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President's Message



Teresa Dreyfuss

Happy 2013! We face this coming year with less trepidation about our fiscal future than in years past thanks to the passage of Proposition 30. Nevertheless, we continue to be mindful about austerity and should continue to focus our resources on students and their success! We will learn more about the Governor's proposed budget for 2013-2014 next month.

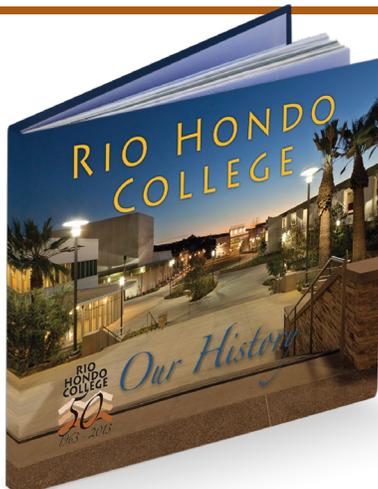
New for Spring semester 2013 was the introduction of two new procedures for students. First, we now have parking permits available online for purchase. We are hopeful that this will alleviate some of the long lines we experienced this past fall at the Cashier's Office and the Admissions payment windows. By FLEX Day, more than 2,700 permits had already been sold. Second, we have now implemented a drop for non-payment procedure this spring semester. For example, on Saturday, January 12, 2013, we dropped 698 students for non-payment, which represents less than 6% of the total students enrolled. I want to thank everyone involved in the implementation of this needed procedure, and give a special acknowledgement to Mark Gutierrez from IT and to Rachel Garcia

from Student Services for their extraordinary efforts in getting this procedure off the ground. Finally, with a new semester beginning, we provided Student Services staff assistance for students who came into the Student Services building from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. Monday thru Wednesday of the first week of instruction. We encourage you to assist a lost, confused or frustrated student find their way or refer them for assistance in the Student Services area.

In order to help facilitate traffic flow during the first weeks of classes, we instituted a new traffic pattern through Lot 3 and relocated the information and temporary parking permit booth there. This will help speed up the processing and avoid traffic back-ups. The former temporary information booth location in Lot J is not accessible due to construction activity at the Physical Education Complex.

We are pleased to launch the sale of our 50-year commemorative book, titled *OUR HISTORY*. This project was initiated two years ago with underwriting from the Rio Hondo College Foundation; publication was made possible by a gift from Follett Higher Education, our bookstore partner for 48 years. We are grateful for their support and hope you enjoy reading this informative narrative with interesting vintage photos. A 9" x 12" group employee photo will be included as a 'gift with purchase' as long as supplies last.

We have a busy year ahead as we continue our 50th anniversary events and continue our planning for accreditation visit in 2014. Thank you for everything you do to help our students achieve and succeed.



"Our History" Debuts

In honor of its anniversary, Rio Hondo College released *Our History*, a 112-page compilation of interesting narrative and vintage photos that illustrate the early development of the College and growth since the founding of the District in 1960 and first classes were held in 1963. Underwritten entirely by the Rio Hondo College Foundation and the Follett Higher Education Group, the book can be purchased at the College Bookstore, online at www.rhc.bkstr.com, or by phone at 562-699-8676 ext. 3.

Board Update



The Jan. 9 Board of Trustees meeting included informative presentations on legislative issues; Financial Aid; the Library; and Accreditation:

Patrick McCallum, who consults with Rio Hondo on legislative matters, said that the past year's top issues included the passage of Proposition 30 and developments in Cal STRS (California State Teachers Retirement System) and AB 540, which allows qualified undocumented students to pay in-state tuition. Other important developments include a five-year extension of the American Opportunity Tax Credit (AOTC) and the permanent extension of Section 127 of the IRS code. McCallum is the president of both College Brain Trust and of McCallum Group, Inc., a governmental relations firm specializing in community college issues.



Elizabeth Coria, director of the Financial Aid Department, reported that Applications for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) has risen to 36,924 this year,

a significant increase from 27,419 in 2012. She underscored the importance for students to understand the new PELL grant caps of approximately six years or 12 semesters. Coria also mentioned new implementations in AB 131, the California DREAM Act.

Librarian Stephanie Wells said the popularity of the new Library building has created an increased demand for computers and a need for more electrical outlets. A 48 percent increase in questions to the reference desk and growth in the amount of library instruction offered to students is evidence that the library is reaching more students. Wells said a staff concern is that costs of online databases continues to rise between four and eight percent every school year yet budget for the databases has remained static since 2007.

Dr. Kenn Pierson, co-chair of the Accreditation Leadership Team, provided an Accreditation Update. Working toward the fall 2014 accreditation visit, the Leadership Team has already established co-chairs and team roles, hosted team meetings and created a timeline. More information can be found at the accreditation web page www.riohondo.edu/accreditation.

Rio Hondo Celebrates 50th Anniversary with Special Event Lineup

The College continues the 50th Anniversary in 2013 with special events that began in January and run through May. The College community and general public can enjoy events that include the release of a first-ever photo-essay book highlighting College history; an onsite campus birthday party; a 50th Anniversary Celebration; a Theater Department reunion; and the 50th Annual Commencement Ceremony.



