaugural President's Gala

The Inaugural President's Gala with a theme of "Boots to Books" has been scheduled for Saturday, April 12, 2008. The "black-tie optional" event, featuring entertainment and a gourmet dinner, will be held at the Pacific Palms Resort in the City of Industry.

The Foundation felt that helping our veterans transition to college was a fitting theme for the first annual gala because of the tremendous economic and educational need facing veterans who have given so much in support of our country. The gala will fund scholarships for veterans as well as other critical student services for those who have served our country.

Rio Hondo College is strengthening the Veterans Department that will facilitate veterans transitioning from the military to college. *Community colleges are at the forefront of this effort statewide: 16,000 of the 21,000 veterans and their dependents using GI Bill benefits at California public colleges and universities are in the California Community College system.*

Here are some basic facts about today's vets:

- 1.6 million Americans have served in Iraq or Afghanistan
- More than 540,000 troops have deployed more than once
- 375,000 troops separate from the military each year to resume their civilian lives
- 90% of enlisted soldiers do not have a college degree
- Active duty soldiers are required to pay a \$1,200 "user fee" in order to receive education benefits
- Combat veterans of the Reserve and National Guard are eligible for only 40% of active duty benefits
- Combat veterans of the Reserve and National Guard lose all their education benefits if they leave the military
- A Congressional study found that for every \$1 invested in education under the original G. I. Bill of 1944, the nation received between \$5 and \$12 in new economic activity and increased tax revenue. **Just as the first G.I Bill transformed American society, investments in today's generation of veterans will benefit both individual veterans and society as a whole.**



Don't miss this great event! Registration and sponsorship opportunities will be available.

Rio Hondo College Gives A Jumpstart In January

Rio Hondo College offered *Jumpstart in January*, which was a day of fitness to benefit Rio Hondo College's Department of Dance and the Fitness Specialist Program on January 12, 2008, from 8:00 am, to 12:30 pm.

Organizers Alyson Cartagena and Jodi Senk encouraged participants not to let their New Year's resolution go unanswered. The day helped participants to get on track to a healthier body and mind.

Participants received complimentary blood pressure testing, fat testing, and raffle tickets. The classes included: Yoga, Tai Chi, Body Connectivity, TNT Boot Camp, Self-Defense, Pilates on the Ball, and African Dance.

The event was a great success and fun was had by all those that participated.



Alyson Cartagena and Jodi Senk



Resolution Regarding the California Department of Education Grant Funding Instructional Materials Agreement: The Board of Trustees approved California Department of Education Agreement CIMS-7207 and resolution funding instructional materials for the Child Development Program.

Architectural/Engineering Services for Relocated Uses from Applied Technology: The Board of Trustees approved Architectural/Engineering Services for the relocation of uses from the Applied Technology building to Quatro Design Group, Inc.

GO RIO Program – Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transit Authority (“Metro”): The Board of Trustees authorized the Administration to enter into additional two semester agreement (Spring 2008 and Fall 2008) with Metro for the purchase of bus passes for the “Go Rio” program.

Ratification of Change Orders #1 & #2 Bid - #1108 Maintenance Facility Addition: The Board of Trustees ratified Bid #1108 Change Orders #1 and #2 increasing the contract for the Maintenance Facility.

Landscape Design Services: The Board of Trustees approved the professional service contract for provision of the Landscape Design Services to Melendrez Landscape Architects.

Revision of Board Policies: The Board of Trustees approved new Board Policy 2200 and the revisions Board Policies to 1100, 2220, 2310, 2315, 2320, 2330, 2340, 2345, 2360, and 2710.

Discussion of Board Meetings in the Community: The Board of Trustees approved the following schedule for meetings in the community.

- February 20, 2008 Trustee Area 1
- April 16, 2008 Trustee Area 2
- June 18, 2008 Trustee Area 3
- August 20, 2008 Trustee Area 4
- October 15, 2008 Trustee Area 5

Information items that were presented include

Building Programs Update: Three of the College’s larger projects were awarded and began construction during 2007. The Central Plant and Infrastructure projects are underway, with Phase I of the Infrastructure project nearly complete by the end of 2007. Grading is underway on the slope behind the Central Plant

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Online Counseling at Rio Hondo celebrates 10 years

Ten years ago, two enthusiastic but technologically unsophisticated counselors responded to a challenge from the newly created Virtual College. Online students were paying for services as part of their fees and the college needed to find a way to assist them. Instructors were also receiving counseling related questions from students that they could not respond to. Martha De La Mora and Belen Torres-Gil, two counselors who had already been seeing success experimenting with teleconferencing advising with a local high school, accepted the challenge and Online Counseling was born.

