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President's Message



Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

March was an exceptionally busy and productive month. Kudos to Student Services staff for hosting a fine array of events in recognition of Women's History Month and for Senior Preview Day; to members of our instructional staff for participating in the "Programs Fair" showcase for Senior Preview Day; to the Transfer Center for organizing yet another well-attended Transfer Fair Event; and to the Child Development Center for hosting a nice event to inaugurate the new playground there. Our Child Development Center "constituents" performed an energetic rendition of "Mr. Sun."

We even managed to work in Spring Break! I hope everyone had time to enjoy your families and to enjoy the spring weather.

We are now on the fast track to the end of the academic year. Commencement is just eight weeks away – May 24!

In the meantime, we have upcoming events to keep us focused:

- Three Community Forums (see story in this issue of UPDATE);
- "A Taste of Rio" Foundation event April 20;
- End-of-Year Celebrations for Student Success and Outstanding Students;
- Deadline for students to petition for graduation is April 6.

I am pleased with our plan to move to Designated Smoking Areas. Please see the story in this issue of UPDATE for details as to the locations of the five new designated smoking areas. Our student leadership and others have been requesting a change for some time now, especially by those who are affected by second-hand smoke and by smokers who have not always observed the "20-foot" rule. This is an opportunity to help improve our air quality, but we need everyone's cooperation to help make it work!

Please plan to join us April 20 for a fun, festive evening of delicious food, beverage tasting, silent auction, and more in the Rio Café and middle quad. We will also rededicate the bas relief image of the late Dr. Phil Putnam, the first Rio Hondo College president and the person for whom the former Putnam Student Center was named.



Rio Hondo College Foundation Celebrating 20 Years Presents

A TASTE OF RIO

Friday, April 20, 6 p.m.
Student Union Rio Café
3600 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, 90601

This special event will showcase fine wine and local restaurant cuisine as we enjoy the ambience of our new campus and kick off the College's 50th Anniversary Celebration. The festive evening will also include entertainment, an auction and drawings, and the dedication of Putnam Plaza.

\$75 per person (must be 21 years of age). Tickets can be purchased online at www.riohondo.edu/foundation. Please respond by April 13.

Learn more about Sponsorship Opportunities by visiting www.riohondo.edu/foundation or calling Kerry Franco at 562-908-3476.

Serves Students ~ Supports College Programs ~ Makes a Critical Difference ~ Enables Student Success

Board of Trustees

Kerry Franco, executive director of the Rio Hondo College Foundation, presented an update regarding the Foundation. Franco stated that the Foundation's primary goal is to raise scholarship money and manage grants and scholarships. In the 2011/12 school year the Foundation provided \$60,000 in scholarships to 67 students, an amount lower than in previous years due to the downturn economy. Franco said the Foundation is currently seeking ways to secure unrestricted funds so that it can continue to operate the Foundation and increase its fundraising efforts. Neal Welland, president of the Foundation's Board of Directors, and Rich Casford, past president were also present.

The Foundation is hosting "A Taste of Rio" Food and Wine Tasting on Friday, April 20, to benefit students of Rio Hondo College.

Faculty Receive Academic Tenure

Fifteen Rio Hondo College faculty members received tenure for the 2012-2013 academic year. Educators honored for this milestone were recognized at the March Board of Trustees meeting.



Brian Brutlag, Behavioral and Social Sciences

Scott Dixon, Behavioral and Social Sciences

Shelly Ferrari, Health Sciences and Nursing

Lydia Gonzales, Mathematics

Sergio Guzman, Counseling & Student Development

Jorge Huinquez, Counseling & Student Development

David Lindy, Career Technical Education

Kelly Lynch, Behavioral and Social Sciences

Ann Mansolino, Arts and Cultural Programs

Krysia Mayer, Mathematics

Robert Miller, Arts and Cultural Programs

Daniel Osman, Communications and Languages

Dorali Pichardo Diaz, Counseling & Student Development

Jerónimo Ribaya, Math and Sciences

Jennifer Tanaka-Hoshijo, Physical Education

Community Forums Begin



Trustees are welcoming community members in their respective areas to garner community input to help guide the future direction of the College. The first two, in a series of five, were held March 14 at Whittier High School (Trustee Angela Acosta-Salazar), and March 22 at El Monte High School (Trustee Norma Edith Garcia.) Both forums drew a strong showing of community members who came to learn more about Rio Hondo College from officials and trustees. The program included structured activities designed to solicit feedback from the community participants.

