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President's Message



Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

We are at the mid-point of Rio Hondo College's 47th year of service! As we look forward to the beginning of the Spring 2010 semester, I wish to commend our entire campus community for working together to launch AccessRIO and to help students navigate the new system. As is the case with change on this massive scale, there are challenges and adjustments, but we are finding ways to mitigate potential pitfalls and to tweak the electronic information.

Our FLEX Day activities this semester were developed to help faculty and staff help students with waitlist issues the first week of school. It is important to remember that we have not had the opportunity to offer waitlist sign-ups to students in the past. That is one feature of the new system that helps us provide better customer service to our students, especially in times of high demand.

Meanwhile, there have been substantial changes to the campus landscape. The mass grading and reduction of the elevation of the Quad area is making space for the new Student Services Complex, facilities to greatly enhance our delivery of student services and the quality of student life. We have removed more than 3,500 truckloads of dirt in the process.

Kudos to Karen Koos and Russell Castaneda-Calleros, with the assistance of Research and Planning, for their recent successes in garnering new fiscal resources. We received a Federal allocation award of \$300,000 for props at the Homeland Security Training facility, and a \$100,000 Green Jobs Grant for scholarships for students in Environmental Technology from Southern California Edison. These supplemental funds help us keep our doors to higher education open, even in the face of budget shortfalls.

I am confident that together we will move forward in this new semester to provide the very best in educational opportunities and services for our growing student base. In 2009, we served 41,327 individual students in Spring, Summer and Fall. For this coming semester, head count registration is running 18 percent over last year at this time. As we have not been able to add classes, our efficiency is quite high!

Let's continue our college-wide efforts to support our students while strengthening our institutional commitment to continuous improvement.

Have a great semester!

Rio Hondo College Foundation Holds Networking Reception

The Rio Hondo College Foundation held a networking reception prior to the January 13 Board meeting. The purpose of the event was for the RHC Foundation Board to meet and greet the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees.

Pictured left to right: Jim Sinsheimer, Rich Casford, Madeline Shapiro and Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D

Bottom photo: Cheryl Romero, Sylvia Southerland, Doug Lopez, Norma Edith Garcia and Dr. Paul Parnell



Board Meeting

The Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees held its regular monthly meeting January 13 on the College campus.

The Rio Hondo College Foundation provided an update to the Board of Trustees that included descriptive information about the organization, including its recent restructuring, addition a new associate executive director. Highlights included introductions of Foundation Officers and Board of Directors, and accomplishments in 2009. These included:

- Giving more than \$180,000 in scholarships to student
- Funding a nursing instructor and clerk
- Secured grants to support (Heavy Equipment Mechanics Program, Green Jobs and Library Resources)

The update also provided information on the Foundation's major initiatives, such as the Regional Health Occupational Training Center, the Memorial Wall Project, as well as future projects for the Foundation, including the upcoming Gala, which is scheduled Saturday, March 13. The update was given by the Foundation Board President Richard Casford, Executive Director Andy Howard and Associate Executive Director Anne Turner.

Verizon Gives \$20,000 to Fund Children's Story Time at Rio Hondo College



Funded by a \$20,000 contribution from Verizon, the Rio Hondo College Foundation, in collaboration with the Rio Hondo College Library and the Rio Hondo College Child Development Department and Child Development Center/Lab School, has unveiled a new program called *Children's Story Time @ Rio Hondo College: A Campus Collaboration*.

Children's Story Time @ Rio Hondo College will teach students how to identify and utilize the children's learning resources provided by the Rio Hondo College Library. These resources are growing to include books, puppets and felt board stories. The Rio Hondo College Library is working with Child Development Department instructors to select story time materials and educate students.

In coordinating the Verizon grant, Librarian Monique Delatte has developed six unique classes for students in three child development courses: *Principles and Practice of Early Childhood Education*, *Creative Art Experiences for Children* and *Child Development and Community*. Classes taught by Delatte focus on subjects like selecting story time books, developing activities to enhance the stories shared at story time, discovering art through children's literature and even coordinating opportunities to volunteer with children in the community.

The grants also funded a *Very Hungry Caterpillar*-themed carpet and matching child-sized furniture setting. These furnishings help to delineate the children's section of Rio Hondo College's new, state-of-the-art, \$36 million Library and Learning Resource Center. During the week preceding finals, Delatte used this area to demonstrate preschool story time techniques for students. Child Development Center children enjoyed the storytelling and crafting fun.

