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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

March has been a very busy month at Rio Hondo. The College has been recognized for our programs and our students. The Police Academy was featured on the Learning Channel, Congresswoman Grace Napolitano visited the campus and the President's Gala is right around the corner. With all of this activity there has been continued progress on the implementation of the Banner MIS system and our *Building Access and Excellence* building programs.

I am pleased with the energy and commitment of the entire college community as we work toward our common goals of increased student success, academic excellence, increased enrollment, cooperation and collaboration among all stakeholders and our continued fiscal accountability. Our accreditation process is right on track as the teams working on our self-study of the WASC standards are making great head way and we should be ready for the visitation from WASC in October.

Sometimes when we are all so busy it is difficult to take the time to recognize each other and our contributions to the success of Rio Hondo College. Especially when we are all feeling the pressure of State budget cuts and increased demands for our time, I want to say thank you to you all. Thank you for the good work that you have been doing and for the good work that I know you will continue to do through the year.

Women's History Month

On March 14, 2008, about 300 female students from five local high schools came to the Rio Hondo College campus for the 13th annual Women's History Month Conference entitled "Anything is Possible... Reach for the Stars." These students were encouraged to find their own voices, be independent and strive for their dreams.

The speakers included Angela Acosta-Salazar, president of the Rio Hondo Board of Trustees, Whittier Union High School District Superintendent Sandra Thorstenson and KNBC4 co-anchor/reporter Kim Baldonado. Angela Acosta-Salazar, who brought her infant son, Alfonso, to "his first day of college," stressed the importance of higher education and community.

The young women from La Serna, Pioneer, California, Frontier, Santa Fe and Whittier high schools are a part of a generation living through an historical period. Angela Acosta-Salazar reminded the group that they might see an African-American or a woman as the next President of the United States and although some of the juniors and seniors may not be old enough to vote in November, they are not too young to volunteer and get involved in their communities.

Echoing those sentiments were Thorstenson and Baldonado. Thorstenson, who grew up in the area and is a Whittier High graduate, told the young women their future is up to them and the choices they make. Both Thorstenson and Baldonado, who grew up in San Gabriel and graduated from Mission High School, emphasized that the students be independent.

Baldonado's older sisters went to local colleges, but she went away to UC Berkeley and she states that it was the best decision she ever made. Even though her parents did not attend college, there was never a question of her going. She stressed that the students should not let anything hold them back from their dreams.



Angela Medina Is Granted Tenure

Growing up in La Puente, Angela Medina recalls that “college” was not mentioned very often. She was the first person in her family to attend college. She began her college career at Rio Hondo right out of high school. Seeing Angela’s success, her younger sister and brother decided to pursue their educational goals.



Angela graduated from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona in June 2003 with a double concentration MA degree in TESL and Literature. She enjoys teaching both ESL and English at Rio Hondo College. She has traveled to China multiple times and taught all levels of students (preschool to university) and absolutely loved every minute of it. Angela is a regular presenter at regional and state level California Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages (CATESOL) conferences as she enjoys staying active in her field and sharing new ideas with colleagues. Angela’s professional writing has been published in CATESOL News and Language Magazine. Angela truly loves teaching and feels it is what she was destined to do.

On March 19, 2008 the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees awarded Angela Medina tenure in the Communications & Languages Department. Angela has been active on the campus serving on several committees and is a stellar example of the outstanding faculty at Rio Hondo College.



Rio Hondo College Students Receive Scholarships

The Rio Hondo College Foundation and the Assistance League of Whittier announced nine \$1,000 scholarship winners. The nine recipients are all outstanding students at Rio who are transferring to a four-year institution this year.

The Assistance League hosted a luncheon on March 17, 2008 where the students gave a brief description of the obstacles that they have had to overcome to get an education. Their dedication, perseverance, and accomplishments were inspiring. The students were also very thankful to the faculty and staff for helping them obtain a college education, a goal felt by them to be unimaginable just a few years ago.

This event was a reminder of the enormous impact that faculty and staff can have on the lives of students.

The winners are:

- Magdalena Arrayga
- Genevieve Delgado
- April Eglund
- Ana Fonseca
- Neomia Hancock
- Vanessa Hernandez
- Monique Nobriga
- Veronica Padilla
- Luz Tapia

Rio Hondo Men’s Golf

The Rio Hondo Men’s Golf team participated as Caddies for the PGA TOUR’s Northern Trust Open Golf Tournament held at the Historic Riviera Country Club. Head Professional Todd Yoshitake invited the team to participate in the Pro-Am tournament held the Wednesday before the professional event. This was a very special opportunity to walk the fairways of one of the greatest golf courses in the world alongside the best players in the world.