Participants provided input in two ways: they first considered a list of focus areas identified by the statewide Student Success Task Force, and marked which were most important to them in a type of 'Delphi' exercise. Examples of focus areas include: registration priority for new high school graduates; increasing collaboration between local school districts and RHC; continuing to offer lifelong learning courses in the community; and offering basic skills and remediation to help students become college ready.

Attendees also gathered in small discussion groups and gave their specific feedback by way of a survey prepared by Institutional Research and Planning. Participants have the choice to attend discussion groups led in either English or Spanish. Surveys were also available in both languages, and translation services were available for the general presentations.

Refreshments and prizes are underwritten by the campus Follett Bookstore.

The upcoming community forums are:

April 12:

**El Rancho High School, Cafeteria
6501 S. Passons Blvd.
Pico Rivera, CA 90660
Trustee Area 2 (Vicky Santana)**

April 19:

**Santa Fe High School, South Gym
10400 S. Orr and Day Rd.
Santa Fe Springs, CA 90670
Trustee Area 4 (Gary Mendez)**

TBA:

Trustee Area 5 (Madeline Shapiro)



Leadership Academy Cohort Team Creates Online Social Services Resource Center

When participants in the 2010-2011 RHC Leadership Academy were considering a College Improvement Project, they took stock of what campus need they could address. The Leadership Academy was developed to enhance the College staff's leadership skills; a requirement of the intensive professional development is for participants to create a project that would benefit the school community in some way.

The participants decided to find a way to connect students and employees in need with social services in the community. While an on-site community resource center is the long-range goal, RioSource is the first step on that journey, a web site that provides information about social service resources to help meet personal and family needs for students as well as for faculty and staff.

By logging onto Access Rio (click Quick Links and Social Services) or by visiting <http://riosource.org> one can find 14 community social service resources to help to address issues involving child care, employment, homelessness, legal aid, and other personal topics.

C.A.R.E. Spring Workshop Teams Rio Hondo College with Citrus College

On March 24 children of Rio Hondo College C.A.R.E students enjoyed craft activities and an Easter egg hunt while their parents were treated to either a haircut or manicure by Citrus College Cosmetology students. The Rio Hondo College E.O.P.S./C.A.R.E program along with Parents in College Club hosted the Spring C.A.R.E workshop for about 100 students and their children.

This is the first such joint venture between Rio Hondo College's E.O.P.S. / C.A.R.E and Citrus College Cosmetology Program.

E.O.P. & S (Extended Opportunity Program & Services) and C.A.R.E (Cooperative Agencies Resources) is a comprehensive program committed to providing compassionate and innovative services to students facing economic and educational challenges so that students can fulfill their highest educational potential.

Students Honored with Phi Theta Kappa Awards



Rio Hondo College Honors Program scholar Min Liang was one of two Rio Hondo College students honored in Sacramento March 7 at the Phi

Theta Kappa All-California awards. Liang received the Phi Theta Kappa "All California First Team" award and Rio Hondo student Cristal Rosales was selected for the "All California Second Team" award. Phi Theta Kappa, an international honorary society for two-year colleges, aims to recognize and encourage scholarship among two-year college students. Interim Vice President JoAnna Downey accompanied Liang to the awards presentation in Sacramento.

In Memoriam

Edward Gonzalez

Instructor

Architectural & Civil Drafting

Rio Hondo College

1999-2012

Women's History Month Celebration

Each year the College celebrates Women's History Month. This year kicked off with a National Women's Day Celebration in the Quad. Activities throughout the month included Women's Empowerment Film Screenings with showings of *A League of their Own*, *The Joy Luck Club*, *Frida*, and *The Help*, and a Women's History Scavenger Hunt. More than 300 high school girls from the Whittier Union High School District were treated to a conference "Empowering Women – A World of Possibilities" which was jointly sponsored by the Soroptimist International of Whittier and Rio Hondo College. The Conference featured a keynote address by Hon. Margaret Miller Bernal, Los Angeles Superior Court, a recipient of the Judge of the Year Award from both the Whittier and Southeast Bar Association. Sessions included College Survival, Healthy Relationships, Self Defense, and other timely topics for young women.

