



# PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

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## President's Message



Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

There are no more "hazy, lazy days of summer" as described in the song crooned by Nat 'King' Cole in times past. Instead, today we are serving a bumper crop of summer students. We have already passed the 9,100 mark and are still anticipating those who will soon enroll for the second session beginning July 13. The Rio Hondo College campus became an even more popular destination when other colleges cancelled or reduced summer programs.

We anticipate continuing uncertainty with regard to the State budget. The California State Legislature has proposed several alternative approaches to student fees for community colleges, but nothing is certain at this time. We can only inform our students that fees are subject to change by the Legislature, and that Rio Hondo College does not benefit from any fee increase that may be levied – we do not keep the fees.

Our Cost Savings Task Force is organizing to identify and analyze ways the college can be more efficient in its operations and expenditures. The group, under the leadership of Vice President Teresa Dreyfuss, is representative of a cross-section of campus employee constituencies and is gathering information that will lead to suggestions and recommendations as to strategies we might adopt.

I would like to express my continuing appreciation to the members of the Accreditation Response Team (ART) for their diligence in helping the college meet the October deadline. My appreciation is also extended to the representatives of governance councils and other bodies for accommodating the timeline by holding special summer meetings.

Congratulations to 27 members of our classified staff who are honored this year for achieving milestones of employment at Rio Hondo College, and in service to our institution. Thanks to CSEA for organizing the *Decade Dinner* and helping showcase our dedicated employees.

## Summer Session Helps Students Finish Faster

Largely as a result of the challenging economic times, Rio Hondo College is one of few regional educational institutions offering summer classes this year. As part of its efforts to provide students with the classes they need to succeed all year round, RHC is proud to offer Summer Sessions to its students in a continuing effort to help them reach their academic goals faster.

The First Session began on June 8. Since then, overall enrollment continues to climb with the Second Session beginning on June 22. At present, there are more than 9,000 students enrolled, already ahead of our numbers for summer 2008. Special thank you to everyone in Student Services for helping students enroll and register.



## June 2009 Board Meeting

The June Board meeting was held at Wallen Andrews Elementary School. The Community Mixer provided an opportunity for members of the public to meet and speak with Rio Hondo College Trustees. Entertainment was also provided by South El Monte High School Singers. The Board Meeting followed the mixer.

Bell Gardens Councilmember Sergio Infanzon administered the Oath of Office for Student Trustee Julio Flores



Board of Trustees Vice President Angela Acosta-Salazar commended Whittier City Council for their efforts to support its community and its partnership with Rio Hondo College.



Board of Trustees Vice President Angela Acosta-Salazar commended North Whittier's Neighborhood Watch Program for its efforts to promote a safe and collaborative community.



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## New Classes and Programs for Fall, 2009

The RHC Curriculum Committee has approved new degrees, certificates and classes that faculty developed over the last year (Fall 2008 through Spring 2009). Many of the new curricula are designed to help transferring students also qualify for a degree or certificate in their field. Other programs and classes are intended to expand a series of career and technical courses into certificate programs, and yet others help students position themselves for jobs in the rapidly growing 'green' technology fields.

**Here is the list of new degrees and certificates:**

■ **General Studies Associate of Arts degree** with four areas of emphasis:

- Emphasis in Arts & Human Expression
- Emphasis in Science & Mathematics
- Emphasis in Social Behavior & Self-Development
- Emphasis in Social Science

This degree has been approved by the Chancellor's Office and students can earn this degree, if they meet the requirements, starting in the fall semester. Degree coursework in each area of emphasis may prepare students for a particular field of study or provide skills which may be used in certain job fields.

- **Alternative Energy Technology Certificate of Skill Proficiency\***
- **Nurse Assistant Pre-Certification Training Course Career Certificate\***
- **Certified Nurse Assistant Acute Care Career Certificate\***
- **Home Health Aide Career Certificate\***
- **Forensic Identification Career Certificate\***

\*These are locally-approved certificates that will be available to students in Fall 2009.

