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Interim President's Message



Teresa Dreyfuss

First, I would like to thank everyone for welcoming me so graciously as I begin this new role as Interim Superintendent/President. It has been an honor for me to work with you all in the past, and I anticipate our continued collegial cooperation as we move forward in this critical year.

As you know, the State budget scenario continues to present great challenges for us. We successfully weathered years of recent cuts while maintaining a complete array of academic course offerings. In that process, we served many, many students from outside our district who came to us seeking opportunities not available at their local colleges which had been eliminating hundreds of classes. As a result, we continue to be 1,500 FTES over our cap, and can no longer afford to provide classes for which the State does not fund through State general apportionment

We will be seeking ways to reduce our FTES to a more manageable, and affordable level. Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Kenn Pierson, is working with the academic deans to develop an effective strategy for reduction of the spring and summer 2013 schedules. However, those cost savings alone will not be sufficient to help us meet the budget gap. We will be forming a new Budget Reduction Task Force starting early August, and I have asked our constituency groups to nominate three classified staff, three faculty members, and three management employees to serve on the Task Force. We will also seek a student representative to help us deliberate and recommend ways we might achieve additional savings.

It has already been a busy summer. In addition to serving nearly 10,000 students in summer sessions thus far, we have also welcomed nearly 150 students from Beijing who are visiting us as exchange students as they participate in ESL classes, and welcomed entering freshmen who are participating in the Summer Bridge experience, which will provide grounding in college expectations and better prepare them for academic success.

We have also received excellent news from UCLA commending us on the success of our Honors Transfer Program; and from the National Board of Nursing Examiners, which reports that our Vocational Nursing graduates who sat for the exam in the second quarter of 2012 had an outstanding pass rate of 92%, compared to the National average of 83%, and the California rate of 72%. Congratulations to our faculty and staff who help prepare our students for transfer and for new careers in the health sciences.

Welcome Reception

On July 25 Rio Hondo academic deans hosted a reception welcoming Teresa Dreyfuss as College Interim Superintendent/President and Dr. Kenn Pierson as Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs.



Board of Trustees



At the July 13 board meeting, the Board of Trustees recognized Rio Hondo Counselor Nancy Maffris for her years of service on the occasion of her retirement. Congratulations!

California School Employees Association Decade Dinner

The California School Employees Association held its annual Decade Dinner to honor dedicated employees who have given their professional best to Rio Hondo in the last 10 and 20 years. Honored employees included:

10 year Recipients

Admissions and Records

Venessa Hernandez, Elizabeth Tarin and Veronica Vallarta

Career Technical Education

Scott Freeman

Child Development Center

Sonia Cruz, Elvia Garcia, Rose Marino, Elvira Sanchez, Arline Sheckells, and Adriana Silva

Communications and Languages

Hao Vo

Facilities Services

Eva Cabral and Pho Truong

Human Resources

Kathleen Osollo

Public Safety

Lorraine Duran and Norman Scott

Transfer Center

Aracely Tamayo

20 year Recipients

Marketing & Communications
Sylvia Viramontes

Warehouse
Kevin O'Connor



Middle School Students Energized by Rio Hondo Career Exploration Summer Academy

About 70 middle school students spent two weeks at Rio Hondo studying architecture, automotives, and alternative energy through exciting and innovative projects that ranged from building fuel cell cars to engineering toothpick towers.

The Rio Hondo Career and Technical Education Division hosted the second annual Career Exploration Summer Academy that drew students from El Rancho Unified, Little Lake City Elementary, and Valle Lindo school districts to also learn about solar energy by building their own solar-powered cars, among many other projects.

Rio Hondo faculty led the workshops and Rio Hondo students interested in pursuing teaching worked as lab assistants.

Centered on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), the program aims to give students a chance to explore fields in Engineering and Design, Transportation and Engineering, and Energy Utilities to help them determine if they would like to pursue these fields in high school and beyond. Last year about 30 students participated in the inaugural program; this year the capacity grew to about 70.

The program was made possible through a grant secured by Citrus College that also includes Mt. SAC. Funding also came from a Workforce Innovation Partnership grant (WIP) and CTE Teach.



