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## President's Message



*Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.*

We have so much progress to report this month!

Everyone will soon be aware that we have reached a new phase in construction progress. Upon our return from Spring Break, the brand new Lower Quad will be open for events and pedestrian travel across lower campus. At the same time, our familiar routes traversing the old Upper Quad will be closed off in order to give construction workers and their heavy equipment room to safely proceed with reconstruction there. Construction continues on our central campus showpieces, the new Student Services Building and the Student Union, as well as the PE Complex and the Public Safety Building.

I am so proud of our students and the advocacy work they do in Sacramento and Washington, D.C. They recently completed visits to both locations to let our lawmakers know about their needs, passion for and belief in our community colleges. Special kudos and thanks to Cynthia Morales and Vanessa Chavez of our Educational Partnerships office for volunteering to serve as official escorts for our students on the bus trip to Sacramento. Without their assistance, our students would not have been able to participate.

Congratulations to our newly-tenured faculty, who were approved and recognized by the Board of Trustees this month. Tenure is an important career milestone, which we applaud and celebrate.

Recruiting is underway for candidates for the next Leadership Academy cohort. This past year, 16 individuals have participated in an inaugural program, which has been vigorous and comprehensive. We look forward to a new pool of employees from all stakeholder groups who are prepared to step into leadership roles in our participatory governance processes. Please consider applying for the 2011-2012 Leadership Academy.

We appreciate the opportunity to resume offering our Police Academy Basic Program in the modular format, and look forward to our continued cooperation with the California Commission on Peace Officers Standards and Training (POST) in that regard. There will be information on the Public Safety Division website as details are set.

Finally, our 48th Annual Commencement Ceremony approaches on May 26. Please remember to order your regalia through the Bookstore if you plan to participate. The deadline is April 9.

Enjoy a safe and relaxing Spring Break!

## Transfer Fair Informs Students of Options



## Board Meeting

The Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees held its regular monthly meeting March 9 on the College campus.

Dean of Counseling & Student Development, Dr. Walter Jones provided an update on Assessment. He shared information on the enrollment process and the role Assessment has in helping students get placed into the classes that best fit their needs. Joining him were two full-time testing technicians, Eva Menchaca and Odila Salmeron, who highlighted how the Assessment Office, now located in the Learning Resource Center, has 40 computers available for assessment testing and how nearly 18,000 students tested last year in English, Reading and Math.



## Newly-Tenured Faculty Recognized

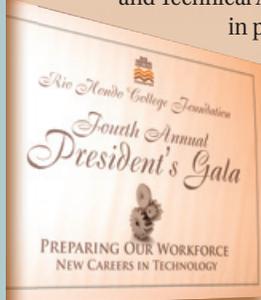
Board of Trustees Vice President, Norma Garcia recognized Rio Hondo College's newly tenured faculty, each of whom were presented with a certificate in recognition of this important career milestone. Those honored included:

- **Lisette Acevedo**  
Communications and Language
- **Sharon Bell**  
Communications and Language
- **John Bennett**  
Public Safety (*not pictured below*)
- **Alyson Cartagena**  
Physical Education
- **Michael Dighera**  
Career Technical Education
- **Kelli Florman**  
Public Safety
- **Margaret Griffith**  
Arts and Cultural Programs
- **Patti Luna**  
Health Science and Nursing
- **Kevin Smith**  
Behavioral and Social Sciences
- **Bianca Urquidi**  
Physical Education



## Foundation Annual Gala A Success

*Preparing Our Workforce*, the Rio Hondo College Foundation's Fourth Annual President's Gala, was held March 12. Celebrating new careers in technology, the evening showcased project demonstrations by Career and Technical Automotive and Environmental Technology students, including a live 'show' of the latest in protective clothing and gear.



The evening honored Thomas Jay Lazear, President and CEO of Archway Systems, Inc., with the President's Award for his leadership and vision, and contributions to CAD systems development and instruction over a 30-year timespan. New Division Awards were also presented to the Sanitation Districts of Los Angeles County, and American Honda Motor Corporation, Inc.

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 \$160,000 in scholarships to deserving students.

The Rio Hondo College Foundation's Gala was truly an evening of successful fund raising, including the program-specific 'Fund-a-Need' auction to help support students in the divisions of Career and Technical Education and Math and Science.



## Division of Arts & Cultural Programs Presents April Event Schedule

The Rio Hondo College Division of Arts & Cultural Programs presents unique events each month in the fields of art, music, theatre and more. The month of April will offer some exciting opportunities for Rio Hondo students and neighbors to partake in the festivities. All events are FREE to the public.

### FAMILY EVENT

#### April 16

- **Outdoor Cinema Food Fest**  
*Hollywood Outdoor Movies And TLR PR Lifestyle Marketing and Events*  
Soccer Field  
5 pm – 10 pm

It's the ultimate picnic - no basket required! Come see *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* on the LARGEST outdoor movie screen on the west coast, standing three stories tall and 52 feet wide combined with food truck super stars, as well as some of the newest food trucks. Raffles, door prizes, and fun for the whole family! Please join us for this exciting event dedicated to creating and nurturing a community of entertainment and food enthusiasts in Los Angeles.

(Check the website, <http://www.rio-hondo.edu/arts/culturalevents.html> to download your FREE ticket)

### THEATRE

#### April 21 – 24

- **The Good Doctor**  
*by Neil Simon*  
Wray Theatre  
8 p.m., Thursday, Friday & Saturday  
2 p.m., Sunday matinee

A comedy that combines the wit of Neil Simon with the farce of Anton Chekhov to create a Russian-American evening of hilarity!