■ **Pre-School Teacher Certificate of Achievement** —

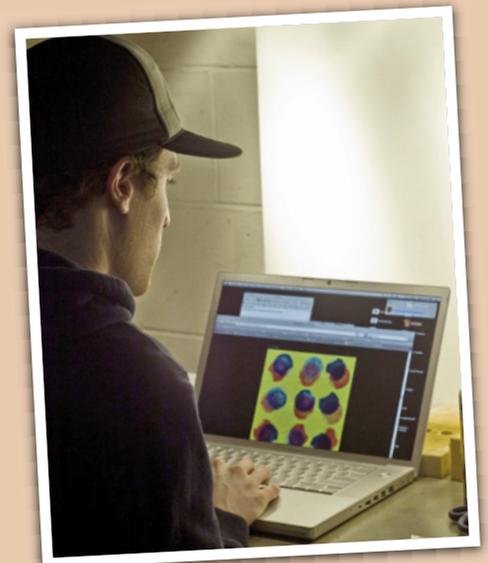
this has been approved locally and at the Chancellor's Office, and will be available to students in Fall 2009.

A variety of other certificates and degrees are awaiting review by the Chancellor's Office and once approved will also be available.

Currently, the Curriculum Committee has also approved nine courses for Distance Education (online delivery). These were previously existing courses which can now also be offered online, which increases RHC's ability to reach students that cannot make it to campus for classes.

**New Classes:**

- **World Building For Game Development**
- **Introduction to Landscape Design & Maintenance**
- **Introduction to Landscape Architecture & Design**
- **Introduction to Alternative Energy Technology**
- **Photovoltaic Systems Design and Installation**
- **Advanced Wastewater Treatment, in Environmental Technology**
- **Exploring Authors**
- **Postcolonial Literature**
- **Women and Literature**
- **Digital Photography**
- **Music in Film**
- **Introduction to Governmental and Not-For-Profit Accounting**
- **Intermediate Accounting I**
- **Transportation Management**
- **Contract Management**
- **Computerized Logistics**
- **Virtual Media: 3D Animation and Simulation**
- **Virtual Media 3D: Rendering & Compositing**



## BOARD MEETING

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Career Counselor Troy Olson-Flores gave a presentation to the Board of Trustees regarding Sabbatical Leave.



Coordinator/Instructor of Community Services Sergio Barron and Scheduling Technician Liz Avila gave a presentation to the Board of Trustees regarding RHC's Community Services.



# RHC Partners with Spiritt Family Services to Host 2009 Serena Conference

Rio Hondo College partnered with SPIRITT Family Services to host the 8th annual Self-Empowerment Resources to Education, Nurture, and Advocate (SERENA) Conference on its campus today. The Conference was designed to bring together a variety of speakers to educate, inspire, motivate and focus young women on issues regarding their rights and empowerment.

The program included a welcome by Executive Director of SPIRITT Family Services Irene Redondo-Churchward and opening remarks by Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees Vice-President Angela Acosta-Salazar.

This year also included a live performance by "Encompass," a local organization that aims to spark compassion, personal responsibility and an appreciation of differences among teenagers. They presented "KICK," a play that has been described by the organization as one that promises to "educate, illuminate and entertain its audiences."

Other keynote presenters were: Deputy Sylvia Arreseigor of the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department, Dr. Didra Brown Taylor, of the Black Beauty Shop Health Promotion Project, Zelenne Cardenas of Social Model Recovery Systems, Inc., Marisela Cervantes from Assemblymember Charles Calderon's Office, Diane Martinez of Rio Hondo College's Transfer Center, Adrianna Villa from Assemblymember Charles Calderon's Office and Rio Hondo College's Vice President of Academic Services, Dr. Paul Parnell.

