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## President's Message



*Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.*

We know there is growing external interest in community college students and our collective potential to help them succeed and achieve their educational goals.

Our own Community College League of California (CCLC) just released a report detailing a 10-year plan developed by the Commission on the Future to address the large scale changes that will be necessary to meet the needs of our residents and our nation. I encourage you to visit the website, [www.cccvision2020.org](http://www.cccvision2020.org) to learn more about the plan and its recommendations.

Meanwhile, we have been at work finding new ways to increase student success and to add more associate degrees and certificates to our curriculum, thereby providing a wider array of opportunities for our students to complete their studies with us and earn an associate degree, even if they plan to transfer.

I am pleased to thank our faculty, and our Curriculum Committee Chair, Fran Cummings, for their work to bring four new associate degrees to the lineup of degrees approved by the Chancellor's Office, as well as three new certificates of achievement. These new degrees also help us meet our Institutional Objectives developed last spring in our planning retreat: The College will increase by 15 the number of A.A. and A.S. degrees offered by 2015. Our new degrees are: Biology, Mathematics, English & Literature, and Heavy Equipment Maintenance Specialist. New certificates of achievement approved by the Chancellor's Office are Alternative Energy Technology, International Business, and Heavy Equipment Maintenance Specialist.

In addition, there is one degree (Environmental Science) pending approval at the Chancellor's Office, as well as 12 new degrees and three certificates of achievement approved by the Board of Trustees which are in various stages of paperwork prior to submittal to the Chancellor's Office. Please join me in acknowledging the efforts by many to develop and process these new opportunities for our students. It appears we are going to meet, and exceed, our Institutional Objective 1.a. Congratulations!

Our unique national holiday, Thanksgiving, is a time to reflect on our bountiful lives and the opportunity we have for service. My thanks to everyone for your efforts to enrich the lives of our students and our community on a daily basis. Enjoy your family, and take the time to refresh as we head into the last few weeks of the semester.

## Student Chalk Art

The Art Guild Chalk Walk, a fund-raising effort for the Art Guild students, was available for viewing at the L Building breezeway this month. The students are raising funds for a museum trip to New York City on spring break.



## Board Meeting

The Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees held its regular monthly meeting Wednesday, November 10, 2010.

Journalism students received recognition for 13 awards presented at the recent Journalism Association of Community Colleges in Southern California (JACC) "On the Spot" competition. The students received awards in the following prestigious categories: editorial cartoon, photography, sports and creative review writing. El Paisano.com has been delivering the latest news to Rio Hondo students for four years and continues to grow reaching approximately 10,500 readers per month (an average of 3,000-4,000 weekly readers).



Journalism students with Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent/President, and Iliana Aurora Garcia, Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees, student member.

Rio Hondo's Performing Arts students shared highlights of their life-changing trip this past summer when they traveled to Scotland for The Edinburgh Fringe Festival, which is considered to be the world's largest arts festival. The students were part of the Edinburgh Theatre Group, and had the opportunity to perform two plays, "Miss Hanford Beauty Pageant" and "Battle of the Bands" as they competed for audience with approximately 2,000 other plays. The students enjoyed spectacular views and visited historical places in London, England and Edinburgh during their trip including Stratford-Upon-Avon and Warwick Castle.



Performing Arts students who traveled to Scotland for The Edinburgh Fringe Festival with Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent/President, and Angela Acosta-Salazar, President Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees.

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## College Holds Groundbreaking Ceremony for New Physical Education Complex

Rio Hondo College makes facilities progress with the campus building program. School officials, special guests and students came together on Nov. 9 to celebrate the official groundbreaking for the new Physical Education Complex.

The 41,600 square foot building, expected to be completed in 2012, is another State and local Measure "A" facilities funded-project, a voter approved campus renovation program.



Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent/President, with students enrolled in P.E. classes and athletic team captains during the groundbreaking ceremony for the new P.E. Complex.

The new Physical Education Complex is expected to dramatically transform and improve the existing P.E. facilities. The new building will include new men's and women's locker rooms, team rooms, equipment storage facilities, faculty offices, dance and aerobics studios, trainers facilities and new facilities for wrestling and weight training. The complex will also feature two new swimming pools that will accommodate the physical education instructional swimming program and intercollegiate competition, and will complement the renovated gymnasium.

"Today is a very important day for the Rio Hondo College family as well as our local community residents and partners," said Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees President, Angela Acosta-Salazar. "The construction of the new P.E. Complex has been a top priority for us because it will significantly benefit and improve the lives of students, faculty, staff and the local community."