Teenage Girls Visit Rio Hondo for “Imagine Your STEM Future” Event



Teenage girls, from area high schools and the Girl Scouts, came to Rio Hondo College on July 7 to participate in the “Imagine Your STEM Future” event.

High school students from Whittier and El Monte, and Girl Scouts from throughout the region participated in the science-driven event sponsored by the nonprofit organization Girls in Tech Los Angeles, the Girl Scouts of Greater Los Angeles, and AT&T.

The day-long workshop was designed to create interest for 8th through 12th grade girls in male-dominated career fields such as technology and engineering. Dozens of teenagers participated in hands-on activities that focused on STEM (science, technology, engineering, and math) subjects. Activities included extracting DNA from a banana and building electronic buzzing devices to use in math trivia games.

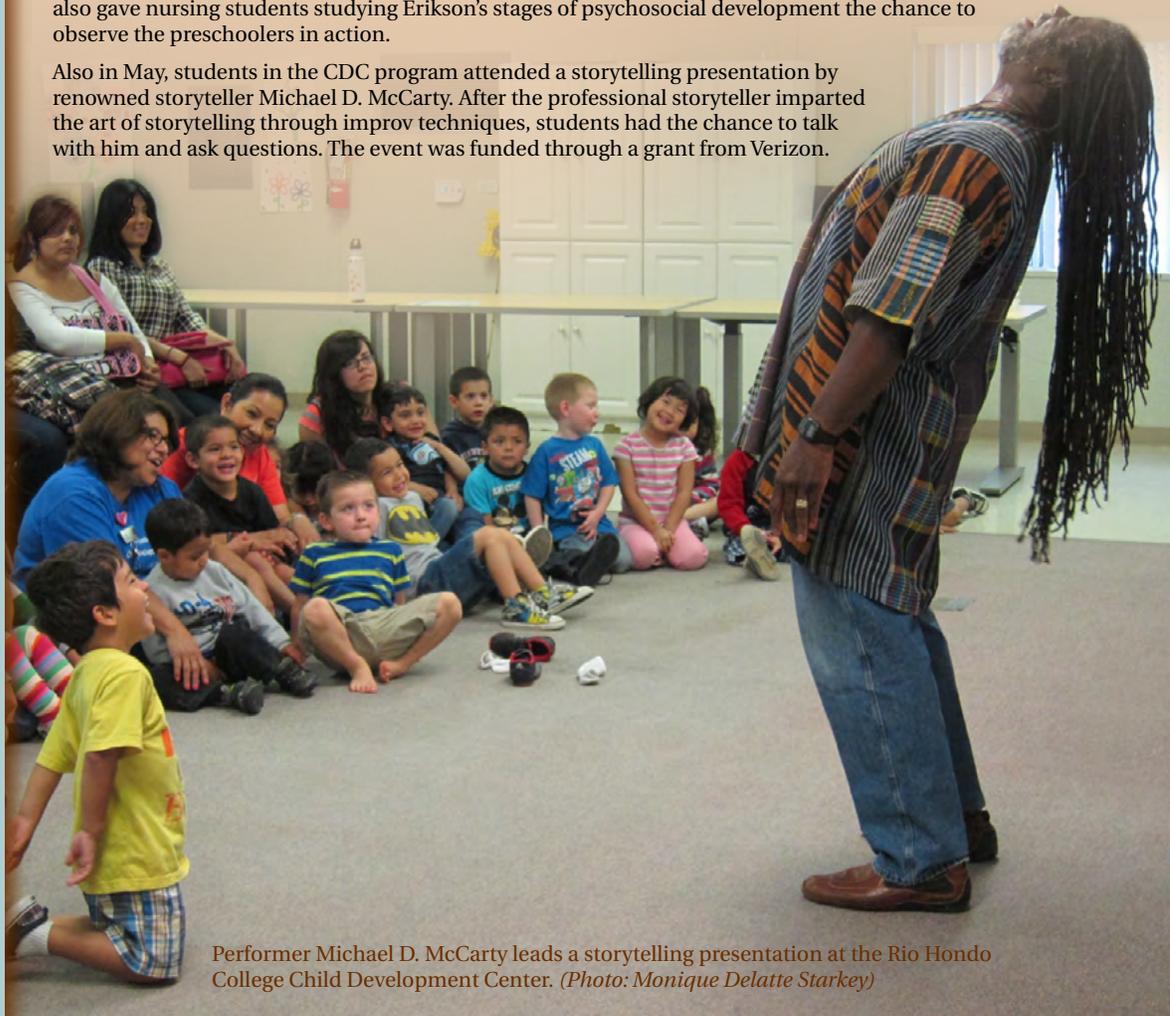
Event speakers included State Senator Ed Hernandez, D-West Covina, and Nora Cadena, a mechanical engineer at Boeing and MIT graduate.

