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Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

Kudos to the Senior Preview Day planning team and to the volunteers who helped us welcome 700 high school seniors to campus March 18. Thanks to everyone who exhibited your "RIO PRIDE" by wearing Rio Hondo logo gear and who staffed the program information booths. It was a lively day and a great way to showcase Rio Hondo College programs and services to high school seniors in our service area.

We've been doing a lot of planning for the college's future. First, teams from all college segments came together in workshop sessions to review input of focus groups and to suggest content and navigation paths for the upcoming AccessRIO Portal...the next step in our AccessRIO system. Look for updates along the way as we move toward a test implementation in the fall. Thanks to Kats Gustafson and Mark Gutierrez, our project co-chairs.

Next, our campus leadership teams participated in a Leadership Planning Retreat, to review our institutional goals, program review recommendations, area plan strategic directions and area plan goals, as well as to review recommendations of the Resource Allocation Committee. Institutional Effectiveness is dependent upon the efficacy of our planning process. Our continuing good standing with the Accrediting Commission is also largely dependent upon our institutional planning practices.

We are also busy planning for the launch of the Rio Hondo College Educational Center in South Whittier, which is scheduled to open for the Fall 2010 semester. We will have a 'soft' opening at first, and plan to offer 8-10 class sections at that site until we are able to occupy the complete facility in the next year. We plan an opening celebration in October.

Now that the class schedule for Summer, 2010, is posted in the AccessRIO system, it is timely to remind students that they MUST have a RioMail account in order to receive vital information about their waitlist registration status. Their RioMail accounts are the only way the College has to reach them in case of a campus emergency. Please spread the word.

Commencement is coming upon us fast. Everyone who will don academic regalia should have their orders placed with the Bookstore no later than April 9 in order to avoid excess/penalty shipping charges.

Finally, it is with deep gratitude that I express our appreciation to those volunteers who served on the Gala Planning Committee, and especially those who 'worked' the event. It was a fabulous evening as the photos in the issue of UPDATE will confirm.

Have a safe, restful, and relaxing Spring Break.

Rio Hondo Hosts Blood Drive

Rio Hondo College, in partnership with the Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital Blood Donor Center, hosted a March Blood Drive with Rio Hondo students March 3 and 4. With all units collected going to Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital for community use, Rio Hondo set a new PIH record by collecting a total of 201 units of blood over the two-day drive.

Coordinated by Rio Hondo's Hannah Pastrano and Cathy Butler, and supported by numerous Rio Hondo Clubs, the March Blood Drive had 245 students donate 201 units of blood, which is the equivalent of saving 603 lives.

"We are a community hospital and the intention of our blood drives is to supply our community with blood products," said Lisa Van Orwick of the PIH Blood Donor Center. "Due to the success of the Rio Hondo drives we continue to meet our community's needs and save lives. The whole Presbyterian staff would like to thank Rio Hondo for your continued support."



Board Meeting

The Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees held its regular monthly meeting March 10 on the College campus.

Board of Trustees President Angela Acosta-Salazar provided a commendation to the Men and Women's 2010 Basketball Teams for their commitment to community service by recently hosting a Basketball Clinic at the Whittier Boys and Girls Club. Athletic Director Rory Natividad and the head coaches of both teams were also present to accept the commendation.



Institutional Research and Planning Dean Howard Kummerman made a presentation to the Board of Trustees regarding the Accreditation Survey process and findings at the College. Dean Kummerman provided a PowerPoint presentation to highlight the information.



Professor of Architectural and Engineering Design Drawing Jay Sunyogh gave a presentation to the Board of Trustees regarding his Sabbatical Leave Report. He included information on Building Information Modeling (BIM) Technology and shared success stories of Rio Hondo College alumni from the program who are now working in their chosen fields.



Board of Trustees President Angela Acosta-Salazar also recognized Rio Hondo College's newly tenured faculty. She requested all tenured faculty to stand and then gave them each a certificate for their hard work and dedication to the College. Those honored included: Mike Javanmard Social Science Cynthia Lewis Arts & Cultural Katherine Lopez Health Science Juana Mora Social Science Jill Pfeiffer Social Science Matt Pitassi Mathematics Ron Reeder Arts & Cultural Lorraine Sfeir Communications & Language

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Rio Hondo College Foundation Annual Gala A Success

Hooray for Hollywood, the Rio Hondo College Foundation's Third Annual President's Gala, was held March 13. Celebrating excellence in arts education, the event honored venerated actor and local East Los Angeles native, Edward James Olmos.