Each team member and Head Coach Ron Eastman caddied for an amateur alongside a PGA TOUR professional. Team members got to walk and talk with PGA TOUR Stars Rory Sabbatini, Luke Donald, Robert Allenby, Stuart Appleby, Billy Andrade, and Fred Couples. One lucky team member got to caddy for celebrities Michael Douglas and Catherine Zeta-Jones.



By participating in an event like this, Rio Hondo’s golf team members learn how PGA TOUR members conduct themselves on the golf course, manage their golf games, and play at a consistently high level.

Two Rio Hondo College Students Selected For the 2008 Phi Theta Kappa All-California Academic Team

The Community College League has selected two Rio Hondo College Students for the 2008 Phi Theta Kappa All-California Academic Team. Andrew Regalado and Marcus Logan have been named as exemplary community college scholars.

These gentlemen celebrated their success at an awards luncheon in Sacramento on Thursday, March 27, 2008 along with the rest of the All-California Academic Team winners. They were honored and presented with Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) awards and certificates.

The Community College League proudly honors the exemplary community college scholars of 2007, by being a sponsor of this important program—in conjunction with Phi Theta Kappa. This is an enormous honor both for Regalado and Logan and Rio Hondo College. Congratulations!

President Unveils Strategic Plan

Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr., Superintendent/President of Rio Hondo College takes a very hands on approach when it comes to planning. Dr. Martinez spoke to a group of managers and those working on the WASC accreditation report about the strategic plan for Rio Hondo College. Dr. Martinez describes strategic planning as “a disciplined effort to produce fundamental decisions and actions that shape and guide what an organization is, what it does, why it does it, and what it is going to do in the future.”



First, Dr. Martinez reviewed *Standard 1 – Institutional Mission & Effectiveness*. This Standard includes:

- The institution sets goals to improve its effectiveness.
- The institution assesses progress toward achieving its stated goals.
- The institution provides evidence that the planning process is broad-based, offers opportunities for input, allocates necessary resources, and leads to improvement of institutional effectiveness.
- Rubric for Evaluating Institutional Effectiveness in Planning.

He reviewed with the audience that it is necessary to conduct an Environmental Scan using tools such as strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. It will produce an analysis of the distance between the College’s desired state and the reality of our current capabilities.

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AccessRio Project Update

As we finish our ninth month of this important project, we are happy to announce the project is on time. Many activities continue to take place as staff is trained on configuration of the system processes. As this training is taking place staff is learning how the system works and how to make it functional to fit the Rio Hondo College operating procedures.

As the system is configured, the knowledge gained will be instrumental in creating end user training materials. The end user training will allow staff, managers and faculty to use the system for serving the students and the college community.

In March, the following events were done in the areas of:

- Student System – Advisory Consulting Visit;
- Financial Aid System- Record creation, Data load, F.A. requisition tracking training;
- Human Resources System - Pre-Requisite Overview and System Navigation training, BPA Overview;
- Overall system – Data Migration planning and tool kit.

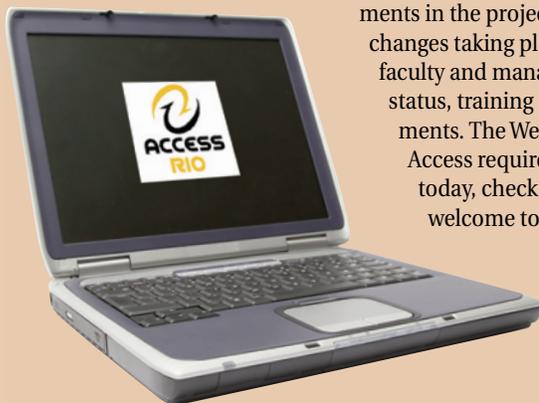
In April, events are planned for:

- Financial Aid – Correspondence processing, transfer monitoring, budget preparation training;
- Instruction – Dean’s meeting for Catalog and Schedule Data Entry or Data Migration discussion;
- Technical - Student System technical and Oracle DBA training.

As training is completed attendees are given assignments to work on to improve their skills in configuring the system. Additional advisory visits by the consultants will reinforce the skills and help complete the needed configuration for the system. SGHE is working with the project manager to provide an end user definition and planning document to help guide the training of the college community on the use of the AccessRio system.