Lupe Scianni, Interim Director of the Child Development Center, observed, "Visiting the Rio Hondo College Library for story time provided an experience rich in literacy for the children of the Lab School. At the same time it exposed them to the larger campus community."

Delatte describes the cooperation across departments as fruitful. "Working with faculty in the Child Development Department and the Child Development Center has been rewarding for the Library. We are able to use the Verizon monies to enhance our storytelling collection and the opportunity for outreach has reminded students that the Rio Hondo College Library offers a working collection for both parents and students," she said.

Rio Receives Southern California Edison Grant 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 in need, is intended to promote green jobs and green campuses. California Community Colleges partnered with Southern California Edison to launch the \$1 million green jobs initiative.

Recent reports document a growing green economy, especially in California, where the number of green companies increased 45 percent from 1995 to 2008, according to Next 10, a nonprofit group based in Palo Alto. The Pew Charitable Trusts reported recently that the growth rate of green jobs nationwide was 9.1 percent from 1998 to 2007, compared with a 3.7 percent increase for all jobs during the same nine-year period.

The grant will provide \$2,000 scholarships to students at 10 colleges offering "green" education and job training in six key areas in which workforce demand is expected to grow. Along with Rio Hondo, other schools awarded grant money were Cerritos College, Cerro Coso Community College, El Camino College, Golden West College, Long Beach City College, Los Angeles Southwest College, Los Angeles Trade-Technical College, San Bernardino Valley College and Ventura College.

RHC Foundation Restructures for Growth

In an effort to align itself with opportunities to grow and most successfully serve the Rio Hondo College Community, the Rio Hondo College Foundation has restructured its operation and established a new position, Associate Executive Director. The restructuring is announced by Richard Casford, president of the Rio Hondo College Foundation, and Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., college superintendent/president.

With the new structure, Dr. Andy Howard, Executive Director, will refocus his efforts on major gifts initiatives, which include the Administration of Justice Memorial Wall, the regional health care initiative, and evolving opportunities to make a major impact in the way Foundation assets are leveraged to help the community.

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RHC Professor Elected to Cerritos College Board

Rio Hondo's own Dr. Shin Liu was inducted a new member of the Cerritos College Board of Trustees in December at the Board's annual reorganization meeting in December.

Liu, a 19-year resident of Cerritos, is a professor of Computer Information Technology at Rio Hondo Community College. She has a doctorate of Computer Information from Argosy University and a master's degree from the University of Texas at El Paso. Her bachelor's degree is from National Taiwan Education University.



"I used to teach part-time at Cerritos College," said Liu. "It's great to come back to the College as a member of the Board." Liu commented on her goal as a board member for the coming year, "My goal is to maintain the great Cerritos College programs and services and get through the state budget crisis."

Congratulations to Dr. Liu on her successful election and induction to the Cerritos College Board of Trustees.

Forensics Team Earns Awards at Fall Championships

The Rio Hondo College Forensics Team recently participated in the Fall Championships 2009, hosted by Mt. San Antonio College. The event, which took place in December, saw a number of Rio Hondo College students earn awards for their participation.

RHC Foundation Restructures for Growth *continued from previous page*

The Foundation, which is a separate non-profit tax exempt corporation, secures alternative funding through contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations and other agencies, is designed to assist the student population by providing scholarships, programs, equipment, and projects the college is not otherwise able to provide with general funds. Last year alone, the Foundation distributed more than \$160,000 in scholarships to deserving students. Money raised by the Foundation provides program support for special projects such as the Regional Health Occupation Center.

The new Associate Executive Director position, which is also independently funded by the Foundation, was inaugurated with the announcement of the appointment of Anne K. Turner by the RHC Foundation Board of Directors at its December meeting. Ms. Turner's focus will be increasing the Foundation's donor base, initiating a new Alumni relations program, and developing a new program of mini-grants for special college projects, as well as ongoing management of Foundation events and activities.

Rio Hondo College Foundation Honors Students with Osher Scholarships

A total of 17 Rio Hondo College students, 11 women and 6 men, were recently awarded scholarships from the Bernard Osher Foundation. The scholarships, which totaled \$14,000, were awarded to the students in December by the Rio Hondo College Foundation.

