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President's Message



Teresa Dreyfuss

Rio Hondo College is known throughout the region as the home to some of the state's best public safety training sites. Aspiring firefighters who graduate from the College's academy receive top notch training; nurses who come through the doors go on to successful careers across the country; and cadets who endure the Police Academy are workforce ready.

On Aug. 5, the Rio Hondo College Police Academy welcomed Class No. 200 under the leadership of the College's Police Academy Director Walter Allen III. Allen, a 1976 graduate of Rio Hondo College's Police Academy, is the former director of the California Youth Authority and former chief of the State Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Law Enforcement Office of Correctional Safety.

With Allen's wealth of knowledge and nearly 40 years of experience, the Division of Public Safety's close working relationship with officials at POST and the building of the state-of-the-art Administration of Justice building, the academy cadets are sure to receive a well-rounded, rigorous public safety education to be workforce ready.

The College, along with its partners in the Rio Hondo College Adult Education Consortium, concluded a very successful month when it submitted its first regional comprehensive plan to the state as per Assembly Bill (AB) 86, which requires all K-12 adult schools and community colleges to form regional adult education consortia so they can work together to offer adult education courses and services.

The report contains pertinent information, including: demographics, a summary of courses and services offered by the partners and strategies to close identified achievement gaps.

Overall, officials at Rio Hondo College are working diligently over the summer to ensure the best-quality education for the students who are enrolled here, and those who live in the College District and surrounding communities. It's not simply the responsibility of a community college to offer classes, but to ensure the communities are thriving and look to the College as a beacon of knowledge and a source of local pride.

Professor Honored by City Arts Foundation

Mass Communications Professor John Francis was honored July 9 as Performer of the Year at the Whittier Cultural Arts Foundation's 12th Annual Honors Night.

The Whittier Cultural Arts Foundation (WCAF) hosts the event to recognize artists and art supporters who have made a significant contribution to the quality of arts in the City of Whittier. Francis was introduced by *El Paisano* newspaper alumnus Kevin Perez-Allen and also received commendations on behalf of Whittier from Councilmember Owen Newcomer.

The WCAF is a non-profit fund-raising group that operates under the Whittier Cultural Arts Commission and raises funds to provide grants and other art programs in the city.



Board Update



The Rio Hondo Community College District Board of Trustees and Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss on July 9 gave a commendation to one of the College's most loyal and long-standing employees – Liz Beltran from the Accounting Department.

Beltran, who was present to receive her commendation, had worked at Rio Hondo College for 40 years. Starting as a student worker, Beltran moved her way up to Accounting Technician II over the years.

"We know you worked very hard," Dreyfuss said. "You're very trustworthy and reliable, and we know that you care for this College very, very much. We will miss you."

Beltran, who was joined at the meeting with her daughter, said: "I love it here. Rio is my family. It's been a pleasure to work here."

Dean of Counseling and Student Success Dr. Mike Muñoz also gave the board an update on the College's Student Success Initiative (SSI). Since the College adopted the initiative, officials have made significant progress in fulfilling its goals in assessment, orientation, education planning, at-risk and follow-up as it pertains to SSI data elements.

ACCUPLACER testing – which quickly, accurately and efficiently assesses reading, writing and math – is now available at local high schools. One full-time staff member has been re-assigned to better meet demands and Rio Hondo College has been selected as a Common Assessment Initiative Pilot College.

The Common Assessment Initiative will develop and use centralized and integrated technology solutions to support the assessment and placement at California community colleges. It will also help colleges serve more students with robust and effective assessment and placement tools with an emphasis on multiple measures, and improve access to data in the support of student, faculty and staff.

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Police Academy to Resume

The Rio Hondo College Police Academy, one of the largest college-based police academies in California, welcomed a new class on Aug. 5, under the guidance of the College's Police Academy Director Walter Allen III.

Academy Class No. 200, which is the second class conducted since 2012, will receive 27 weeks of training that will include more than 1,000 hours of Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) approved law enforcement training. The academy will be in session Tuesdays through Saturdays from 12 to 9 p.m.

The academy will cover 42 learning subjects, including constitutional law, criminal law, arrest and control tactics, firearms training, emergency vehicle operation, cultural diversity, use of force and mental health.

In addition, several members of the Los Angeles County Police Chiefs Association serve on Rio Hondo College's Police Academy Advisory Board and routinely consult with academy staff regarding current trends and training needs in the law enforcement community.

