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Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

With mid-terms right around the corner, I am pleased to share with you the exciting things that have been happening on our campus. First, our Environmental Symposium was very successful and we were able to attract several experts from industry, agencies, and academia. Most of all, I was impressed with the number of Rio Hondo College students and faculty that joined us.

Second, the grand re-opening of the newly renovated Rio Hondo College Fire Academy Santa Fe Springs Regional Training Center was a great event that set the standard for future Measure A ribbon-cuttings and groundbreakings. Several of you were able to join us, but if you missed the event, the academy is open and I invite you to see the wonderful work that has been done there.

Third, we have recognized October as Disability Month with activities that have included events in the main quad and movies throughout the month. Fourth, there has been a wonderful offering of cultural events on the campus including a performance by Sandra Tsing Loh, the screening of Lourdes Portillo's documentary *Seniorita Extraviada*, and a performance of the *Unholy Three*.

Finally, I am hoping that you are all enjoying our new wireless access throughout the Rio Hondo College campus. I am very appreciative of the Board of Trustees, John Bryant and our IT staff for making this a reality.

Rio Hondo College is a wonderful place to get an education, and that is a direct reflection of the hard work and dedication of the students, faculty, staff, and administration. We are all here to serve our students, and we are doing an exemplary job and it shows. Congratulations.

Rio Hondo Goes Wireless

Rio Hondo College faculty, staff and especially students are excited about the new freedom of wireless internet. The College will soon celebrate in the upper quad with coffee and laptops available for students to try out the completed wireless system that now allows them to connect to the internet from anywhere on campus.



Wireless internet and other upgrades are some of the extensive renewal projects throughout the campus as a part of the *Building Access and Excellence* building program. That program includes upgrading the entire IT infrastructure.

After thoroughly evaluating their options, the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees voted in favor of purchasing the wireless solution proposed by Aloha Island Cable Corporation dba: Cablemasters at their August 15, 2007 meeting.

Implementing new technology and upgrading the College's current technologies is an integral part of the renewal of this campus. Beginning in 2005, the District's IT staff along with several consultants, started to evaluate wireless technologies for Rio Hondo College. The key component was a balance between quality and cost.

Students on the campus were hopeful that the wireless system would be up and running by the end of November. Having the system in place more than 30 days ahead of time has made the entire campus community grab their laptops to test it out.

BOARD REPORT

for the Board Meeting

October 22, 2007

The Board of Trustees was given presentations on the current status of the Student Services Department and the reorganization of that department. The Board also heard a report on the Environmental Symposium. The Board of Trustees took the following actions during their meeting:

Consultant Services: The Board of Trustees approved the Consultant Services of Kyle Tran to develop a Rio Hondo logistics website that will integrate with The Logistics Training Consortium of Southern California. The Board also approved Roxana Mejia to present workshops to Foster Kinship Caregivers on D-Rate Pre-Service topics and other foster care related topics.

Consultant Services – Parham & Rajcic: The Board of Trustees approved the consultant services of Parham & Rajcic to provide negotiation services with the College bargaining unit. Jackson Parham will continue to serve as the attorney to assist with RHCFA/ CTA negotiations.

Consultant Services – Community Needs Assessment: The Board of Trustees awarded a contract to Verches & Associates to provide a community needs assessment and report.

Services Agreement – California Early Childhood Mentor Program, San Francisco Community College District: The Board of Trustees approved the California Early Childhood Mentor Program Agreement with San Francisco Community College District.

Grants: The Board of Trustees approved the following grant funding. California Community College Chancellor's Office (sub-grant) – The California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) has awarded Rio Hondo College new sub-grant funding in the amount of \$50,000 for participation in the CBJT project through June 30, 2008.

Mt. SAC has awarded RHC new sub-grant funding in the amount of \$25,000 for participation in the IDRC Logistics Training Consortium (LTC) project through December 31, 2007.

Licensing Agreement & Hosting Services - Blackboard, Inc.: Virtual College of Rio Hondo College needed to migrate from the WebCT platform to the Blackboard



Rio Hondo College Men's Soccer

The Rio Hondo Men's Soccer Program is one of the finest programs in the Foothill Conference and Southern California. Orlando Brenes, Head Coach of Rio Hondo College Men's Soccer Team, has put together three Foothill Conference Championship Teams in a row. Rio Hondo has won the conference title in 2002, 2003, 2004, and 2005.