“I love to speak to girls about the benefits of college, not only for themselves and their families, but for society as well,” says Cadena.

Storytelling Comes Alive for Preschoolers and Students

In May, preschoolers from the College’s Child Development Center (CDC) came to the library to participate in an interactive story time that featured puppetry and special characters. The event also gave nursing students studying Erikson’s stages of psychosocial development the chance to observe the preschoolers in action.

Also in May, students in the CDC program attended a storytelling presentation by renowned storyteller Michael D. McCarty. After the professional storyteller imparted the art of storytelling through improv techniques, students had the chance to talk with him and ask questions. The event was funded through a grant from Verizon.



Performer Michael D. McCarty leads a storytelling presentation at the Rio Hondo College Child Development Center. (Photo: Monique Delatte Starkey)

A2MEND Wins Distinguished Dr. John W. Rice Diversity Award

Dr. Walter C. Jones, dean of Counseling & Student Development, and Dyrell Foster, Ed.D. dean of Student Affairs, have reason to celebrate. The African American Male Education Network & Development (A2MEND), on whose executive committee both serve, recently won the Dr. John W. Rice Diversity Award.

Named after the former member of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors (who is also father to Condoleezza Rice), the 2012 Dr. John W. Rice Award was given to A2MEND as well as Skyline College’s SparkPoint financial education center; and Santa Barbara City College’s Transitions Program for parolees.

A2MEND supports African American men in their career development, advancement and success as community college students, faculty, staff and administrators by sharing the experience and expertise of other successful African American men across the system. The program also provides mentorships, scholarships and professional development opportunities, and encourages change within the California Community Colleges by creating an affirming academic and professional environment

“All the administrators from different campuses who are involved in A2MEND are unified by a common goal: the idea of diversity and of building global leadership,” says Jones.

The Dr. John W. Rice Diversity and Equity Award was established in 2001 to honor community college staff members, districts, colleges or programs that have made the greatest contribution towards faculty and staff diversity or student equity.

Rio Hondo Hosts Fair Housing Clinic

Rio Hondo College was the site of a National Fair Housing Training Academy that took place July 16 – 20. This academy was funded by a U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD) grant obtained by the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH). The week-long Fair Housing Academy gave 17 students the opportunity to hear about careers and internships in the field of fair housing, and to understand more intricately the civil rights work of the California Department of Fair Employment and Housing.



Retired Professor Mary Ann Pacheco Receives National Education Association Human and Civil Rights Award

Every year the National Education Association (NEA) honors its human and civil rights heroes at a black-tie awards dinner in Washington, D.C. This year Rio Hondo's own English Professor Mary Ann Pacheco, who retired this year, was on hand to receive the 2012 César Chávez Acción y Compromiso Human and Civil Rights Award.

The award is presented to an educator who follows in the exemplary footsteps of César Chávez in philosophy, work, and leadership in improving the status of labor and the lives of workers.

"I first met Cesar Chavez when I was a college student," Pacheco said during her formal remarks at the NEA Awards Ceremony. "I learned from him the power and the freedom that comes from having nothing to lose, so long as self-respect and faith and love remain."

Pacheco has been an advocate and activist for social justice ever since her college days at the University of Southern California, where she helped to create a student center for Chicano students.

At Rio Hondo, Pacheco fought for the collective bargaining rights of faculty and twice served as president of her local union. Pacheco was also an active member and leader in the Community College Association, California Teachers Association, and NEA.



Chinese Students Visit Campus

Chinese students from Beijing came to Rio Hondo to participate in a two-week English as a Second Language (ESL) course. The 25 students, the first of three cohorts, were welcomed by Interim Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss, Vice President Henry Gee, and Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Kenn Pierson.

