



PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

JUNE 2008

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

Learning more about how and when we commute to campus are important components of our region's ability to address traffic and improve air quality. Thanks to everyone who participated in the annual Rideshare Questionnaire earlier this month. Not only is the College required to survey our employees, the Rideshare program allows us to offer a service to those who wish to find carpooling opportunities – especially now that the price of gasoline is so high!

Speaking of transportation, we will be issuing new Parking permits to everyone on our staff as part of a new look. Color-coded permits will be issued each year.

We are pleased to learn that we will be able to keep North Drive open for the Fall Semester! This will allow for smoother traffic flow and reduce congestion. Be sure to look for the weekly Construction Traffic Circulation Maps and Update information as we experience occasional interruptions and re-routing due to facilities construction and improvements.

The lights went out Monday, June 16, at approximately 2 p.m., due to an area-wide problem centered in Pico Rivera at a DPW substation. After learning the situation was not localized to the campus, and would take at least one hour to restore power, in consultation with Gus Gonzalez and members of the Emergency Operations Team, we decided to close and evacuate the campus. Using the Berbee emergency communication system at 2:15 p.m., we notified the campus community and staged the evacuation process building by building, concluding at 2:40 p.m. The electricity was not restored until 5:45 that afternoon. We used the website to inform students of the closing of the campus until further notice, stationed public safety officers at the entrances, and cancelled the only evening class that date. After power was restored, we adjusted the website message. I am pleased with the cooperation and energy of everyone working together to record and disseminate the messages and to evacuate the campus in an orderly manner. This event provided another opportunity to refine our Emergency Operations plan.

Staff Changes: We welcome our three new deans and will look forward to meeting a host of new faculty and counselors who will begin service with the beginning of the Fall Semester. Antonio Flores takes on a new assignment as Supervising Dean to oversee Disabled Students Programs and Services. We will bid farewell to Dr. Jaqueline Nagatsuka who has accepted a teaching position at the University of Hawaii – Manoa. We will miss her and wish her Good Luck!

"Follow the Yellow Brick (Construction) Roads"

Our entire college community has developed new 'way finding' skills as we adjust to the realities of construction. We will soon enjoy the benefits of the improvements, but in the meantime everyone has adjusted daily routines and found alternate parking places. It is not unlike the adventures of Dorothy in OZ! Kudos to all for 'going with the construction flow' and making friends with heavy equipment.

Progress includes the opening of North Road and the immediate use and appreciation of the Lot 'A' Pedestrian Bridge.

You have probably noticed that construction teams are taking advantage of the summer months to accelerate their work on several of the bigger projects on the campus, which will maximize the convenience of travel in the fall. Thanks to all...Your patience is appreciated!



Summer Sessions Sizzle as Students "Finish Faster"

Students are taking us up on our encouragement to attend summer sessions and "Finish Faster!" Overall headcount enrollment is up four percent as of June 30, and the Second Session doesn't begin until July 14. Thanks to everyone in Student Services for helping students enroll and register to begin classes on June 9 and June 23.

At press time, we have 9,389 students enrolled, — that's nearly 300 more students — than last summer. A robust enrollment tells us students need what we are offering and are committed to taking even more classes while they are here.

Rio Hondo College Police Academy Graduates Class 186

On June 12, 2008, Rio Hondo College's Regional Training Center and The Los Angeles County Police Chiefs' Association graduated Class 186 from their Basic Police Academy. Hundreds of friends, family and other supporters celebrated the next generation of law enforcement officers at a commencement ceremony held at the beautiful San Gabriel Mission Playhouse. The class represented recruit police officers from 14 law enforcement agencies and pre-service students in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Among the graduates of Class 186 were Jonathan Herrick, Edward Nyberg, and Jason Plank all of whom have been hired by the Whittier Police Department.

Class 186 had 37 graduates from 48 cadets that began the program in mid-January. This class had incredible performance statistics including the highest academic average in the last five years or 20 classes. The class had a 94 percent academic average, 90 percent physical training average, 91 percent firearms average and 91 percent average in scenario training. Upon graduation from the Police Academy, cadets received a Certificate of Completion that enables them to qualify for any police department in the State of California at entry level subject to an extensive background investigation.

Officers come away from the Rio Hondo College training program with discipline and the ability to meet the demands of modern law enforcement. The goal is to provide the best training anywhere by assuring that students receive the knowledge, skills and abilities to serve their communities and make good decisions in extreme situations.

For more than 40 years, Rio Hondo College has played a key role in ensuring the safety of the community, training many of the police officers who serve residents throughout the District. In fact, 80 percent of police academy graduates are hired by cities in and around the San Gabriel Valley.