The Bernard Osher Foundation, which acts as the financial vehicle for these scholarships, was established in 1977 and seeks to improve quality of life through support of higher education and the arts. The scholarships recently awarded at Rio Hondo are a collaborative effort between the Rio Hondo College Foundation and the Osher Foundation.



The Rio Hondo College Foundation works to raise money through private donations for Rio Hondo College. The Osher Foundation then matches their earnings and donates to the College. The interest from that donation, this year being \$14,000, is then awarded to RHC students as scholarships.

The Osher Scholarship is a year-long scholarship with one payment in the fall and, as long as the student remains compliant, a second award in the spring. And while the Osher Scholarship is donated and paid for by the Osher Foundation, it is the Rio Hondo College Foundation that facilitates the process and selection of recipients. The Osher Scholarship is awarded on the basis of merit and focuses primarily on re-entry students.

The stories of three such recipients, whose names have been withheld due to privacy stipulations of the Bernard Osher Foundation, follow below:

The Working Mom: The first Osher scholar, a female, is a 31-year-old mother of four children, ages 4 to 15. She was 15 when her first daughter was born and 18 when she had her second daughter. Despite her obligations as a mother she was able to complete her high school diploma six months after her second daughter was born. Needing to support her family, she began working immediately after high school, but recently was laid off by her employer due to budget cuts. She has been at Rio Hondo College for two years and has nearly completed her associate degree. She currently works part-time on campus in the CalWORKS office. She has received the "Parent of the Month Award" from her son's Head Start class and is active in the Alhambra Thunderbirds Youth Football and Cheer Program. She was awarded the maximum yearly scholarship of \$1,000.

The Busy Schedule: For this second Osher scholar, a young man, a higher education was an expectation in his family. Growing up, there was always an emphasis put on obtaining a college degree and the importance of education. But as he prepared for his high school graduation his mother was injured and could no longer work. The family struggled to survive on his father's income and he thought that college was out of the question. Then he enrolled at Rio Hondo College. He is a full-time student who works part-time to help support his family while also helping to care for his injured mother. Through all of this he has not lost sight of his dream to earn a bachelor's degree. His progress is slow due to all of his commitments, but he is doing it and serving as a role model for his younger brother. He was awarded the maximum yearly scholarship of \$1,000.

The Survivor: For the last fourteen years this Osher Scholar has worked in the clerical field, most recently as a Mortgage Loan Processor. She was laid off as a result of the mortgage crisis. She chose to return to school and earn her associate degree. There were several road blocks along the way. She had an alcoholic abusive boyfriend; she was sexually harassed at her job and watched numerous friends fall prey to a life of drugs and crime. She wanted more for herself and for her children. She is the first in her family to go to college and has grown up in an area filled with obstacles. She has set high goals for herself and for her children and is determined to succeed. She was awarded the maximum yearly scholarship of \$1,000.

For more information about the Osher Scholarships or the Rio Hondo College Foundation, please contact Anne Turner at (562) 463-6654 or visit www.riohondo.edu/foundation.

Awards-Winning Students

Novice Parliamentary Debate

- Gold: Melissa Lazo and Vince Sainz
- Bronze: Jason Mares and Juan Morales

Rookie Parliamentary Debate

- Silver: Fernando Guillen and Jason Casalicchio

Novice Informative

- Joseph Sindichic

Novice Impromptu

- Joseph Sindichic

Also honored at the tournament was Danny Cantrell, a Rio Hondo College adjunct faculty member. Cantrell was awarded the Wyman-Howe Award for Service and Leadership from PSCFA (Pacific Southwest Collegiate Forensics Association). This prestigious award is presented annually at the Fall Championships. Congratulations to Danny Cantrell and the Rio Hondo College students for these well-deserved honors.



Rio Hondo Forms New Leadership Academy to “Grow” Campus Leaders

The members of the Leadership Academy Subcommittee, which have been working closely with the Staff Development/FLEX Committee and the President's Office, have announced the preliminary features of the soon-to-be introduced Leadership Academy for employees of Rio Hondo College.

After soliciting campus constituency groups for feedback via surveys and focus groups, reviewing these results, and researching leadership academy programs at other community colleges, the members of the subcommittee designed a two-semester experience that

continued on next page.

Basic Skills Initiative Designed for Student Success

In community colleges statewide, many students begin their college career with little experience or preparation in various core academic areas. For that reason, student success and retention rates can be lower within basic skills level courses than they are among transfer-level courses.

