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President's Message



Teresa Dreyfuss

There is so much for which to be thankful this month! I hope you, and your families and friends, enjoyed a relaxing and rewarding Thanksgiving holiday, with time to reflect and relax.

We should certainly give thanks for the passage of Proposition 30 on November 6. The most important, and immediate, impact is that Rio Hondo College will not face additional cuts in our state apportionment revenue this year. Without Proposition 30, we would be facing another \$4 million cuts at this time. Although we are awaiting exact figures from the Chancellor's office, we do expect to receive some funding to apply to the \$17 million in deferrals we have suffered these past three years --- that is money the state withheld from our apportionment funding. We do not expect to receive anywhere near the full amount of the deferrals, however.

Even though we received only partial allocations since FY 2008-09, we only reduced 135 classes (2.5 percent) in the spring of 2010. We continued to maintain a full schedule, including summer sessions in 2011 and 2012, serving approximately 1,500 FTES (full-time equivalent students) more than our apportionment (state funding) provided. This spring and early summer, we will be reducing our class offerings by approximately 200, to more adequately reflect our base budget allocation. We are thankful that it has not been necessary to implement furloughs or the massive reductions in class offerings experienced by most of our region's two and four-year public colleges in the recent past.

Our 50th Anniversary Celebration Task Force has planned a campus-wide 50th Birthday Celebration for the spring, and set a tentative date for a formal 50th Anniversary Celebration event Friday evening, April 19, at which time we will present Medallion Awards to approximately 50 outstanding Rio Hondo College contributors: those who have been named Fellows of the College, and those who have received the Distinguished Community Service Award. There is much to celebrate!



Rio Hondo College Professor Manuel Baca, Ph.D. has been elected as the new president of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors for the 2013 term.

"My fellow board members, the Chancellor and I will voice strongly the need to restore lost access caused by our budget cuts and look at expanding career technical education," says Dr. Baca. "It is also vitally important that we continue to work on access issues for veterans, which is among our highest priorities. I also very much expect that we will continue working to increase access for our community college students to all the CSUs."

Board Update



English as a New Language

Professors Tyler Okamoto and Moises Mata of the English as a New Language (ENLA) Program presented on the program formerly known as English as a Second Language (ESL). With an overarching goal of fostering the English language and helping students from other countries and cultures with assimilation and navigating college, the program, after suffering from low enrollment for several years, has grown, from 107 students in spring 2011 to 172. Okamoto and Mata reported that they have had success in established a partnership with the El Rancho Adult School and creating a new ENLA Club where students can practice and network.

Accountability Report for Community Colleges

Howard Kummerman, dean of Research and Planning, presented on the 2012 Accountability Report for Community Colleges (ARCC), the performance measurement system for the California Community Colleges.

This year the Rio Hondo ARCC data showed gains in Student Progress and Achievement (SPAR) and Annual Successful Course Completion Rate for Basic Skills Courses: Rio Hondo's SPAR for 2010-2011 was 46.9 percent, above the peer group average of 43.3 percent. The basic skills completion rate increased by 8.7 percent from 48.6 percent in 2008-2009 to 57.3 percent. The full report can be found online at www.riohondo.edu/research/research/Research%20Reports/RHC%20ARCC%202012.pdf

Facilities Director James Poper



New Facilities Director James Poper comes to Rio Hondo from the Los Alamitos Unified School District where he was the director of Facilities,

Maintenance, Operations and Transportation from 2005 to 2012. He has also worked in similar capacities for the Long Beach Unified School District. Poper is working on an M.S. in Architecture at the Southern California Institute of Architecture. He has a B.S. in Industrial Arts from CSU Long Beach and an A.A. from Long Beach City College.

Dr. Manuel Baca Elected President California Community Colleges Board of Governors

Professor Manuel Baca, Ph.D. has been elected as the new president of the California Community Colleges Board of Governors for the 2013 term. The board, appointed by the governor, nominates and elects its president and vice president each November. The officials serve a one-year term.