The gymnasium and fitness center will remain open during the construction period and other temporary facilities will be provided to continue the P.E. curriculum and community access.

"The construction of this building and associated facilities is another important milestone in our ongoing efforts to update our campus. The new P.E. Complex will replace facilities that are nearly 50 years old, and will dramatically improve the quality of the learning environment," said Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent/President.



Rendering of the new P.E. Complex's south exterior.

## BOARD MEETING

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Howard Kummerman, Dean of Institutional Research and Planning and Dr. Kevin Smith, Psychology Instructor, who serve as co-chairs of the Institutional Effectiveness Committee, presented a summary of the 2010 Accountability Reporting for the California Community Colleges report (ARCC), a performance measuring system for California Community Colleges. Key highlights include:

The CCC system enrolls almost one-fourth of all 20-to 24-year olds in California; In 2008-2009, the system transferred approximately 100,000 students to four-year institutions (public, private, in-state, and out-of-state). The CSU system continues as the most frequent transfer destination for community college students.

The CCC system's contribution in 2008-2009 to the state's workforce included about 65,000 associate degrees and certificate in vocational/occupational areas.

Key highlights for Rio Hondo performance indicators included:

- Rio Hondo experienced a 5% increase in Student Progress and Achievement and a 2.5% increase in Students Who Earned at least 30 units at 71.3% from 2003-2004 to 2008-2009.
- Rio Hondo has achieved a consistently high Completion Rate for Vocational Education Courses at 85% in 2008-2009.

## Effective Institutional Planning Depends on Program Review

As a base element in the integrated planning process, Program Review is a periodic and ongoing in-depth look at each academic and service program's quality and performance.

It also provides an opportunity for a comprehensive campus-based review of program relevance, appropriateness, student learning outcomes or service area outcomes, currency of the curriculum and/or practices, and identification of future needs.

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## Performing Arts Students Bring Free Arts and Music Education to Local School Children

Rio Hondo's Performing Arts students have formed a touring troupe and will be performing for audiences at local elementary schools through the spring semester. Designed to bring arts and music education to young children, the activities are part of "The Project Eranos Presents Songscapes!" touring project.

The presentations, which consist of 30-45 minute performances featuring child-friendly pieces ranging from musical theatre, opera and classic theatre, have been a tremendous success among local school partners. The tour is currently booked at capacity for this semester, and the Performing Arts Department is currently booking performances for spring.

"The Project Eranos Presents Songscapes! touring program just began and the response from our local secondary schools has been overwhelmingly positive," said Angela Acosta-Salazar, President of the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees. "Rio Hondo College is committed to bringing arts education to our partner schools, especially during a time when arts and music curriculum has been dramatically reduced. We believe that Rio Hondo students benefit by sharing their talents with others, while our local school children benefit from participating in the world of theater and music."

Ted Martinez, Jr. Ph.D., Rio Hondo College Superintendent/President, said "he is glad to be able to leverage student talent, provide opportunities for students to perform, and to enrich the elementary school offerings at the same time." The performances are offered on Fridays from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.



## Auto Tech Program Hosts NHRA Champion Driver to Discuss Career Opportunities

Antron Brown, professional race car driver of the Don Schumacher Racing-owned Matco Tools/U.S. Army dragster, spent a day at Rio Hondo Tuesday, Nov. 9, to talk to students about education and career choices in the auto racing and automotive industries.

Brown's Rio Hondo visit is one of six technical school visits during the 2010 NHRA season for the Matco Tools/U.S. Army dragster as part of the Matco Tools TechEd program. He has visited Cerritos College, Western Technical College in Texas, Oklahoma State Institute of Technology in Okmulgee, Okla., Ohio Technical College in Cleveland, and Texas State Technical College.

"I really enjoy these school visits we do for Matco Tools," Brown said. "I was just like many of the students not too long ago when I was a student at Mercer College in New Jersey. It's nice to give back and speak to students about career paths and the importance of focusing on education. Students are the technicians and mechanics of tomorrow."

Brown has 24 career wins and is the only racer in NHRA history to win races and lead the standings in both Top Fuel and Pro Stock Motorcycle.

John Frala, professor of Alternative Fuels Education, Hybrid/Electric Automobiles and Heavy Equipment Maintenance, coordinated Brown's visit to Rio Hondo.

"He's a great motivational speaker because he has the same background as a lot of our students," said Frala.



Professor John Frala and Antron Brown



Kern Liu was among the students who chatted with Antron Brown.