Campus Birthday Party

A campus-wide celebration, complete with a giant birthday cake and the placement of a time capsule, will take place **Thursday, March 14**, in the Campus Mid Quad. The time capsule, scheduled to be opened in 25 years, will include current college documents and student viewpoints and narratives that will provide the future college community with a snapshot of Rio Hondo circa 2013.

50th Anniversary Celebration

The Rio Hondo Foundation will host a 50th Anniversary Celebration beginning at 6 p.m. **Friday, April 19**, at the Industry Hills Expo Center. Everyone is invited to join in a special evening of food and entertainment, awards, and enjoyment with members of the Rio Hondo College community, local leaders and elected officials, school alumni and donors, as well as friends and partners of the College. Individuals who have made exemplary contributions to Rio Hondo College will be honored with Medallion Awards. Business attire requested. Tickets are \$50 and benefit student scholarships. Industry Hills Expo Center is located at 16200 Temple Ave., City of Industry. For more info contact Michelle Yriarte, myriarte@riohondo.edu, or 562-908-3403.

Theater Department Reunion

The Rio Hondo College Theater Department will hold a special reunion on **Saturday, May 18**. The event will include a show/retrospective in the Wray Theater with people, pictures and scenes from the past 50 years. A party/reception will take place in the Rio Café after the show.

50th Annual Commencement Ceremony

Thursday, May 23 is the date of the 50th Annual Commencement Ceremony, beginning at 6 pm. on the Soccer Field.



Steven Hebert New Dean of Physical Education



The board of trustees has appointed Steven Hebert as dean of Physical Education & Athletic Director. Hebert previously served as interim dean of Physical Education & Athletic Director in 2010.

“This is an exciting time in our division with the new PE Facility opening soon and I am honored to lead the College as we head into a wonderful new direction,” says Hebert.

Hebert has worked at Rio Hondo College since 2001, as a physical education professor and men’s basketball coach. He previously taught at Don Lugo High School in Chino and Monrovia High School.

Hebert has an MA in education with a physical education emphasis from Azusa Pacific University and a BS in physical education from Cal Poly State University, San Luis Obispo.

Robert E. Holcomb Named Dean, Communications and Languages



The board of trustees has appointed Robert E. Holcomb Ph.D. as dean of Communications and Languages. He previously served as interim dean in this position since September, 2012.

“The ongoing focus of Communications and Languages is to cultivate student growth in the critical areas that constitute our division: literacy, second language acquisition, language arts, public speaking, and other forms of expression,” says Dr. Holcomb. “Those are the foundational skills that will propel students toward their long-term academic goals and beyond.”

Dr. Holcomb was also assistant dean of Student Success and Retention, a position he has held since 2009. Holcomb began working at Rio Hondo College in 2000 as an ESL Professor/ Program Coordinator.

Dr. Holcomb has a Ph.D. in education from Claremont Graduate University; and a Master’s, TESOL, and BA degree from USC.

FLEX Day

Did you know that the Rio Hondo campus played a starring role in a 1969 episode of the television Show “Mission Impossible” – as a Cold War Eastern Bloc spy facility? Faculty and staff were treated to images of this and more visual history via a special 50th Anniversary retrospective presentation at FLEX Day Friday, Jan. 25.

The day also featured an official kick-off to the Accreditation process and a panel discussion on the subject, “To Drop or Not to Drop” – issues to consider when decided whether to drop non-attending students. Breakout sessions included such topics as “So You Have a Good Idea for a Grant. What’s Next?” “Active Minds – A New Student Mental Health Club” and Collegial Discussion: Critical Listening in the Classroom.”



Rio Hondo Hosts Young Legislators’ Program



Trustee Gary Mendez provided the Young Legislators’ group with welcome remarks.

Rio Hondo College hosted the fourth of six workshops as part of Senator Ron Calderon’s Young Legislators’ Program on Saturday, Jan. 12.

The program is designed to give high school students from Senator Calderon’s district an opportunity to learn first-hand about the state’s legislative process, develop leadership skills and have the opportunity to meet working professionals who are actively involved in their communities.

Students assumed the roles of legislators by joining mock committees, authoring mock bills, and working with legislative leaders and committees to have their bills passed out of committee and passed on the floor. More than half of the participating high school students in the inaugural program are from high schools in Rio Hondo’s service area and include La Serna, Pioneer, Whittier, El Rancho, South El Monte high schools.

Rio Hondo hosted the second workshop in November and will host the sixth workshop in March. Cerritos College hosted workshops as well.

El Monte Promise Scholarship Program

The El Monte City Council unanimously approved the El Monte Promise Scholarship Program to provide financial assistance during the Spring 2013 semester to Rio Hondo College students living in El Monte. The El Monte Promise Scholarship Program aims to alleviate some of the financial burdens students may face. Scholarships can be used to pay for text books and approved course materials. The program will provide 80 students with up to \$500 in scholarship funds. To fund the scholarship, the Council allocated \$50,000 in Community Development Block Grant funds in its FY 12/13 budget. To be eligible, students must reside in El Monte, be a U.S. Citizen, maintain a certain GPA, enroll in at least nine units for Spring 2013, and have a household income at or below 80 percent of the Area Median Income for Los Angeles County.