To address this issue, the *California Community College Basic Skills Initiative* was designed to serve the educational needs of the increasing number of California community college students entering college at the basic level. In 2009, the California Legislature provided a reduced \$20,000,000 yearly allocation to the California Community College system to improve basic skills education statewide, which brought just over \$240,000 of annual funding to Rio Hondo College.

In order to ensure this funding is used as intended, every participating college must submit a yearly *Action and Expenditure Plan* along with periodic *Expenditure Reports*, documenting how the funding will be used to improve basic skills according to the principles indicated by the best practice document. Rio Hondo College's Basic Skills Committee was formed to develop and implement the tasks and projects outlined in *Basic Skills Action and Expenditure Plans and Expenditure Reports* to the Chancellor's Office. The Committee is made up of more than 25 Rio Hondo College educators ranging in title from instructional assistants and faculty members to deans and vice presidents. The Basic Skills Committee meets on the first Thursday of each month at 2:30 p.m. during both the fall and spring semesters.

The objectives of the Committee are to strengthen existing Rio Hondo College Programs, Implement new best-practice program models, maintain strong partnerships with outside agencies, provide professional development opportunities and pursue alternative funding sources.

For more information about Rio Hondo College's Basic Skills Initiative, please visit its web site at www.riohondo.edu/Basic_Skills/index.htm.

Current projects for the Basic Skills Initiative include:

- Gateway Tutoring, which begins this Spring 2010 semester
- First-Year Experience Program, which begins this Spring 2010 semester
- Summer Bridge College Readiness Program, which began in Fall 2009
- Cal-PASS Grant, which began in Summer 2009
- Mandatory Assessment and Orientation (ongoing)

FLEX Day Provides Opportunity for Professional Development, Essential Info

Rio Hondo College's Staff Development Committee organizes FLEX Day events for faculty at the beginning of each new semester. Classified staff also have the opportunity to participate if possible. Breakout sessions related to staff, student and instructional improvement.

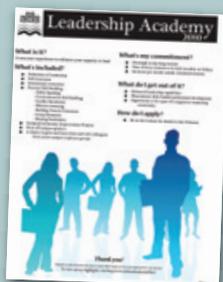
The agenda for this year's FLEX Day, held January 29, included welcome and introductions by Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., ; Mike Javanmard, Academic Senate President; Adam Wetsman, RHCFA President; Hannah Pastano and Sandra Rivera, CSEA President. Information was also presented regarding campus news, Basic Skills, construction and parking updates, as well as AccessRIO Faculty Training. Breakout Sessions included:

- ▶ Get Your Hands on Self Service Banner (Including processes for Waitlists and Drops!)
- ▶ Everything You Wanted to Know about the Basic Skills Initiative
- ▶ Innovative ways Google tools can be used in education
- ▶ God in the Classroom: respecting philosophical diversity and overcoming bigotry in the classroom context
- ▶ Assessing SLO's with the SLOolutions Software
- ▶ 508 Compliance Awareness for the Online Instructor
- ▶ Textbook Rental and Student Savings and Services at the Bookstore
- ▶ Sports Medicine for the Weekend Warrior
- ▶ Helping Student Service Programs Bridge the Gap for Classroom Success
- ▶ Student Success in Math Classrooms
- ▶ Articulation, Advanced Placement, and CLEP Exams: What faculty needs to know.
- ▶ Scholars for Dollars: Preparing our Students for Success in the World of Work
- ▶ DSP&S In A Nutshell: Enhancing Students With Disabilities Success In The Classroom
- ▶ Collegial Work Sessions (agenda and room arranged by groups of individual faculty)



will begin Fall 2010 and conclude at the end of the Spring 2011 semester.

The Academy will consist of nine monthly six-hour sessions with each session having a different focus on leadership development. The Academy experience will be open to all classified staff, faculty (part-time and full-time) and managers. Application materials and instructions will be available in late February and the deadline for application is late March. Those who are interested in reviewing highlights of the results of the leadership survey conducted last November may visit www.riohondo.edu/staffdev/.



Financial Aid Workshops

As part of Rio Hondo College's goal to make college accessible, mandatory financial aid workshops began in January and are also scheduled in February in the Wray Theater for any student who is receiving aid and for students interested in applying for it in 2010-11.