The police academy's reputation for outstanding curriculum and innovative training programs is well known and attracting more students than ever. The Academy is the largest community college based police-training program in California. Since its inception in 1964, the academy has trained over 9,000 police officers. The Academy also provides an extensive ongoing program in Advanced Police Officer Tactics and Training.

In Memoriam

*Rio Hondo College
Remembers*



Greg Garza

*He will be missed
Rio Hondo
College Employee
1990-2008*





ANNOUNCING! NEW College Events Calendar

There is a NEW College Events Calendar on the Rio Hondo College Website.

www.Riohondo.edu click on the "College Events Calendar" link, just below the "Featured Events" list for the week.

The RHC College Events Calendar is created when you reserve a room or an off-campus site for an event. Eva Cabral then modifies the overall space listings in R25 and creates the special College Events Calendar version to be posted on the website. This new College Events Calendar will help you publicize your events and help avoid conflicts. This will be an especially valuable tool during our end-of-year 'events' season. It will also help our college family be better informed about all our celebrations and activities.

Here are steps to take to make sure your events are listed correctly:

- (1) Initiate the Room Requisition AT LEAST one week prior to the event.
- (2) When you reserve the room or off-campus facility for your event, make sure to note the event's START time (not the set up time you have requested in the time block) in the 'comments' section of R25. That way, Eva and everyone will know when the event itself will begin.
- (3) If you use an off-campus facility, such as the Clarke Estate, Swiss Park, Crystal Marquis etc., please check with Eva to make sure it is already in the space inventory list. If not, ask that it be included. Check with Eva Cabral at ext. 7602 if you have questions.

NOTE: This new College Events Calendar is a special application of R25 for college staff and public information.

The comprehensive space inventory, including meetings and classes, indicating use of all campus facilities is accessible through Schedule 25 Web Viewer on the left side menu of the main web page.

"DECADE DINNER" Dedicated to Memory of Greg Garza

Members of the Rio Hondo College CSEA dedicated the 2008 annual Decade Dinner in honor of the late Greg Garza.

The event, held June 26 at the Crystal Marquis Ballroom in Uptown Whittier, provided the opportunity to honor long-term employees for their service to Rio Hondo College. Honorees received mementoes representative of the year they began their RHC employment.

30 Years of Service

LaVerne Edmunds Physical Education

20 Years of Service

Eugenia Saenz Admissions & Records
Cynthia Reuben Admissions & Records
Kalani Flores Facilities/Grounds
Judy Asato Public Safety
David Johnson Library

10 Years of Service

Merle Enriquez . . . Institutional Research & Planning
Juan Figueroa Payroll

Kristin McLean Human Resources
Howard Beazell Information
Technology Services
Andrea Rivera-Ringo Disabled Students
Dora Fuentes Facilities Services
Rudy Martinez Library
Dana Flores Child Development Center
Denise Lane Child Development Center
Jesse Wong Information
Technology Services
Randall Gorden Assessment Center
Elvira Aguilar Communications & Languages

Accreditation Self-Study Completed, Ready for Certification

As the Rio Hondo College community looks toward the visit by the AACJC site visit team in October, it is important to note the milestones already achieved. Thanks to the Accreditation Steering Committee and team members who helped draft the text for each Standard, the Self Study Report is the result of a broadly-based and representative effort. Overall, more than 70 RHC employees and students participated.

Editors Robert Bethel, Claudia Guerrero and Beverly Reilly completed their task in mid-June, and the Self Study was formally presented to the Governing Board at its meeting June 11.

Development of the Self Study Report began in Fall, 2006, with the identification of the standard committee co-chairs. Drafts were reviewed in Spring, 2008, by the Academic Senate and the Planning/Fiscal Council.

Once certified by the Governing Board and the representative groups, the Self Study Report will be printed, posted online, and sent to the AACJC and the site visiting team.

What is Accreditation?

Accreditation is the process for evaluating and assuring the quality of education used by the American higher education community. It is a uniquely American quality assurance process through which institutions collectively set standards for good practice, conduct peer-based evaluations of institutions on a regular basis, confer accredited status on institutions, and make the results of accreditation review of institutions known to the public.

Why is it important?

Accreditation is Rio Hondo College's license to do our educational business. It is a 'stamp of approval' that indicates to our students and community that we are meeting standards established for community colleges.

Accreditation is the Rio Hondo College guarantee to our students that the coursework they undertake here meets standards for rigor and that the credits they earn here will be accepted by other institutions.

Without accreditation, Rio Hondo College will not be eligible for federal money and our students will not be eligible to receive federal financial aid (please check this statement for accuracy with Teresa/Henry).

It separates our institution from the 'fly-by-night' private schools that charge their students large tuitions, make huge promises, and deliver little.

What is a 'Self Study'?