As the project progresses the committee structures may change to fit the needs at the time and developments in the project. We will keep you informed of the progress and any changes taking place. You can also get information by visiting the staff, faculty and managers internal Web Site. Please visit it often to check on status, training schedules, planning activities and other announcements. The Website can be found at <http://accessrio.riohondo.edu>. Access requires a valid Rio Hondo E-mail account. Go take a look today, check it often and be involved when you can. You are always welcome to contact our project management team. David Bell

can be reached at (562) 692-0921 ext.4851 or djbell@riohondo.edu and Jack Raubolt can be reached at (714) 328-6931 or jraubolt@riohondo.edu.



Beverly Reilly Reports On A Multi-Discipline Writing Center

At the March 19, 2008 Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees meeting Beverly Reilly reported on the work that she had been doing during her sabbatical leave. Ms. Reilly reported that she researched and proposed what she thought was a unique idea of a multi-disciplined writing center to work with students and remind them how to write for college. As she began to do her research she realized that other colleges and universities had created this type of center and were finding great success from those that needed basic skills to those that were struggling with writing for specific areas of study.

Beverly Reilly was born in Detroit, Michigan, and received her Registered Nurse education there. After moving to California and working as a hospital nurse while marrying and raising four children, she decided to return to college for a BS in Nursing. A counselor at CSU Long Beach pointed out that she was missing some general education classes, all in English and literature, and suggested she take these classes at a community college. Taking this advice, she attended Orange Coast College in Costa Mesa, read and fell in love with authors such as Mary Rowlandson, Walt Whitman, and William Faulkner. It was then and there that Beverly changed her major and never looked back. She received her Bachelor of Arts in English from the University of California, Irvine, and her Master of Arts in English literature—emphasis on American literature—from California State University, Long Beach. She worked as adjunct faculty at several community colleges in the area from 1993 until 1998, at which time she was hired full time at Rio Hondo College. She believes there is nothing as powerful and life-changing as the educated, skillful use of language, and this philosophy is the basis for all levels of all classes she teaches: composition, literature, and creative writing.

The Board of Trustees was very impressed with her presentation and suggested searching for funding to make this center a reality at Rio Hondo College.



Some of the core indicators for the College are:

- Basic Skills Completion / Improvement Rates
- ESL Improvement Rates
- Degree / Certificate / Transfer Rates
- Student Progress & Achievement Rates
- Scorecard of Institutional Effectiveness

Dr. Martinez also reviewed with the group the creation of a new planning infrastructure, an emphasis on accountability and participation, and a new planning and budgeting process to support the Educational and Facilities Master Plans.

Then he specifically stated the eight goals for the institution.

Institutional Goal 1

Rio Hondo College will provide excellent instruction in academic, basic skills, and vocational areas through a variety of delivery systems in order to better serve the needs of the community.

Institutional Goal 2

Rio Hondo College will promote student success via a climate in the classroom and on campus that ensures access and retention, college level skills attainment, graduate and transfer, and adult literacy through collaboration, effectiveness, and diversity.

Institutional Goal 3

Rio Hondo College will respond to regional needs and contribute to the economic future of the region through leadership in service and education through partnerships with public, private, and non-profit organizations.

Institutional Goal 4

Rio Hondo College will preserve fiscal solvency, act responsibly, ethically, efficiently and in an accountable manner in using its fiscal resources, and will actively seek outside sources of funding.

Institutional Goal 5

Rio Hondo College will recruit, hire, develop, retain and support an outstanding and diverse administration, faculty, and staff for its students.

Institutional Goal 6

Rio Hondo College will meet the changing technological needs required to support the educational process and to enhance student access and success.

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Board Of Trustees Commends the Rio Hondo College Police Academy

The Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees commended the Police Academy for winning the 2007 California Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training Award for *Excellence in Training* in the Organizational Achievement category. After a review of nominations, from 21 of the 41 Police Academies throughout California, the Commission awarded Rio Hondo College the “Runner-Up Award” in the statewide police academy competition.

Aside from preparing students to join police departments, Rio Hondo College Police Academy also offers advanced training to about 10,000 current law enforcement officers who need it in order to keep their certification, officials said.

Specifically, Rio Hondo’s academy was honored for actively recruiting people into law enforcement, expanding into homeland security and private security, having a wide variety of collaborative partners, being in an “excellent” location that maximizes outreach and having a long history of service and training. The commission also commended the college for passing a bond measure to help pay for a state-of-the-art regional law enforcement training center.

The Academy was also featured on the Learning Channel’s “The Secret Life of a Soccer Mom.” The show airs on the Learning Channel Sundays at 8pm/7pm Central Time or on the web at <http://tlc.discovery.com/tv/soccer-moms/video.html>. Our Soccer Mom is Jeannie McCoy who secretly lives out her dream of attending the police academy at Rio Hondo College, while her police officer husband contends with their four children. On the show one of them lands in the emergency room. Our rigorous academy challenges Jeannie and it takes all that she has got to keep up. At the end of the show Jeannie has to decide if she will return to being a stay at home mom or go on to attend the academy full-time.