"As I assume this role, I am especially pleased with the passage of Proposition 30 by our voters and want to thank Governor Brown and others for the leadership and efforts provided during the campaign," says Dr. Baca. "Although the passage of Prop 30 avoided a critically difficult situation, there is still much to address."

Dr. Baca says the community college vision that new Chancellor Brice Harris is currently developing with various constituent leaders will inform his priorities for the next year, however, expanding access already tops his list.

"My fellow board members, the Chancellor and I will voice strongly the need to restore lost access caused by our budget cuts and look at expanding career technical education," says Dr. Baca. "It is also vitally important that we continue to work on access issues for veterans, which is among our highest priorities. I also very much expect that we will continue working to increase access for our community college students to all the CSUs."

Dr. Baca currently teaches government and business law at Rio Hondo where he has served on the Academic Senate Executive Committee and as a past interim president. In recognition of his service and contributions to Rio Hondo, he was named as a Fellow of the College in 2010

Dr. Baca's 30-plus-year career in education has encompassed both the California State University and Community College Systems. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees at California State University, Fullerton, and a doctorate at the University of Southern California.

Dr. Baca has served on the CCC Board of Governors since 2009. In 2011 he was appointed to the California Community College Student Success Task Force, which works to develop a strategic blueprint to help community college students succeed.

The California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation. It is composed of 72 districts and 112 colleges serving 2.4 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training, basic skills courses in English and math, and prepare students for transfer to four-year colleges and universities. The Chancellor's Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges.

College Begins Search for New Superintendent/President

Rio Hondo College has begun a national search to find a new superintendent/president to take the helm beginning in summer 2013.

The chosen candidate will be the College's ninth superintendent/president and will follow Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D, who retired on June 30, 2012, after five years of service. Teresa Dreyfuss, vice president of finance and business, assumed the role of interim superintendent/president on July 1.

This fall the Board of Trustees hired the Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT) to facilitate the search process. ACCT is a non-profit educational organization of governing boards, representing more than 6,500 elected and appointed trustees who govern over 1,200 community, technical, and junior colleges nationwide and beyond.

The initial phase of the search process began with the development of a presidential profile describing the attributes the institution seeks in a new leader. The Rio Hondo community was invited to provide their input at campus public forums facilitated by ACCT. The Board of Trustees has since finalized and approved the presidential profile description which will appear in online posting about the position.

Candidate recruitment will take place from December through March 8 and candidate evaluations and interviews will take place from late March through mid April. Finalists will visit Rio Hondo in late April and the board will appoint the new superintendent/president in early May.

Find more information at <http://rhcpresidentialsearch.riohondo.edu>



Accounting Director Chedva Weingart



Chedva Weingart has been appointed as the new director of accounting. She was previously director of Budget and Accounting for

Fillmore Unified School District and accounting supervisor for Ventura County Community College District. She has a B.S. in Accounting from CSU Northridge and is a Certified Public Accountant.

Native American Heritage Month



The Rio community celebrated Native American heritage throughout the month of November with a variety

of fun and informative activities that included panel discussions and tribal information. Associated Students screened the film "Smoke Signals" and provided refreshments.

C.A.R.E. 15th Annual "Adopt a Child"



For the 15th year, Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (C.A.R.E.), a program that serves economically disadvantaged, single parent students, invited the Rio community to "adopt a child" from its C.A.R.E. Tree. There are currently 76 single parents in the program and more 144 children. The special tree was decorated with ornaments representing the children of C.A.R.E. students. Participants were then asked to bring a wrapped gift to the EOPS/CARE office for their chosen person.

Night Shift

by Susan Herney

It is finally here...my 'turn' at Evening Supervisor...a new assignment for managers to help save about \$80,000 during this difficult fiscal year. Each of us will do two nights as supervisor each semester, from 5 p.m. to approximately 10 p.m. On any given Wednesday evening, Rio Hondo College has approximately 107 classes in session after 5 p.m.

In order to grasp the scope of our duties and prepare for potential issues, we all attended a training/orientation session led by Dr. Kenn Pierson in August to learn how to respond to whatever might happen during our shift. Let's hope it's an uneventful, quiet night!