Attending these workshops helps increase awareness among students of the financial aid services they are eligible for and available to them. In 2008-09, Financial Aid disbursed nearly \$10 million to approximately 3,500 PELL Grant recipients. To date, for the 2009-10 year, which is at the mid-way point, Financial Aid has already disbursed nearly \$7 million to nearly 4,000 Rio Hondo College students.

Monday, February 1

- 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Friday, February 5

- 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.
- 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Wednesday, February 17

- 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Friday, February 19

- 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.
- 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Tuesday, February 23

- 10:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Friday, February 26

- 9 a.m. to 10 a.m.
- 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

AccessRIO Launched

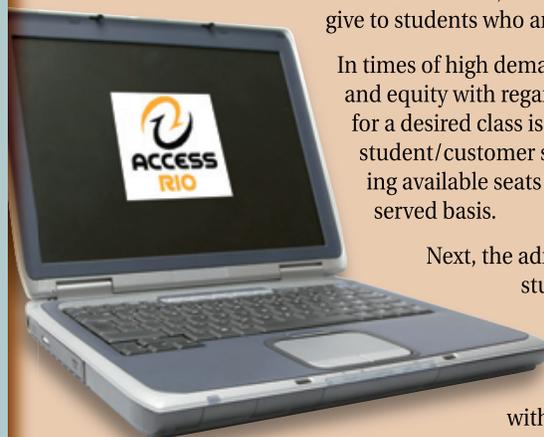
More Than 17,000 Students Register for Spring 2010 Using New Automated Student Information and Registration System

The first phase of AccessRIO, a comprehensive student information and registration system, was launched in time for registration for the Spring 2010 semester. The result of a campus-wide collaborative effort, coordinated by the Banner Implementation Group, fondly known as BIG, this new system brings Rio Hondo College into modern technical times for student information and institutional data management.

Developing protocols and applications for the system is one thing, helping users learn the ropes and transition to navigate it is another. Faculty leaders Mike Javanmard and Colin Young have developed a training video to assist faculty access the information needed to proceed with the self-service elements of the system.

As is the case with all massive transitions between electronic platforms and systems, the college has moved quickly to help students and other users alike over some rough spots. For example, when we began our inter-session classes this spring, we learned there were some issues with the waitlist process. Fortunately, we had only a few classes offered during this term.

Learning from that experience, Dr. Martinez created a task force to help assist everyone get through the first week of the full spring semester. In order to have the smoothest possible opening to the Spring semester, the Division Secretaries, along with A & R staff, hand created add codes faculty need to give to students who are waitlisted and for whom there is room in the class.



In times of high demand, it is imperative that we fulfill our promise of fairness and equity with regard to waitlist processes. The opportunity to be waitlisted for a desired class is a feature of the new system which will greatly enhance student/customer service and provide an orderly and fair process for allocating available seats in classes on a first-come (to the electronic system), first-served basis.

Next, the administrative team for devised a multi-prong approach to student customer service for the first full week of classes.

Administrators and some A & R personnel will staff a "Registration Help Center" in the Board Room, which will be stocked with refreshments and lists of classes with available seats, Monday-Thursday.

Here, we will provide 'triage' for students seeking assistance or just needing to vent. Our goal is to help them find the right place to remedy their situation. Understanding that the perfect remedy – a seat in the class of their choice – may not be possible, we will help find alternatives if they exist. All administrative hands will be on deck to assist.

Next, there will be a lab specifically established in B113 to assist students with the electronic challenges they may have with the new system and adding classes to their schedules. This lab will be staffed by A & R for this purpose.

Student Activities folks and members of the ASB will staff Information Booths, where students will find more information about setting up their RioMAIL accounts, where to seek assistance, and to receive general directions.

Finally, Student Services and A & R personnel are setting up laptop computers in the Campus Inn and at the Information Booths to further assist students.

Faculty and staff have received flyers about the waitlist and add code process for this semester. There are also flyers for students so everyone can help them on their way.

While we may have launched a new system that may still have a few kinks in it, we have made multiple proactive plans to help students get to where they need to be and to help faculty and staff help them.

It is important not to lose sight of our incredible collective efforts to get us to this point, and this important fact: As of January 28, 17,000 students have registered for Spring 2010 using the new system.

What's Next? In February's issue, there will be an AccessRIO feature on the next phases of the mammoth project.