Not only has the team accomplished much and won multiple championships, there have also been the several accomplishments of individual athletes, including All-American selections and All Far West selections. Many of Rio Hondo's players have gone on to collegiate careers and professional careers.

Coach Orlando Brenes is hoping his team will become league champions in 2007. The Roadrunners are having a very strong season with 12 wins, 2 losses, 2 ties, and are on their way to competing for the Foothill Conference championship title.

Banner Update

At meetings held on June 20, 2007 and August 15, 2007, the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees approved sweeping upgrades of the College's technology infrastructure. The approved changes include a new Berbee Emergency Notification System, Management Information System (MIS), wireless access throughout the campus, and computer upgrades. All of these improvements are a part of the Campus Master Plan call for infrastructure improvements to see the College to and through the *Building Access and Excellence* building program.

The College now has begun work on the implementation phase of the MIS system which is called Banner. The Banner implementation project has been named ACCESS RIO after a campus-wide naming contest.

The college has hired a consultant to function as the College's MIS Project Manager. David Bell from Jack Raubolt Consultant Group started October 2007. He will lead the Banner MIS for the college and will head up the Banner implementation team. David will work directly with SunGard's project manager and coordinate their implementation activities with the college's team.

The Banner Implementation Group (BIG) has completed the installation and configuration of the Banner hardware on October 15, 2007. The hardware platform is Hewlett-Packard (HP) and consists of three large UNIX servers and eighteen (18) blade application servers with its own firewall and network security system. The Banner software is schedule to be installed on the various servers on November 1, 2007, e.g. Student, Human Resources, Financial Aid, Operational Data Store (ODS), and Web Portal. The Banner cut-over for the Student system is scheduled for Summer 2009.

The Board of Trustees has made it possible for the College to provide both innovative and convenient technological resources for our students. Our goal is to provide tools, resources, and support for our students in a quick and efficient manner, enabling them to focus on learning.



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platform for its online learning programs and the Board of Trustees approved a three year Licensing Agreement beginning November 1, 2007 with Blackboard, Inc.

Increase to Board Member Compensation:

The Board of Trustees did not approve a 5% increase to both individual board members and student trustee compensation.

Acceptance of Bid Substantially Completed

– #1105 Santa Fe Springs Landscape

Project: The Board of Trustees accepted as complete the work performed under Bid #1105 and authorized the filing of a Notice of Completion with the Los Angeles County Recorder.

Acceptance of Bid Substantially Completed

– Bid# 1106 Santa Fe Springs Wrought Iron Fence Project:

The Board of Trustees accepted as complete the work performed under Bid #1106 and authorize the filing of a Notice of Completion with the Los Angeles County Recorder.

Acceptance of Bid Substantially Completed

– Bid# 1121 Music Building Roof

Renovation: The Board of Trustees accepted as complete the work performed under Bid #1121 and authorized the filing of a Notice of Completion with the Los Angeles County Recorder.

Acceptance of Bid Substantially Completed

– Bid# 1126 Campus Wide Repair and Restoration of Interior Surfaces:

The Board of Trustees accepted as complete the work performed under Bid #1126 and authorized the filing of a Notice of Completion with the Los Angeles County Recorder.

Board Meetings Held in the Community:

The Board of Trustees approved holding their regular Board Meetings every other month within the following five communities: Pico Rivera, Whittier, South El Monte, El Monte, and South Whittier.

Approval of Board Goals:

The Board of Trustees reviewed their goals at a retreat held on September 8, 2007. After much discussion, the following goals have been agreed on for 2007-08.

- Support institutional research, review and implement benchmark performance indicators for academic success and student support services and understand the dynamics needed to improve performance.

Rio Hondo College Hosts Visitors From Soka Gakkai International

In the afternoon of October 17, Rio Hondo College Superintendent/President Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D and Dr. Manuel Baca met with Soka Gakkai International General Director, Mr. Yoshitaka Oba from Tokyo, to affirm the commitment of Rio Hondo College to education and helping students become well-rounded citizens. SGI President Dr. Daisaku Ikeda sent a message of appreciation to Dr. Martinez for all of his efforts in education and especially in the development of youth.

The Soka Gakkai International (Society for the Creation of Value) is a worldwide Buddhist Association based on the teachings and philosophy of Nichiren Buddhism with over 12 million members in more than 190 countries and territories. It is a grassroots movement of global citizens working for individual happiness and worldwide peace through culture and education.