Highlights of the evening included student performances in a variety show that simulated the Academy Awards, a student video covering jobs and job training in the arts, "Fund a Need" requests from specific areas within the visual and performing arts and a silent auction that featured prizes such as air travel, hotel stay and other wonderful packages.



In addition to celebrating the arts, the Gala honored actor Edward James Olmos with the President's Award. Olmos has been featured in such films and television series as Stand and Deliver, Wolfen, Blade Runner, Miami Vice, American Family and Battlestar Galactica. Olmos has also received the Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Award, the Theatre World Award and was nominated for a Tony Award for his role in the 1978 play, Zoot Suit. Olmos can also be seen in the upcoming film, The Green Hornet. Olmos is an alumnus of Montebello High School and attended East Los Angeles College and Cal State Los Angeles in the mid 1960's.

"Mr. Olmos is not only a distinguished and well recognized actor, but he is also a native of the East Los Angeles Area," said Ted Martinez, Jr. Throughout his career, he has worked to give back to his community, which is something we at Rio Hondo College, value. It is important to honor him, not only for his accomplishments, but for the success he represents to our own students and for the great example he serves."

The Foundation, which secures alternative funding through contributions from individuals, corporations, foundations and non-profits, is geared toward aiding its growing student population by providing scholarships, programs, equipment, and projects with the funds raised. Last year alone the Foundation was able to provide \$150,000 in scholarships to deserving students. Money raised by the Foundation has also gone to program support and to special projects such as the Regional Health Occupation Center.

The Rio Hondo College Foundation's Gala was truly an evening of fun and success.



More than 700 local high school seniors attend Rio Hondo College Shines with 'Rio Pride'

Black and gold was in no short supply when Rio Hondo College employees and students celebrated Rio Pride & Senior Preview Day Thursday, March 18. Students, employees and faculty wore college colors and Rio Hondo apparel. High school seniors and other prospective students were given the opportunity to check out all that Rio Hondo has to offer, including a college transfer fair, program fair and open house.

The day-long event, which replaced a series of high school information days held in the past, was attended by approximately 700 high school seniors.

Student feedback from the event was positive. Dean of Counseling & Student Development, Dr. Walter C. Jones overheard a student describe Rio Hondo College to another student by saying, "This school is the best!"



Board Meeting

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Shelly Spencer Biology
Irma Valdivia..... Social Science
Colin Young..... Social Science



Commencement is Coming! Please Don't Forget...

Those who will be marching (faculty or staff) in the processional must order their regalia by the April 9th deadline.



Dr. Seuss Day Story Time Held at Rio Hondo College

In celebration of Dr. Seuss' Birthday, *Children's Story Time @ Rio Hondo College: A Campus Collaboration* hosted a special Dr. Seuss Day Story Time for Child Development Center children and Child Development Department students in early March at the Rio Hondo College Library. Organized by adjunct Librarian Monique Delatte, the special story time included readings of the books *Horton Hears a Who!* and *Happy Birthday, Dr. Seuss!* Children also received *Cat in the Hat*-inspired construction paper hats.



"This as an opportunity to introduce child development students to storytelling, which is a skill that they will practice in the field," said Delatte. "This special story time event served not only as a fun and entertaining day for the

AccessRIO Update – Continued



Last month, we reported on plans and timelines for the development of the AccessRIO Portal. This month, we continue the story with information on other components which will follow in this project phase: DegreeWorks and Workflow.

How will DegreeWorks work?

DegreeWorks is a web-based advising tool and is an "accessory" to the new AccessRIO Student System. It stores the requirements needed to complete any educational objective (degree, certificate of completion, completion of GE or Transfer Requirements) and compares those requirements to the student's academic record. It shows what requirements have been satisfied and how and also shows what requirements are yet to be met (called an audit). Through the AccessRIO Portal, students can track their own progress.

There are four functions of DegreeWorks:

- Self-advising or advising planned with a counselor
- Educational Planning, where requirements to be met are scheduled in sequence by term/semester
- "What-if" scenarios, where a student or counselor can map new requirements in the case where the student is contemplating a change of major.
- Curriculum and faculty staffing planning, where, based on the results of degree audits stored in DegreeWorks, academic planning can occur several semesters or years into the future based on the anticipated demand found in those audits.