"The new academy staff has worked extensively with POST on testing and security guidelines to ensure that appropriate measures have been taken to eliminate any potential problems," said Dr. Ygnacio "Nash" Flores, Dean of the Rio Hondo College Public Safety Division. "POST officials have been extremely helpful in assisting the academy director and preparing the staff for the upcoming class."

Several changes have occurred at the academy since 2012, including the completion of the new state-of-the-art Administration of Justice building and the hiring of Allen as the academy director.

Allen, a 1976 graduate of Rio Hondo College's Police Academy, has nearly 40 years of experience in law enforcement. Allen was the former director of the California Youth Authority and the chief of the State Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Law Enforcement Office of Correctional Safety. He has served as a SWAT team member of the Chino Police Department; special agent supervisor with the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement in Los Angeles and Sacramento; special agent in charge of the Bureau of Organized Crime and Criminal Intelligence; and assistant chief of the California Department of Justice.

"Mr. Allen has a sterling reputation within the law enforcement community throughout the state of California," said Rio Hondo College Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss. "His vast experience in public safety will help the Police Academy grow and he will serve as a role model for those who wish to aspire to his level."

The academy has 48 spots open for cadets with a potential waiting list due to the interest by pre-service candidates – those who are not sponsored by a police department.

"Many pre-service candidates have been very successful in obtaining employment as police officers after completing the academy," Flores said.

Rio in the News! [Click here to read more about the Police Academy in the Wave Newspaper!](#)



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Muñoz said one of the biggest accomplishments thus far has been the implementation of an Online Orientation software.

“There’s unlimited potential with this platform,” Muñoz said, adding that Online Orientation allows students to learn more on their own time and can always refer back when they need assistance in certain areas.

Currently, 489 summer school students are enrolled in Counseling 105: Orientation and Education, which is designed to assist students in creating educational goals, and there will be four additional Counseling 101 sections for the fall semester, two of which will be dedicated to foster youth and the new Law School Pathway Initiative. Additional Counseling 151 sections for fall will also be available for probation students and students without educational goals.

For students who are at-risk or on probation, the College adopted a two-tier probation model: first-time probation students will be required to take an online or in-person workshop and students on their second semester or more on probation will be required to have a one-hour individual appointment with a counselor.

Following Muñoz’s presentation, Academic Senate President Dr. Vann Priest gave an update on the Accreditation Review. Priest said that all text has been completed with evidence included.

Dreyfuss and Director of Marketing and Communications Ruthie Retana gave the Board an update on the College’s integrated multimedia marketing campaign by showcasing one of the movie theater advertisements on the Board room’s big screen.

The ad promoting Fall 2014 Semester was received with much excitement by the Board of Trustees and the audience of classified staff, faculty and administrators. The run of the two College ads in movie theaters began on June 27 and will continue through Aug. 14. They are being shown at Whittier Village, Downey Cinema, Regency Norwalk, Pico Rivera Village; AMC, Edwards and Starplex in El Monte, La Mirada, Montebello, Norwalk and Puente Hills.

The movie theater ad can be viewed [here](#).

Middle Schoolers Take Part in CTE Career Exploration Academy

Rio in the News! Read more about the CTE Career Exploration Academy in the Whittier Daily News!

Before attending Rio Hondo College’s Career and Technical Education (CTE) Career Exploration Academy, Lakeside Middle School student Natalie Fernandez didn’t know much about alternative energy.

Two days into the academy, Natalie was making her own biofuel with vegetable and canola oil.

“It’s cool that we’re able to come here in the summer and learn these things,” Natalie said. “We’re turning the simplest things into something big.”

About 130 students from the El Rancho Unified, Little Lake City, Mountain View and Valle Lindo school districts participated in this year’s weeklong CTE Academy to get hands-on knowledge of several Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) subjects.

In the CTE Academy, students participate in two modules, each of which is contextualized with math and science. The subjects from which students choose include basic automotive maintenance, crystal radios, small engines, solid rockets, biofuels, auto body collision and basic electrical theory.

“They’re adapting very well,” said Rio Hondo College Alternative Fuels Technology Professor John Frala. “It’s challenging for them, but it’s fun. It’s a very good experience for them.”

The goal of the academy is to create curriculum that not only teaches students about technology, math and engineering, but to do it in such a way that is fun and memorable.

In addition to creating biofuel, students built and launched rockets, learned to check and change oil in a car, rebuilt engines and learned to build crystal radios, battery-free radios that run on power received from radio waves by a long-wire antenna.