With the assistance of other counselors in the department - Lupe Alvarado, Troy Flores-Olson, Nancy Mafri and Jennifer Fernandez - an Online Counseling model was developed that has been adopted by community colleges throughout the state. In the past 10 years these counselors have presented at numerous conferences and seminars statewide and nationally to discuss their experiences and to encourage other campuses in their transitions to this new way of delivering counseling services. In addition, Rio Hondo counselors have consulted with almost 30 individual campuses. It has been gratifying to have had articles written about this work and to know that a number of graduate students and counselors on sabbaticals statewide have or are conducting research on Online Counseling effectiveness.



Belen Torres-Gil Counselor and Career Center Coordinator And Martha De La Mora Counselor

Rio Hondo currently has 12 counselors who have been trained to do online counseling and at least five counselors participate every semester. Online counseling is now available to all students and has increased access to students who otherwise would not be able to see a counselor. This includes students such as mothers with young or sick children, remote students, military personnel stationed in far away countries, busy professionals who travel a lot and individuals with disabilities. In collaboration with other Student Service areas, counselors have found unique ways to assist students with educational planning, clearances, assessment proctoring at remote sites, and transcript evaluations. Students who utilize online counseling often send emails of appreciation.

Two years ago, the Region 8 Online Counseling Consortium, made up of 14 local community colleges, was created. At their first meeting, Rio Hondo College was recognized for their leadership. Rio Hondo counselors continue to be called upon for their expertise and will present at the upcoming Counselors Institute sponsored by the Statewide Academic Senate. With the assistance of a professional development mini-grant, Rio Hondo College will also be hosting *ReadyMinds* Distance Counselor Training for 40 community college counselors in March.

Technology continues to challenge student services professionals, and we are proud that our counselors have helped to lead the way for so many others.

project. Although the projects are separate, they are closely related as the Infrastructure building elements will distribute the hot and chilled water from the Central Plant project to facilities throughout campus for use in the Heating and Air Conditioning systems. In addition, the projects are being constructed simultaneously by the one contractor. The Library and Learning Resource Center also began construction in the summer of 2007. By the end of 2007, all site grading had been complete, the building's large footings had all been poured, and several concrete walls and columns had been constructed. Work is proceeding on schedule and construction is anticipated to continue throughout 2008 and into 2009.

In addition to the projects that are currently under construction, design work was completed on several projects in 2007. The Applied Technology renovation design was completed and submitted to DSA, with approval anticipated in early January 2008 and construction commencement anticipated in Summer 2008. The designs for the retaining wall project and Rio Hondo Parkway, which will be constructed together, were both completed during 2007 and both received DSA approval during 2007. The Los Angeles County Department of Public Works is currently reviewing the design of the proposed intersection at Workman Mill Road and Rio Hondo Parkway. Construction is anticipated to begin in Summer 2008.

Vision for the Future Presented by Superintendent/President, Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D.: The President has identified five themes that will guide Rio Hondo College as it heads into the next phase of development. Those themes are the following:

- Increase Student Success
- Foster Academic Excellence
- Increase Enrollment
- Foster Collaboration Among Stakeholders
- Sustain Fiscal Accountability



Rio Hondo's Cooperative Work Experience/ Internship Program Has Returned

The goal of the Work Experience/Internship Program is to assist students in making the transition from school to work by providing hands-on, "real world" learning experiences and practical application of classroom theory.

Utilizing the VTEA and Tech Prep Regional grant has made it possible for the college to offer students the opportunity to apply knowledge and skills learned in the classroom to the work environment as well as to gain experience related to a specific career.

Jennette Noriega was hired as the Career Development Center's Internship Facilitator/Counselor in the Spring 2007. She began to develop a mission and goals Work Experience/Internship Program. Working closely with an advisory committee, she has been able to establish a Cooperative Work Experience/Internship Education Student Handbook and institutionalize a process for all internship students and faculty to follow.

As a part of her work she has been raising awareness on the campus and in the community about the Work Experience/Internship Programs that are currently offered by Rio Hondo College.



The program has been a great success and Rio Hondo College is pleased to make these kinds of student learning experiences available. Some students have shared the following comments about their experiences:

"The program allowed me to gain communication skills, increase my photography skills, network with executives, and earn college credit."

— Maya Pejovski-Disney College Program Intern

"It was a good learning experience, an opportunity to network with others, and allowed me to establish contacts in my field of study."

— Travis Vliet -Program Management Group Intern at Rio Hondo College

"It's a great experience and is opening a lot of doors for me. It has also helped me to clarify a career path of choice."

—Marlene Chavez-MTV/VH1 Intern

Several items have been accomplished since Ms. Noriega began her tenure at the College. Some of those items include: an advisory committee comprised of faculty and deans from the campus was established, an Internship Website was added to the Career Development Center's existing Website, fourteen new CWE/I courses have been approved as part of Rio Hondo's course offerings, the program has received two more grants to fund the program through May of 2008, over 200 students have completed a CWE/I course during Spring and Summer 2007, and much more.