What is "Workflow" and what does it mean to Rio Hondo?

Workflow is a sophisticated software tool which automatically routes information and tasks to the "In Box" of selected users of systems. The principle of Workflow is not unique to higher education and can be found in most large and complicated organizations where business processes requiring rapid decision making and communications are essential. In its simplest form, Workflow is based on action and reaction and can best be understood by example:

In the case of Rio Hondo, assume that a certain class needs to be moved from a room that is too small to a more suitable room. A department secretary looks

for an available room in AccessRIO and changes the location of the class on the computer screen to the new room. Workflow has been programmed to recognize such changes and immediately creates and sends an e-mail or text messages to the instructor of the class as well as all the students currently enrolled. This same action/reaction relationship can be applied to hundreds of purposes in all areas of the college, whether it be hiring a new faculty member, or getting an approval on a document from a manager, etc.

It is expected that some workflows will be implemented in time for the Fall term of 2010, but the tool will continue to be used as the demand for rapid and accurate distribution of information and work arises.

When will DegreeWorks become available?

There will be a phased implementation of DegreeWorks with counselors being trained on its use first. It is anticipated that live test runs will occur this coming summer with availability for the counselors in late August or early September.

Will there be other phases to the AccessRIO Project?

Yes. Phase Three will consist of the implementation of peripheral systems that will integrate with AccessRIO. Among those systems will be:

- Integration with Assessment/Placement exam results
- On-line appointment scheduling and follow-up with counselors and advisors, and faculty members
- Automated Curriculum Planning
- Updated AccessRIO timeline graphic here
- A poster-size version of this timeline can be found on display in the Board Room.



Rio Hondo Honors Students Participate in Honors Transfer Council

Four Rio Hondo College Honors students recently attended the Honors Transfer Council of California's (HTCC) Annual Student Research Conference March 20. Held at the University of California, Irvine, the Conference was attended by more than 600 people and had presentations from more than 300 community college students.

Accompanied by RHC Honors Program Coordinator Rebecca Green, the four Rio Hondo Honors students in attendance presented their research to the Conference. Two of these students, Anthony Velasquez and Reina Ferrufino, also received the HTCC Exemplary Achievement Award for Excellence at the Conference. This honor included a scholarship for each of the students.

Congratulations to Anthony Velasquez, Reina Ferrufino and the entire Rio Hondo Honors Program for these excellent achievements!

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Dr. Seuss Day

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children of our Child Development Center, but as an educational opportunity for our CDD students as well."

A collaboration between the Rio Hondo College Foundation, the Rio Hondo College Library, the Child Development Department and the Child Development Center/Lab School, *Children's Story Time @ Rio Hondo College: A Campus Collaboration* teaches students how to identify and utilize the children's learning resources provided by the Rio Hondo College Library.

Funded by a series of grants and donations, the program was most recently given a \$3,000 grant from Target. "The Target grant provides an opportunity for the library to enhance our story-telling collection for both students and parents," said Library Dean Kats Gustafson. "In a challenging economy, grants are permitting new opportunities for collection growth, the addition of new technologies, and the development of new tutorials for student users."

Since 2007, the Rio Hondo College Library has received five grants totaling more than \$42,000.

Survey Distributed for South Whittier's Family Recreation Center

In order to plan for the classes and services to be offered at the new College Education Center in South Whittier, surveys are being circulated to a variety of audiences.

Eighth-grade students from South Whittier School District, Little Lake City School



District, Whittier Union High School District and Los Nietos School District completed the feedback surveys and more than 10,000 postcards will be mailed to their homes to gather their parents' feedback on what the center should offer the community.

Survey results will help Rio Hondo College know – for both the short and long-term – what area residents would like offered in their communities.

Henry Gee Wins NASPA National Community College Award

Rio Hondo College Vice President of Student Services, Henry Gee, was named the recipient of the inaugural 2010 National Community College award by National Association of Student Personnel Administrators, or NASPA. Gee was honored at the NASPA Community College Reception on March 8 in Chicago. Divided into seven regions across the nation, NASPA annually honors student personnel administrators across various categories. In the first year of the community college category, Gee was nominated for, and awarded, the Region 6 Community College Award. As a regional award winner, Gee was automatically considered for the National Award. After careful consideration by fellow NASPA members, weighing candidates' contributions to student relations and work in student affairs, Gee was selected to receive the inaugural national honor.