Essentials of the Program Review process include:

- Review and description of the program's mission and current state of the program;
- Evaluation of whether the program as it exists is adequate and appropriate for achieving its mission and assuring student success. A SWOT analysis is used to identify Strengths/Weaknesses, Opportunities/Threats;
- Analyze data to assess program accomplishments;
- Development of goals and plans for improvements or changes that will enhance student learning outcomes and overall program efficiency;
- Establishment of budget requests aligned with program goals and objectives;
- Implementation of plans;
- Tracking and evaluation of actions taken to improve program effectiveness and efficiency.

As a practical matter, the Program Review process at Rio Hondo College is also a great opportunity for faculty and program managers to include a broad-based committee in the formulation of the review, thereby educating a wider audience, and to generate appreciation for the form and scope of the program. Program Review is part of the annual planning process, and those programs selected in a given year are subject to a more comprehensive analysis than is required in alternate years for development of area plans. Program Review co-chairs are Marie Eckstrom, faculty and Howard Kummerman, Dean of Institutional Research and Planning.

During this year's Program Review process, 14 programs went through the process. Executive Summaries of the reviews will be provided to the Planning and Fiscal Council, the Academic Senate and IEC, and studied for implications for the resource allocation process.

The recently-completed Program Review cycle included Virtual College, Marketing and Communications, ATTEI-CTI, Associate Degree Nursing, Engineering, English and Literature, Athletics, Anthropology, CIT, Astronomy, General Counseling, Accounting, Duplicating and Printing, and Library and Instructional Support.

## 6th Annual Golf Tournament Another Foundation Success

After six months of planning by the Golf Committee, chaired by Foundation Board member Bruce Lazenby with Ron Eastman, Dan Rubalcava, Robin Siara, Steve Hebert, Janet Powers, and Anne Turner, 124 golfers came to the Pacific Palms Conference Resort in Industry Hills to participate in the 6th Annual Rio Hondo College Foundation Golf Tournament October 29.

As they checked-in golfers were treated to goodie bags stuffed to the brim with items donated from the Walt Disney Company, Joe Barter DTS, Rio Hondo College EOPS, Rio Hondo College Foundation, Ron Eastman, Rose Hills Affinity Program, Presbyterian Intercommunity Hospital, Kaiser Permanente, Renew Skin Care and Massage, the Los Angeles County Sanitation District, Rio Hondo College South Whittier Educational Center, and Pacific Palms Conference Resort.

There were more than 100 student-athletes who served as ambassadors and volunteers throughout the day from the P.E. Department. Other volunteers included Connie Austin, Gail Biesemeyer, Russell Castaneda- Calleros, Liz Chavez, Terry Keller, Robin Siara, Ted Siara, Adrian Tanakeyowma, Angie Tomasich, Foundation board member Carlos Rodriguez, and Suzanne Johnson and Celica Alvarez from US Bank.

As the golfers headed to the links on this spectacular Fall day, other guests treated themselves to the SPA at Pacific Palms. The 19th Hole Social began with a stunning performance by the cadets from the Rio Hondo College Fire Academy. The College's Fire Academy Truck rolled in and prepared for the golf ball drop as the song "Fire" played. Chief Rickman pulled the rope and 500 numbered golf balls fell to the ground with number 392 hitting the target. Steve Koelle from Communications and Languages was the \$1,000 prize winner and community member Mayra Garate won the ride on the fire truck in the City of Whittier Christmas Parade.

All guests then proceeded to the Colonial Room for a sumptuous dinner, games, raffle prizes and the live auction. Actor Basil Wallace emceed the evening while Joe Matthews served as the auctioneer. This was a wonderful day for guests and for the Rio Hondo College Foundation as we continue our mission to secure financial assistance for scholarships, programs, equipment, and projects that meet the needs of the College's growing student population.



*Golf Committee Chair and Foundation Board Member, Bruce Lazenby, Ellie Bewley, Foundation Board Member, Kathy Pudelko, Physical Education Instructor*



*Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D. Superintendent/ President Rio Hondo College, Brenda Wiewel, Executive Director LACADA, Foundation Board Member, Rich Casford, CEO Whittier Mailing Service, President of the Rio Hondo College Foundation*



*Rio Hondo College Fire Academy Chief Tracy Rickman and the Golf Ball Drop*

## Works in Progress Dance Concert

The "Works in Progress" Dance Concert, a cast of 70 dancers directed by Alyson Cartagena, had standing room only crowds for all three nights from Nov. 18 through Nov. 20 at the Wray. Subjects included serious topics such as war, domestic violence, and mental health as well as comedic duet performed by the Astorga twins, world dance (samba) hip-hop, and classical ballet.