On behalf of the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees, Dr. Martinez praised SGI President Dr. Daisaku Ikeda for his contributions to the field of education. "His day-to-day sincere effort to reach out to young people and educate them about the principles of nonviolence is admirable," he said. Dr. Martinez also noted proudly how Dr. Ikeda's philosophy of education is closely aligned with the mission of Rio Hondo College.

Dr. Martinez sent his congratulations to Dr. Ikeda on the 60th anniversary of leadership of SGI and extended an invitation for Dr. Daisaku and Mrs. Kaneko Ikeda to visit Rio Hondo College and see first-hand the innovative, challenging and quality education that it offers to its students and community.



Disability Month

Suzanne Frederickson and Ethel Battles have worked very hard to coordinate the 5th annual Disability Awareness Month at Rio Hondo College in October. The events of the month were designed to promote understanding of persons with disabilities, and featured a variety of activities.

The month began with the Disability Awareness Kickoff Reception on Monday October 1, 2007. On Wednesday, October 3, 2007, guest speaker Carmen Apelgren, the Community Relations Coordinator at the Braille Institute, spoke at the Upper Quad.



Members from Alpha Gamma Sigma

Four movies were shown throughout the month depicting various types of disabilities including: *The Family Stone* starring Diane Keaton, Sarah Jessica Parker and Claire Danes and features a deaf character, *Mighty* which depicts a physical disability and stars Kieran Culkin and Sharon Stone, *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*, which depicts various psychological disabilities and stars Jack Nicholson and Louise Fletcher, and *Wait Until Dark*, a scary thriller about a blind women which stars Audrey Hepburn and Richard Crenna.

On Thursday, October 11, 2007, the first round of Informational Jeopardy began. The game is similar to regular Jeopardy except that all of the questions are about disabilities. This year, eight campus clubs were competing for monetary prizes which will be given to the club of their choice. The elimination round of Informational Jeopardy was played on October 17. The final standings were: the French Club came in first and won \$200, the Honors Transfer Society came in second and won \$100, Alpha Gamma Sigma came in third and won \$50.

Shirley Oebel from the American Red Cross gave a presentation on emergency preparedness for disabled individuals on Thursday October 18th. There was also a presentation on campus emergency preparedness and what to do if there is an emergency at Rio Hondo College.

The month was very successful with students learning more about disabilities while enjoying themselves, which is when the greatest learning takes place.

- Understand enrollment demand for programs within the district and the related fiscal impact, ensure adequate marketing and promote student retention during construction.
- Ensure the Board's continuing adherence to, and review of the Board's performance of, Standard IV-B for the accreditation process.
- Create a multi-year strategic plan to achieve the college's vision, mission and values.
- Ensure diversity in contracts, programs and hiring through fair recruiting and procurement practices.
- Establish an ongoing evaluation mechanism for the college Superintendent/President.

The Board of Trustees approved the Board Goals for 2007-08.

New Board Policies 5000s, Student Services (First Reading): The Board of Trustees approved the revisions of Board Policies 5000s with the exclusion of BP 5430, Clubs/Regulations, for first reading.

Reinstatement of Position – Director of Marketing & Communications: The Board of Trustees approved the reinstatement of the position of Director of Marketing & Communications at Rio Hondo College.

The Board of Trustees Takes A Walking Tour of the New Construction

Superintendent/President Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D. and the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees met with Program Manager Steve Massetti and took a tour of the \$245 million *Building Access and Excellence* Building Program funded through Measure A. The program leverages funds from the State of California to fund the Priority One projects. Mr. Massetti spoke with the Board about the strategic plans that have been put into place to limit the disruptions caused by construction.



The Board began their tour with a walk-through of the maintenance building renovation. The renovation was necessitated by the Central Plant project, which is being built where the former maintenance shed stood. The renovation moves the maintenance area closer to the facilities offices and is near completion. The Board was able to get a feel for what the completed project might look like. They then looked at the Central Plant project that has been producing truck loads of dirt as workers remove it to create a safety wall against the hillside. The project itself is now in full swing.



The Board was able to see the beginnings of the infrastructure project, which isn't too much to look at now, but will completely upgrade Rio Hondo College's IT infrastructure as well as provide the newest cabling and telecommunications capacities.

Finally, they walked up to the second floor of the Business building to look down on the Learning Resource Center project, which now has concrete footings in place as well as the rebar which will be part of the exterior walls for the project.

All of the projects are beginning to take form and the Board of Trustees was pleased with the progress that is being made.