The entire college can be very proud of the work that is being done in our award winning public safety program.



Rio Hondo College Police Academy Graduates Class 185

On March 20, 2008 the Los Angeles County Police Chiefs’ Association and Rio Hondo College graduated Class 185 from their Basic Police Academy. Hundreds of friends, family and other supporters celebrated the next generation of law enforcement officers at the beautiful San Gabriel Mission playhouse. The class represents recruit police officers from 16 law enforcement agencies and pre-service students in Los Angeles and Orange Counties. Among the graduates of Class 185 will be Matthew Balzano, Michael Balzano, Anthony Gonzalez, Robert Rodriguez, Bradley White, and Brenna Winslow all of whom have been hired by the Whittier Police Department.



This class has 58 graduates from 81 cadets that began the program late last Fall. This class has incredible stats including a 93 percent academic average, 86 percent physical education average, 89 percent firearms average and 92 percent average in scenario training. Upon graduation from the Police Academy, cadets receive 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 this 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.

Institutional Goal 7

Rio Hondo College will design, modernize, and maintain a physical infrastructure that meets the changing needs of students, staff and the college's instructional and student support programs while valuing and enhancing the aesthetic beauty of the campus.

Institutional Goal 8

Rio Hondo College will provide students and employees with an engaging and rewarding campus life and environment.

The College Community has responded well to the first incremental strategic planning process and can see how this planning process empowers the College's governance process while organizing the steps necessary to work toward common goals and to have a successful visit from the Western Association of Schools and College and for Rio Hondo College to be reaccredited.

BOARD REPORT

for the Board Meeting

March 19, 2008

Consultant Services: The Board of Trustees approved the Consultant Services of the following for the Foster/Kinship Care programs:

- Karen Dixon
- Ana M. Vargas
- Lori Switanowski
- Lee Ann Paddock
- Beatriz Lopez
- Linda Hughes
- Mary Hibbard
- Jose Gutierrez
- Martha O. Godínez
- Christina Maria Auer-Arriaga

The Board of Trustees also approved the consultant services of Nicole Gray to present a training workshop for the Math faculty and Laura Hope to assist the Basic Skills Committee on the implementation of the Basic Skills plan.

Other consultant services that were approved include:

- **RBF Consultants:** To provide engineering consulting services to prepare structural calculations, investigate field conditions, and verify that construction is in conformance with approved plans and specifications in order to complete DSA

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Congresswoman Grace Napolitano (D-CA-38th) Visits Rio Hondo College

Rio Hondo College welcomed Congresswoman Grace Napolitano (CA-38) as she toured the campus and heard about the important work that is being done. Congresswoman Grace Napolitano was instrumental in securing funding for *Rio Hondo College Clean-Burning Bus Shuttles* which is an effort to improve access and to promote the use of clean-burning transportation vehicles. Napolitano has worked to secure federal funding for Rio Hondo College to purchase two clean-burning bus shuttles, equipped with lifts. Currently, two of Rio Hondo's four shuttles are not clean-burning or wheel-chair accessible for students and guests. These two shuttles, which will be clean-burning CNG vehicles, will provide a significant upgrade in shuttle service to the Rio Hondo community. This improved shuttle service will serve as the perfect complement to an award-winning GO RIO program, which has recently entered its fourth semester of operation.



Grace Flores Napolitano was first elected to Congress in November, 1998. She is now serving her fifth term representing California's 38th District. She is currently the most senior new member of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, yielding her a voice for her communities on matters of jurisdiction over America's surface transportation.

Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent/President of Rio Hondo College, along with Russell Castaneda-Calleros, Director of Government and Community Relations at Rio Hondo College spent the greater part of the morning with Congresswoman Napolitano and shared with her the programs that have been put into place because of her advocacy for the College, as well as additional programs that the College would like her to advocate.

Construction Update

The Library and Learning Resource Center project is proceeding rapidly. The contractor should begin pouring the second floor slab before the end of March. The first floor slab was completed in February. Construction of the retaining wall is complete. The steel is in place to begin the second story pillars and the framing of the second floor. The Infrastructure project which has closed North Drive as well as Lot G (the parking lot behind Administration) should be completed in April and those roads will be re-opened. The Central Plant project is moving along quickly and the contractor has finished re-grading the hill behind the new Central Plant building area.