“As students participate in the CTE Academy, they’re learning physics, math and chemistry while building radios and rockets,” said CTE Academy Coordinator Claudia Romo. “These are skills that they will take with them throughout their academic career, and perhaps beyond.”

Funded by state Senate Bill (SB) 70 and partnerships with the school districts, the CTE Academy is in its fourth year and has inspired hundreds of students to pursue further education in STEM fields. Little Lake City School District Assistant Superintendent Maria Soto, and Mountain View School District Assistant Superintendent Ray Andry and Director of Special Programs Roberto Lopez all visited the CTE Academy to see their students’ progress in the program.

“Rio Hondo College is not just here to serve the students enrolled, but to serve the community as well,” said Rio Hondo College Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss. “These students are receiving an education that they will always remember, and may even inspire them to pursue careers in STEM fields in the future.”



New Banners Promote Success



Have you noticed something different on our campus during your most recent visit? The 50th Anniversary banners have been replaced with new ones, with key messages from our Mission Statement:

- Committed to Student Success,
- Committed to Lifelong Learning,
- Committed to Educational Opportunity, and
- Committed to Diversity & Equity.

College Welcomes International Students

Nearly 200 students from China are taking part in Rio Hondo College's Continuing Education Department's Intensive English Learning class while also soaking up local culture during the International Study Tour.



The students, ages 12 to 17, will go through a two-week long program that is designed to teach international students the fundamentals of conversational English while touring some of Southern California's most popular sites. The program started for four different groups from July 7 to July 18 for 27 students; July 21 to Aug. 1 for 50 students; July 28 to Aug. 8 for 55 students; and Aug. 4 to Aug. 15 for 57 students.

During the course of the program, students stay with families in the Rio Hondo Community College District and are dropped-off on campus for class that meets from 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. The courses teach English through listening, speaking, reading and writing.

After class, students go on outings to such locations as the Griffith Observatory, Beverly Hills, Seal Beach, Hollywood and the University of Southern California. On weekends, students are treated to trips to amusement parks, including Disneyland and Universal Studios.

"The program allows these students to experience campus life and American culture as they live with American families and meet local students," said Christopher Guptill, Interim Director of Continuing Education. "It has been a beneficial program for both the international students and the College."

The International Study Tour at Rio Hondo College is in its third year and has helped 550 students learn English while exposing them to United States culture. The program is the result of a partnership between the Continuing Education Department and the International Study Tour.

"Rio Hondo College always has its doors open for those who seek enrichment, and this program is a perfect example of the diverse range of ways the College can help students achieve their goals," said Rio Hondo College Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss. "This program has built a wonderful working relationship with the International Study Tour, as well as assisted hundreds of students overseas to learn the fundamentals of the English language."

Adult Education Consortium Submits First Regional Comprehensive Plan to State



On July 31, the Rio Hondo Region Adult Ed Consortium submitted its first regional comprehensive plan to the State of California's AB 86 Work Group in compliance with Assembly Bill (AB) 86.

AB 86, passed and signed into law in 2013, mandates that all K-12 adult schools and community colleges form regional adult education consortia so that both entities can coordinate the delivery of adult education courses and services and become eligible for planning funds.

The Consortium, which is comprised of four members: Rio Hondo College, El Monte Union High School District, El Rancho Unified School District, and Whittier Union High School District, and three partners: Bassett Unified School District, Hacienda La Puente Unified School District, and Tri Cities Regional Occupation Programs, has included a wealth of information about the region in this initial report.

Included are basic demographics of the regional population served, a summary of existing courses and services, a summary of existing gaps, and strategies to address these gaps. Also included are enrollment information and budget information with respect to adult education courses in each member and partner district.

The consulting firm Adult Education Solutions (AES) was hired by the Consortium to assist with writing this preliminary report. The next steps for the Consortium are to plan a kick-off event inviting local and regional stakeholders to participate in the consortium and to prepare for the next version of the plan which is due at the end of October 2015.