The Rio Hondo College Foundation will operate the El Monte Promise Scholarship Program. For information about the scholarship program, please contact Maribel De Leon in the college's Educational Partnerships Office at 562-463-7008 or Dr. Mike Munoz at 562-463-4693.

Southern California Edison Supports STEM Scholarships



Sylvia Southerland, the regional public affairs manager for Southern California Edison (SCE), presented \$25,000 to the Rio Hondo College Foundation to be used for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) scholarships, and to participate in the Presidents Circle Program, the 50th Anniversary Event, and additional foundation activities. The Foundation's Executive Director Howard Kummerman, its President Neal Welland, and the College's Interim President/Superintendent Teresa Dreyfuss were on hand to receive this generous gift. In addition to the STEM Scholarships, the Rio Hondo College Foundation will allocate \$10,000 of the grant award to fund areas of great need within the organization. Through this support, Southern California Edison will be participate in and be recognized through the Presidents Circle Program, the 50th Anniversary Event, and additional foundation events and activities.

GET RIO! Student Guide Makes Successful Debut

The new GET RIO Student Guide received 1307 views since its launch on Dec. 20 – demonstrating that the second Leadership Academy successfully filled a real need through its Campus Improvement Project.

The second Leadership Academy created GET RIO! As an online step-by-step guide that outlines the matriculation, application, financial aid and class registration processes at Rio Hondo College. The guide provides links to audio/visual presentations of these academic and administration processes so that students can read, see, and hear the step-by-step instructions to matriculate and register for classes each semester.

Each page has a YouTube icon that leads to a list of videos of each step. Each video is embedded with a transcript text file to make it ADA compliant so that interpretation machines have access to all instructions.

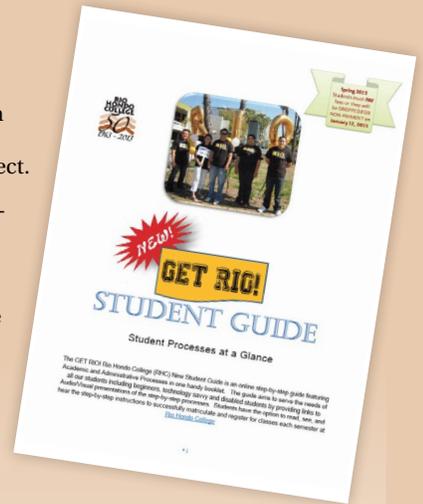
The Leadership Academy cohort built the Guide entirely using some of the newest and completely free Web tools found at Creative Commons.

"We used FlipSnack to create the Student Guide magazine, Snagit to record the videos, YouTube to present the videos, and GoogleDocs to present the list of video links and store the text files which help make the videos ADA compliant," says Yolanda Ramirez, division secretary of the Math & Science department who worked on the project.

Counselors, faculty and staff are encouraged to use the Guide to help students with questions.

"We thank President Dreyfuss and her cabinet, the Leadership Academy Committee, the board, and Henry Gee for allowing the Leadership Academy to be creative to do this much needed and successful Campus Improvement Project," says Ramirez.

Leadership Academy "2.0" included: Monika Acosta, Financial Aid; Mary Becerril, Admissions & Records; Karen Beck, Behavioral & Social Sciences; Gina Bove, Behavioral & Social Sciences/Communications & Languages; Liz Chavez, Career Development Center; Reneé D. Gallegos, Academic Affairs; Frank Garcia, Facilities Services; Veronica Kortz, Communications & Languages; Patrick McConnell, Disabled Students Program & Services; Annel D. Medina, Institutional Research & Planning; Cynthia Pallini, TRIO Program; Judy G. Pearson, Admissions & Records; Yolanda Ramirez, Math & Science Division; Michelle Yriarte, President's Office.



Roadrunner Soccer Defender Jasmine Sanchez Named To National All-America Team



Roadrunner women's soccer defender Jasmine Sanchez has been named one of 15 players nationally to the 2012 National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) Junior College Women's Soccer Scholar All-America team. This is the first year the NSCAA has had a Junior College Scholar All-America Team.

Sanchez, a sophomore Mathematics major, graduated from Don Lugo High School in Chino. She was a co-captain on this year's Roadrunner team, a 2012 Foothill Conference First team member and a 2011 Foothill Conference Second team member. She led the team with a 3.8 GPA and has committed to further her education and soccer career at Lesley University in Cambridge, Mass.

"Jasmine is a great representative of our student athletes at Rio Hondo," says Coach Jennifer Tanaka-Hoshijo. "She is not only a great player but also a tremendous student. She placed a high priority on her studies and being recognized as one of the top 15 players in the nation both on and off the field is a tremendous accomplishment."

Sanchez received her award on Jan. 19 in Indianapolis, Indiana, at the NSCAA All-American Luncheon. NSCAA is the world's largest soccer coaches association with more than 30,000 members.