The Self Study Report is a document prepared by the institution in anticipation of an accreditation site visit, and used by the AACJC team conducting the comprehensive evaluation. Using a *Guide to Evaluating Institutions* developed by ACCJC, the college considers if the institution meets the Accreditation Standards and prepares the Self Study and self-evaluates the extent to which each standard's criteria are met.

The development of the Self Study Report is intended to "provoke thoughtful dialogue and judgment about the institutional quality... and the institution's ability to measure up to the Standards of Accreditation."

Lot A Bridge

The Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees and Superintendent/President Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr., cut the red ribbon marking the official opening of the Lot 'A' pedestrian bridge June 25, 2008 at 5:30pm. The bridge is just one component of the ongoing *Building Access and Excellence* building program, which began after the passage of the Measure A Bond by voters in 2004, and is the first new project to reach completion.



The new bridge connects parking lot 'A' — at the most elevated part of the hillside campus— to the Applied Technology quad. It makes the walk to the main campus safe, efficient and scenic. Instead of a descending set of stairs, crossing an intersection and then climbing back to the elevation of the upper quad, the bridge will allow pedestrians to cross over the road and enter the quad. From there student will have easier access to the second level of the Science building and the Upper quad.

A major goal of the building program is to increase pedestrian and vehicular safety on the campus, improve accessibility, improve learning environments and improve a sense of community on the campus. The Lot 'A' bridge is an important part of realizing the vision of the Facilities Master Plan.

The steel bridge blends perfectly into the surrounding environment during the day, but at night the bridge is lit by both spot lights and walkway lights and stands out as a stunning landmark.

Welcome New Administrators



Kenneth Pierson, Ph.D.

Interim Dean, Communications and Languages

Taking the helm of the Communications and Languages Division on an interim basis is Dr. Kenneth Pierson, who has been a full-time English Instructor at Rio Hondo College since 1997. Prior experience includes directing the Writing Center and teaching composition at the University of Washington, where his emphases included curriculum development, writing assessment, interdisciplinary writing across the curriculum, and peer tutoring.

Pierson is eager to begin his new position. "Even after ten years as a faculty member in Communications and Languages, I expect to gain a greater understanding of the role our division plays on campus and the challenges faced by our students and faculty members. With a little luck, I'll help find ways to meet those challenges."

Kenn's prior teaching experience includes Green River Community College, the University of Michigan, Wayne State University, and the University of Minnesota.

Pierson earned a Doctorate in English at the University of Minnesota; a Master of Arts Degree in English at State University of New York, Buffalo; and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in English at Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, South Dakota. Other experience includes serving as the Literary Manager of the Serpent's Tooth Theatre in Ann Arbor, Michigan.



Rory Natividad

Dean, Physical Education and Athletic Director

Rory Natividad joins Rio Hondo College in July as Dean, Physical Education and Athletic Director. Rory comes to RHC from El Camino College where he served as Athletic Director since 2005, where he also served as Sr. Certified Athletic Trainer from 2000 to 2005. In that capacity, he initiated and managed the student-athlete medical facility.

Natividad earned a Bachelor's degree in Physical Education at CSU, Dominguez Hills, and a Master's of Education at Azusa Pacific University. His teaching experience includes adjunct professor service at CSUDN; Pasadena City College, Loyola Marymount University and Cerritos College.

Natividad is a member of the California Community College Athletic Association (formerly the Commission on Athletics) and serves on that organization's Management Council. He also currently serves as the Athletic Training Coordinator for the Southern California Volleyball Association, where he coordinates and supervises athletic training staff for regional and Olympic qualifiers for youth volleyball.

Rory says he is "very excited to become a member of the Rio Hondo team." He "looks forward to assisting in the future successes of our students and our programs."



Walter Jones, Ed.D.

Dean, Counseling & Student Development

"Counseling and Student Development represents the face we use to welcome students to Rio Hondo and assist them in achieving their academic and career goals. It is not my intention to change the face, but to broaden the smile."

Dr. Walter Jones joins Rio Hondo College in mid-July as the Dean of Counseling and Student Development. He received a Doctorate in Educational Leadership at UCLA, a Master's Degree in Education at CSU Dominguez Hills and a Bachelor's Degree in English at CSU Northridge.

Dr. Jones joins Rio Hondo with prior experience as Associate Dean of Student Services at Los Angeles Valley College, including Acting Extended Opportunity Program & Services/Compliance Officer. He was also responsible for the professional leadership and managerial direction for the EOP&S and Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (CARE). He also served as EOP and Student Support Services Director for California State University, Dominguez Hills.

His teaching experience includes service as a member of the adjunct faculty at Los Angeles Valley College in the Department of Psychology, and at CSUDH as an instructor in the First Year Experience Program while working in community outreach and recruitment.