The Pedestrian Bridge is also under construction and the concrete cast-in-drilled-hole piles and pile caps have recently been poured. The steel erection was completed over the Spring break and the project is beginning to look like a bridge. Construction on this project is anticipated to be completed in the summer of 2008. The Maintenance Facility Upgrades are nearly complete. Asphalt has been placed and the new fuel pump has been installed. It is anticipated that the work will be substantially completed within the next few weeks.

All of the first priority projects have been designed and submitted to DSA for review, including the new PE Complex, the Administration of Justice Building, the Student Services Building, the South Whittier Center, and the Terraced Walks project. In addition, DSA approval has been received for the Applied Technology Building Renovation and the new Rio Hondo Parkway.

The DSA closeout letter has been received for the Building Panels project and it has been closed with Certification. This project, which took place during evenings and off-hours, had a minimal impact to the Campus and was completed on time and within budget.

The designs for the offsite center are nearing completion with the El Monte Center now being dedicated completely to Rio Hondo College with additional parking spaces that have been made available to accommodate our students.



closeout of the Child Development Center, which is required prior to proceeding with the submittal of design drawings for the CDC modifications as part of the Rio Hondo Parkway construction project.

- **Datatel:** To provide services to include a review of a basic strategic planning framework, development of critical performance indicators necessary to track the success of Rio Hondo College's goals and objectives, development of a college-wide planning infrastructure.

- **Gibbs, Giden, Locher, Turner & Senet, LLP:** To provide legal consulting services related to a subcontractor substitution request.

Architectural Services – Martinez Architect Fees for Additional Services, Applied Technology Building Renovation:

The Board of Trustees increased the contract amount of Martinez Architects for additional services in the amount of \$85,842 for a revised total contract amount of \$985,842.

Instructional Services Agreements: The Department of Public Safety makes Fire and Police Training available to local agencies. These courses include Administration of Justice and Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certified classes for police departments and Wild Land, EMS and Fire Technology for fire departments.

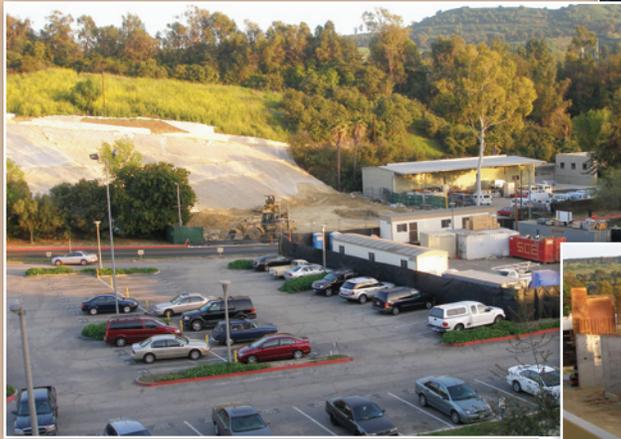
The Board of Trustees approved Instructional Service Agreements with the following agencies: City of San Gabriel, Los Angeles County Regional Criminal Information Clearing House, Los Angeles Unified School District and Los Angeles County - District Attorney.

Vehicle Donation: The Board of Trustees accepted the donation of a model year 2003 Ford Crown Victoria 4 door sedan from the City of Irwindale Police Department for use by Public Safety.

Vice Presidents and Administrators/Managers Wage Increase for Fiscal Year 2007/2008: On December 12, 2007, Rio Hondo Community College District Board of Trustees approved a salary increase for the College Faculty Association/CCA/NEA members to increase the salary schedule effective July 1, 2007 by COLA (4.53%). The board of Trustees approved the same salary increase of 4.53% for Vice Presidents and Administrators/Managers for fiscal year 2007/2008, effective July 1, 2007. The retroactive salary increase will apply to the active and current employees as of March 19, 2008.

The Rio Hondo College Citizens Oversight Committee Tour the Campus

Every quarter the Citizens Oversight Committee meets to review the status of the *Building Access and Excellence* building program and bond expenditures. This month the committee received a guided tour from Program Manager Steve Massetti and had a first hand look at the construction on the Rio Hondo College campus. As the committee toured the campus it was clear that the COC has been pleased to work closely with College staff, administrators, Board members and consultants. Rio Hondo College has put together a truly impressive team to carry out Measure A improvements.



The Committee has also commissioned Professor Jay Sunyogh, coordinator of the award-winning Center for Architecture Civil Engineering Design and Drafting and GIS (ACEDD/GIS), to work with his students to create two mono-chrome models of the Rio Hondo College campus prior to the *Building Access and Excellence* building program and afterwards. The models should be completed by June of this year and will be displayed on the campus.

The committee is very happy about the work that has been done on the models and are glad to have a symbol of the work that they have done monitoring and reporting on the *Building Access and Excellence* building program.