The celebration culminated March 22 when Dr. Sumun Penkakur from USC presented the women's education and empowerment workshop "I am Woman; Hear Me Roar."



Transfer Fair and High School Programs Fair

On March 6 nearly 35 university representatives were on campus, giving students the chance to speak with them about transfer admission requirements, housing, financial aid, majors, and other relevant transfer topics. Participating schools included Azusa Pacific, Cal Poly Pomona, Cal State Dominguez Hills, Cal State Los Angeles, Chapman University, Charles R. Drew University of Medicine and Science, Laguna College of Art and Design, Loyola Marymount, University of Arizona, UCLA, and others.



On the same day Rio Hondo College welcomed more than 700 high school seniors from its 16 feeder high schools. The students attended presentations that highlighted the College's top four programs: Transfer Center, Public Safety, Nursing, and Career Tech Education. The high school students also toured a programs fair where they learned about programs such as CalWORKs, Career Center, Disabled Students Programs & Services, Extended Opportunity Program and Services, MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science, Academics), Fire Academy, Summer Bridge and others.



The Transfer Fair was coordinated by the College's Transfer Center, which offers numerous workshops each semester to aid students in their college and university transfer process.



Providing Higher Education Resources for Youth in Foster Care

On March 15 the Foster/Kinship Care Education Program, in collaboration with Cerritos College, hosted an educational institute entitled "Pathways to Independence" to provide options and resources to caregivers for transitioning aged youth in their care.

More than 60 foster parents, caregivers, youth, county social workers, and community organizations gathered at the Uptown Whittier Radisson Hotel to learn about new laws and programs that support foster youth in transitioning into adulthood and accessing higher education. Workshop topics included: "Understanding the Adolescent Brain," "Financial Aid Resources" and more.

Second Annual Forensics Showcase



Hollywood casting director Paul Weber was a special guest speaker at the Second Annual Forensics Showcase Tuesday, March 6 in the Wray Theater. Weber shared his Hollywood experiences and provided critical feedback for students who will attend the national Forensics Speech and Debate tournament in April. Weber is a respected casting director who has worked with actors Johnny Depp, Reese Witherspoon, Ryan Reynolds, and Dakota Fanning among many others.

Rio Hondo College's award-winning Forensics Speech and Debate Team trains and encourages its members to excel in public speaking skills while instilling confidence. The Communications and Languages Division is home to the program, which is coordinated by Instructors Libby Curiel and Steve Ford.



Child Development Center Debuts New Playground

Preschoolers at the Child Development Center were on hand to help celebrate the opening of their new Playground with a ribbon cutting ceremony on March 22. President Ted Martinez Jr. presided over the event that included remarks from Dr. Sondra Moe, Child Development and Education Coordinator of the Pre-school Laboratory, and Rebecca Green, Dean of Behavioral & Social Science. Children from the Child Development Center entertained guests by singing "Mr. Sun" and by assisting with the ribbon cutting, chanting 'cut it, cut it' in unison when the ribbon seemed nearly too tough for the 'magic' scissors.

The playground's four new areas are outfitted with custom play structures and swing sets. Features include a canopy with UV screening protection, a series of climbers, slides, and interactive activity panels geared to reinforce classroom learning and promote physical, mental, and social development.



With a combination of play areas total 3,674 square feet, the playground is designed with a recyclable synthetic turf safety surface to be low maintenance and earth-friendly.

The California Department of Education, Child Development Division, State Preschool Program, Repairs and Renovation, and Measure A Facilities Bond provided project funding.

Designated Smoking Areas in Effect April 2

In an effort to protect the Rio Hondo College community from unwelcome second-hand smoke, and to achieve a healthier campus environment for everyone, five new designated smoking areas have been established. They are clearly marked by signage and include tables and seating with trash cans and cigarette butt receptacles. Effective April 2, 2012, smoking on campus will be permitted only at the five designated smoking areas that are indicated on the map below.