Rio Hondo College submits 2014 Self Evaluation Report to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) as part of an application for reaffirmation of accreditation. For more information, visit www.riohondo.edu/accreditation/

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Serving the communities of

- El Monte
- South El Monte
- Pico Rivera
- Santa Fe Springs
- Whittier

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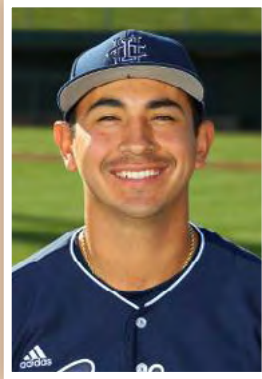
- Norwalk
- Downey
- La Mirada
- City of Industry
- Los Nietos*
- East Whittier*
- South Whittier*
- West Whittier*
- Avocado Heights*

*Unincorporated communities within our District

Important Dates

- Open Registration Dates:
Aug. 18-22
- Labor Day Holiday, Campus Closed: **Sept. 1**
- Last day to add with an add code/full term: **Sept. 3**
- Last day to drop with a refund/full term: **Sept. 3**
- Last day to drop without a "W" on record: **Sept. 15**
- Drop deadline with a "W" on record: **Oct. 27**

Alumni Profile: Andrew Morales



Former Rio Hondo College Roadrunner Pitcher and 2012 Foothill Conference Baseball Player of the Year Andrew Morales is headed to the majors after being drafted by the St. Louis Cardinals.

The right-handed pitcher, who had just completed his senior year at the University of California, Irvine, was called up in the second round of the 2014 Major League Baseball Draft after he led the Anteaters to the College World Series. He received a \$546,000 signing bonus.

Morales is ranked fourth in the country with 17 starts and 128 strikeouts. During his tenure at Rio Hondo College, Morales earned the California Community College Baseball Coaches Association All-American and Pitcher of the Year awards, and won All-Foothill Conference first-team accolades in 2011.

"It was unbelievable, actually," Morales told Sports Illustrated's Redbird Rants regarding the draft. "[I'm] very blessed to have the opportunity; very thankful that the Cardinals believed in me to pick me in the second round. It was an awesome experience for [me] and for my family."

Morales attended South Hills High School in West Covina where he was 8-2 on the mound as a senior. He helped guide the team to two league championships and a California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) Division III title. At South Hills, Morales also earned All-CIF first-team recognition and was the 2010 All-San Antonio League first-team honoree.

"It's just very well deserving for a guy who works so hard," said Rio Hondo College Baseball Coach Mike Salazar. "He was 21-0 his two years at Rio Hondo until the last game, and 10-0 in his first year at UC Irvine. In three years he was 31-1 and during that time, he stood by his sister as she overcame cancer. Through all that adversity, it is very good to see him succeed."

During his career at Rio Hondo College, Morales made 28 starts and struck out 135 batters in 182 innings. He logged three complete games and a save, and with an ERA of just 2.42, he walked only 42 players his freshman year. By the end of his sophomore year, Morales had walked just 23, earning an ERA of 2.01.

In 2012, Morales earned the All-Pacific Association Division first-team. He went on to UC Irvine and racked up an impressive list of accolades, including the National Collegiate Writers Baseball Association pre-season first-team All-American; Collegiate Baseball "Louisville Slugger" pre-season second-team All-American; and College Sports Madness pre-season third-team All-American and first team All-Big West.

"Andrew Morales follows in the steps of great baseball players who got their start playing at Rio Hondo College," said Rio Hondo College Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss. "The District is surrounded by great talent and it is an honor that they want to play with the Roadrunners. We are all very proud of Andrew and wish him nothing but the best in his professional baseball career."

Other notable major league players who got their start at Rio Hondo College include slugger Evan Longoria from the Tampa Bay Rays and pitcher John Urrea, who pitched for the Cardinals and the San Diego Padres in the 1970s and '80s.

Rio in the News! Read more about Andrew Morales in the Whittier Daily News!



START RIO... GO ANYWHERE

Fall 2014 Semester

August 23 – December 13

To register, go to: www.riohondo.edu



Scan the QR code with your mobile device, download the App.

- One of the lowest tuition in California! **Rio Hondo College: \$46** (California residents) a unit compared to CSU: \$228 a unit / UC: \$1,100 a unit
- Just a **short drive** to Rio Hondo College – near the 60 fwy (Peck Rd. exit) and 605 fwy (Rose Hills exits)
- Earn an **associate degree** or **transfer** to a university
- An array of **student activities** & 14 intercollegiate teams
- Convenient day, evening, weekend & off-site classes offered in So. Whittier and El Monte **educational centers**
- Take **online** classes from home, available 24 hours/7 days
- The "Go Rio" program provides a **FREE** bus pass for local transit systems to full-time students.



Rio Hondo College ■ 3600 Workman Mill Road ■ Whittier