#### April 27– 28

- **Writes of Spring**  
Wray Theatre  
8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Two days of poetry, film, readings and surprise guests as the Communications Department sponsors this annual literary festival.

continued on next page.

## New Health Science & Nursing Simulation Center Celebrated

Nursing students and others in health occupations now have the opportunity to train (or update their training) in a new Rio Hondo College state-of-the-art Simulation Center, which offers students hands-on, interaction with computer-driven human patient simulators. The College, along with the Rio Hondo College Foundation, held an Open House for the Center March 22, inviting guests to see firsthand the benefits of this teaching technology.

Computer-driven human patient simulators allow students to simulate the same pathophysiology that may be observed when working with a human patient during clinical situations. The new Center houses two adult human patient simulators, one pediatric simulator and one infant simulator. One of the adult simulators is considered "high fidelity", which means its eyes can blink and dilate, its chest rises and falls to demonstrate normal/abnormal breathing sounds, it allows for pulse readings and much more. The other simulators are considered "low fidelity," which allows students to review their vital signs, such as listening to heart and lung sounds.



A relatively new teaching strategy, human patient simulation, allows learners to develop, refine and apply knowledge and skills in realistic clinical environments – participating in interactive care-giving scenarios in a safe and supervised setting, without posing risk to patient lives.

"Our nursing program is among the top in the State," said Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent/President of Rio Hondo College. "In order to continue challenging our students and best preparing them for their future, we must continue to provide them with emerging technology and learning environments so that when they do enter the nursing world, they are both confident and capable to meet the challenges. We look forward to serving as a resource for regional training needs, eventually with a full-fledged Regional Health Occupational Training Center."

Much of the equipment in the Center, including hospital beds and lifts, was contributed through the Rio Hondo College Foundation by Rio Hondo College partners in health education. Major donors include Kaiser Permanente Tri Central Area, Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital, and Downey Regional Medical Center.



## Women's History Conference Engages High School Students

To celebrate Women's History Month, Rio Hondo College, the Whittier Union High School District and Soroptimists International of Whittier hosted the 16th annual Women's History Month conference, which included hundreds of high school girls to the campus.

The event was designed to empower young women by offering them a series of workshop sessions to attend that provided them with information on health, hobbies, self-defense and much more. This year's keynote speaker was Attorney Irma Rodriguez Moisa, who told the girls that there are three things all of them should do: Challenge their minds, take care of their bodies and feed their souls by surrounding themselves with positive things and good people.

"It's one of my favorite days of the year," said organizer Student Activities Director, Cathy Butler. "We work with a wonderful group of women to put this on."



## APRIL EVENT SCHEDULE

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### DANCE

#### April 25–29

- **National Dance Week**  
G-301 (dance studio)  
1 p.m.

Join the RHC Dance Collective for a weeklong celebration of dance. Explore dances from around the world in these free master classes.



Check the website, <http://www.rio-hondo.edu/arts/culturalevents.html> for further workshop details.

### ART

#### Through April 28

- **Kelly McLane and Jared Pankin – Artists in Residence**  
RHC Art Gallery\*

McLane and Pankin are local artists, who have lived and worked in Southern California for the last 20 years. McLane is primarily known for her drawings and paintings of surreal images and fictitious landscapes. Pankin is a sculptor whose work references the art of Bonsai.

## FACILITIES UPDATE:

# The Quads Take Turns, Birds Have New Home

Next time you drive onto the Rio Hondo College campus, take a look at the Birds of Paradise that now beautify the center divider on College Drive. Those plants were transplanted from the upper quad as part of college efforts to save the heartiest of the plants that have become a signature element to the 'old' quad. Arborists assisted in the identification and transplanting of the 'birds' to their new location. New landscaping is planned for the reconstruction of the 'new' quad.

In the same time, the upper quad will be closed for renovation. A campus construction forum was held on March 24 to inform everyone about changes in pedestrian routes. Fencing was installed March 25 around the area, which means the courtyard is no longer available for access during the construction period. The upper quad is scheduled for completion in August.



## College Given Green Light to Offer Police Academy Basic Course Fall 2011

The California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) authorized Rio Hondo College to resume presentation of the Police Academy 664-Hour Basic Course effective with the fall semester. The College received notification of the authorization during a POST meeting in Sacramento March 15.

POST officials met with Rio Hondo College President, Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D. and key administrators to discuss the status of the Rio Hondo College Police Academy. Scott Pickwith, the president of the Los Angeles County Police Chiefs' Association, also attended the meeting.

The POST action is not 'recertification' of the Rio Hondo College Police Academy, however, but limited authorization to offer the Basic Course. Police Academy programs were suspended by POST in October, 2010, following an investigation into breach of test security.

Information regarding the exact start date for the next Basic Academy class will be posted on the Public Safety Division Website, which will also include information regarding the process for enrolling.

POST announced special conditions affecting the status of the Rio Hondo College Police Academy:

1. The Police Academy will begin a one-year probationary status, during which time POST will make site visits, review academy performance, test security, and other required elements (staffing, curriculum, policies, procedures, etc.)
2. The Basic Course will be offered in three modules during an 11-month program. POST will review Academy performance during and after each module, before approving commencement of the next sequential module.
3. POST requires that Rio Hondo College seek input from the Los Angeles County Police Chiefs' Association Advisory Committee.
4. Rio Hondo College will conduct a POST proscribed 'self assessment' for the purposes of assisting in the eventual recertification of the Regular Basic Course.
5. Rio Hondo College will recruit and hire a Police Academy Director, Coordinators, and instructors who meet POST criteria.

The College began the recruitment process for a Police Academy Director during the week of March 21.