Approximately 340 freshmen, sophomore, junior and senior students from local high schools participated in the SERENA Conference and were involved in a variety of workshops and discussions, which ranged from helping students choose a career to the dangers of cyberbullying.

"It is our hope that all SERENA Conference attendees use the day to examine their future options and set academic goals for themselves," said Rio Hondo College Superintendent/President Ted Martinez, Jr. Ph.D. "There is no limit to the potential for young women who are given opportunities to develop their talents, and Rio Hondo College is proud to host such an important and empowering conference for these students."

The SERENA Conference was created with the vision that young women could come together to exchange thoughts and learn new ideas to help prepare them to be future leaders in their communities. The Conference also emphasizes to all attendees the importance of making good decisions and the power each of them possess to positively impact their communities.

## Library Planning Lunch



*Members of the Library unit's planning team enjoy lunch the group won during the planning process this past spring.*

## STAFF PARKING

By now you should have received your new staff parking permit for 2009-10 which will go into effect July 1, 2009. If you have not received your staff parking permit for 2009-10, please contact Parking Services at extension 7609. There will be a two-week grace period and reminder notices will be posted on vehicles not displaying the new staff parking permits.

If you have any questions, contact Parking Services at extension 7609.

## Board Appoints Pierson as Dean of Communications and Languages Division

At its June 10th meeting, the Board of Trustees appointed Kenn Pierson, Ph.D. as the new Dean of Communications and Languages Division for Rio Hondo College.

Prior to this appointment Dr. Pierson served as Interim Dean of the Communications and Languages Division.

Before that, he served as a full-time English instructor for RHC since 1997. He also taught at Green River Community College, the University of Michigan, Wayne State University and the University of Minnesota.



Dr. Pierson is very eager about his permanent appointment to this position. "I feel privileged to be given the opportunity to continue as Dean of Communications and Languages. A year ago, when I was named Interim Dean, I didn't fully appreciate how much of a career change it meant to move from professor to administrator," he said.

"Although still in the field of education, the position of dean is one of being a steward, watching over several academic departments with distinct personalities while generally creating an atmosphere that pushes faculty and students to take risks, problem solves, and takes pride in their successes and achievements. As dean, I still witness the learning process, but indirectly—as from a bounced reflection in a mirror—rather than directly through the faces of my students. I know I have a lot more to learn about the art of administration, and I look forward to learning from Dr. Parnell, the other deans, and our own division faculty and staff who have honored me this past year with their support."

*Congratulations Dr. Pierson!*

## Mariela Dabbah Inspires Imagine Cup Victors to Greater Heights

Mariela Dabbah is a well-known motivational speaker, author and consultant who was drawn to the Rio Hondo College campus to meet our Imagine Cup teams of computer information 'whiz kids' and to suggest ways they might now leverage their accomplishments and interests even further. She is pictured with several members of the RHC Imagine Cup Team, Dr. Shin Liu and Dr. Martinez.



## Rio Hondo College's MESA Program – A Hit with Students

In less than two semesters almost 200 students applied to the Mathematics, Science, Engineering Achievement Program (MESA). All students are science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) majors and are enrolled in mathematics and science courses at Rio Hondo College. The MESA California Community College Program has a statewide record of transferring 98% of its students in STEM majors to four-year institutions.

This high transfer rate is due to the support for the students through establishing educational plans, offering academic excellence workshops, assisting with transfer, linking students with professional organizations, and most of all maintaining the MESA Center in S223. The MESA center is a place where students can access computers and printers, but more importantly this is where students gather, study, collaborate and network with fellow students. The center is the pivotal location where "community building" empowers students to achieve beyond the classroom.

During the fall and spring semesters students participated in Academic Excellence Workshops to support their trigonometry, pre-calculus, calculus and chemistry courses. Students spent many hours in the center studying together, meeting with the MESA counselor, Dianne Martinez and/or the Program Director Dr. Gisela Spieler-Persad.