"I was, and still am, surprised to win this award, especially since this is the inaugural award year," said Gee. "I am very honored to be selected for this award and am proud to represent Rio Hondo at the same time."



Rio Hondo College Kicks Off Free Program to Help Local Businesses Become 'Greener' and Comply with Regulations

As part of its priority to build local partnerships within its service area, Rio Hondo College kicked off its GREEN PROGRAM (Giving Rio Hondo Environmental Education to our Neighbors) in the City of Whittier, South Whittier and Los Nietos and adjacent communities on March 8.

The GREEN PROGRAM includes a series of five free workshops to local businesses. The first workshop, "Environmental Health and Safety Management," was held at the South Whittier Community Resource Center from 5 to 7 p.m.

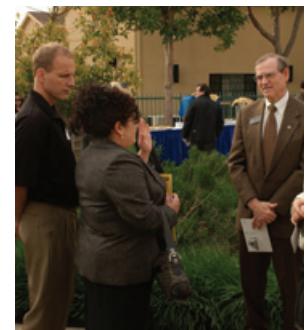
Organized by Rio Hondo College professors, students and graduates of the Environmental Science Program, the GREEN PROGRAM is designed to offer free educational workshops, seminars, "train the trainer" sessions, certifications and evaluations to participating businesses from the local community.



The GREEN PROGRAM's workshops can save a company hundreds of dollars in state required Training and Certifications, Environmental, Health and Safety Evaluations, Energy Use and Waste Disposal Costs, and Federal, State, and Regional Non-Compliance Fees. In addition, local businesses that complete the GREEN PROGRAM workshops will receive College certificates to post for clients and regulatory agencies to see. Participants completing the entire series will also receive a program certificate from the College.

This GREEN PROGRAM is funded by the Small Business Administration with an appropriations grant secured by Congresswoman Linda Sanchez of the 39th District. Congresswoman Sanchez attended the GREEN PROGRAM's kick-off event.

For more information about the GREEN PROGRAM or to find out more about an upcoming workshop, please call (562) 463-7501.



Rio Hondo College Director Appointed to Whittier Union High School District Board

Rio Hondo's own Russell Castaneda-Calleros was appointed a new member of the Whittier Union High School District's Board of Trustees and took his oath of office on March 9.



Castaneda-Calleros, a 30-year resident of Whittier, is the Director of Government and Community Relations at Rio Hondo College. He also sits on the board of the Whittier Chamber of Commerce. He has his bachelor's of arts from Stanford University and his master's in public policy from John E. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

"It was my turn to give back," said Castaneda-Calleros. "I am a product of the Whittier Union High School District, and I had a wonderful experience. So when this opportunity became known to me, I reflected on what I could offer. And it occurred to me that it was the right time to do this because I have a lot to offer with my experience and relationships and history in the community as well as the passion I have for students."

Congratulations to Russell Castaneda-Calleros on his recent induction to the Whittier Union High School District Board of Trustees.

Arts & Cultural Programs Hosts Animation Festival

The Rio Hondo College Division of Arts & Cultural Programs hosted its first-ever Animation Festival in early March in the Wray Theatre. Curated by Lissa Sherman, the special program of short subjects and features presented an intriguing collection of animated works.

The Festival, which was free and open to the public, featured various pieces and boasted the experimental spirit, drive and vision required when using computer-animation. The event also featured a candid Q&A session with participating artists involved in the Festival.

Business Division Hosts Annual Career Success Conference

The Rio Hondo College Business Division hosted its Bi-Annual Career Success Conference March 12. The conference, which was themed, "How to Succeed in Your Career During Troubling Times," gave students advice on what it takes to be successful in the today's business climate. Subjects covered included Business Management, International Business, Logistics, Small Business Entrepreneurship, Computer Information Technology, IT Project Management, Transferring as a Business Student, Careers in Accounting and much more.

College Holds Third Leadership Planning Retreat

Campus leadership teams met March 19 in a Planning Retreat, to review institutional goals and objectives, program review recommendations, area plan strategic directions and area plan goals, as well as to review recommendations of the Resource Allocation Committees. Institutional Effectiveness is dependent upon the efficacy of our planning process, as is our continuing good standing with the Accrediting Commission.

Retreat described as 'organized' and 'helpful' by attendees