The program featured many activities to enrich the students' experiences, such as:

- UC Transfer Panel: Representatives from UC Merced, Santa Cruz, Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, and Berkeley met with more than 50 students in the MESA center to discuss admission requirements for these top schools.
- University Tour: Ten Students went to UC Santa Barbara to visit the campus.
- Leadership Retreat: Five students participated in a 3-day leadership retreat at Happy Valley Conference Center in Santa Cruz
- MESA Student Club: Voted the "best new club" the MESA student club participated in the RiOlympics, and Club Rush.
- "You must be special": A seminar featuring Dr. Thomas Landefeld from CSU Dominguez Hills who inspired students to prepare for transfer and entering careers, by "being special" in what they endeavor.
- Career Panel: A panel consisting of speakers from the fields of geology, physics, physical therapy and insurance informed students about the "real world," attitudes during job interviews and getting involved in the profession while still at the college.
- "Outstanding student and transfer celebration": Students were honored for outstanding work in their mathematics and science courses and a happy farewell was bid to those who are transferring in the fall semester. These students are going to UCLA, UCI, USC, UCSD, Cal Poly Pomona and CSULA.

## College Forms Cost-Savings Task Force

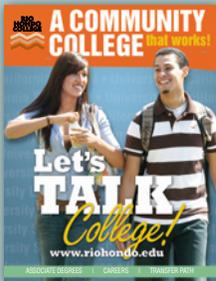
In reaction to what has been labeled as the worst budget year in history, RHC has recently formed a Cost-Savings Task Force made up of a cross-section of employees, including administrators, faculty and classified employees to generate ideas and recommendations regarding the college's budget.

The task force's main goal is to offer recommendations for administrative consideration so that any necessary budget adjustments align with the college's mission. This proactive approach by the college allows various representatives from all employee constituencies to analyze budget reduction options while also considering the consequences of those options.

## RHC Reaches High School Students with "Let's Talk College!"

As part of its targeted effort to reach local high-school students, the college produced a "Let's Talk College!" piece to help guide high-school students and to feature the many opportunities Rio Hondo College can offer them as they prepare for their next steps.

The four-page mailer included information on associate degrees, career programs and transfer paths RHC offers students, as well as student support programs, RHC's tuition costs compared to other colleges and universities, campus life information, intercollegiate athletic programs and much more.



The colorful booklet was mailed to all high school seniors in the Rio Hondo College District and was also included as part of the San Gabriel Valley Newspaper Group's newest publication, "SGV Teen Magazine, which was distributed to homes at the end of May.

## "Decade Dinner – A Salute to Classified Employees"

Members of the college's classified employee group, CSEA Chapter 477 recently held its annual Decade Dinner – A Salute to Classified at the Crystal Marquis Ballroom in Uptown Whittier. The event honored employees with 10, 20 and 30 years of service to the College. Honored employees received mementos presented by their supervisors. The evening was filled with good food, nostalgia from years past and friendship.

### 30 Years of Service

Joann Almanza  
Irma Caballero  
Marian Lassiter  
Lorraine Serrano  
Sandy Sierra  
Irene Torres



### 20 Years of Service

Monika Acosta  
Liz Chavez  
Renee Gallegos  
Diana Gutierrez  
Janice Lopez  
Richard Marino  
Robert Marsh

Mario Martinez  
Eva Menchaca  
Paul Ozima  
Carol Rice  
Gregory Romo  
Laurie Yount



### 10 Years of Service

Araceli Hurtado  
Hayde Gonzalez  
Paul Lona  
Crystal Maes  
Emily Padilla  
Rosemary Rivas  
Bob Samuelson  
Rene Tai



## "Godspell" Production Hits Center Stage in July

July 23rd, 24th, 25th at 7:30 p.m.  
July 26th at 2:30 p.m.

**FREE Admission**

**Wray Theatre**

Please arrive 20 minutes before showtime!