Tonight, there is a meeting of the Board of Trustees down the hall in the Board Room. I may drop in later if things are quiet.

After introducing myself to Joe, on Security detail tonight, I use my code number to access an impressive ring of keys in a special lock box. Once in the Evening College office, I review the Evening Brief Forms left by those who occupied this chair earlier this week. So far, it's been a light week. I review the contents of the Evening College Supervision Manual, hoping not to have to call 911, or the College President about any real emergencies.

Lisa Lozano, the Evening College Clerk Typist (in photo below), is already fielding logistical calls, and it is just 5:30 p.m. Lisa has worked at the college for 12 years, starting off in the Weekend College. The wrestling room is freezing, a student is locked out of his car, and an instructor has car trouble and needs to cancel the class. Next, we need to make sure Custodial staff locks the room he was assigned to. Another instructor reports that her classroom is way too cold, and two light bulbs are out in the track lighting system, making it difficult for students to see the images being discussed in her art history class there. Oh, and the Fitness Center is too hot! Unfortunately, that cannot be remedied until tomorrow.

Mike Slavich, dean of Career and Technical Education, stops in to greet Lisa. He is followed by Howard Kummerman, dean of Research and Planning, on his way to the meeting of the Board of Trustees.

Down in the Board Room, the meeting has started at 6 p.m. I stay to hear a presentation by Professors Tyler Okamoto and Moises Mata on the English as a New Language program. Our program is growing!

I observe students walking in and around the Science Building before the 7 o'clock start to their classes. Meanwhile, back in the Evening College Office, Lisa is helping a student who is looking for a library book he misplaced on Saturday. Apparently this book has taken quite a journey...it's not in the Security Office, not in the Parking Booth, wait... YES, it is discovered in the Lost and Found area of Security Office, but because it had not been logged, there was no paper record. Kudos to Lisa for this helpful pursuit!

Lisa leaves momentarily to walk a former, slightly frustrated student to the new location of Admissions and Records. When she returns, I take a brief walk around the Upper Quad and into the Science Building. There are a few students about. The campus looks calm and quite attractive with all the new lighting.

I check in with Security Officers, who report that there has been only one minor incident so far, an alarm in the LRC went off. Things are quiet enough for me to return for the balance of the Board Meeting. This time I remember to take the radio with me. When I return to the office, I learn that one instructor has ended her class early because she did not feel well.

Now it's 9 p.m. and all is still quiet...same at 9:45. Maybe I will be able to complete the night's log with no reportable incidents. I can say that I have experienced yet another dimension of Rio Hondo College life.

In a few minutes I'll return the keys to the lockbox and tell Security I am leaving the building. Thanks Lisa, and the entire night shift for your dedicated service to our students!



Rio Hondo Student Named Best Young Entrepreneur



Rio Hondo student Vincent Quigg emerged from a field of 37 at-risk teen

competitors to win the 2012 Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship (NFTE) National Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge, presented by MasterCard in association with Kathryn W. Davis. The competition took place Oct. 11 in New York City.

At a ceremony following a day-long series of competitive presentations Quigg, 18, took home the \$25,000 grand prize for his business, TechWorld.

Quigg, in his first semester at Rio Hondo College, graduated from Downey High School. It was in high school that Quigg turned his passion for technology into his own startup company, TechWorld. He specializes in mobile device repair, mostly repairing and customizing iPhones from his home-based business in Whittier.

"I'm so grateful to NFTE and the journey it's taken me on from working at Best Buy to launching my own business," said Quigg. "From start to finish, the National Youth Entrepreneurship Challenge has taught me that if you want something bad enough, opportunities will arise."

The finalists, all business plan competition winners from their respective regions, were required to develop and present original business plans as part of their entrepreneurial studies at school, based on NFTE's experiential curriculum.

In June of this year Quigg also won Youth Entrepreneur of the Year from Ernst & Young. He is spending the year working as a part-time technology associate with Los Angeles developer Rick Caruso who received the Ernst & Young 2012 Master Entrepreneur of the Year Award for Greater Los Angeles.

Nursing Program Receives \$49,500 Grant



The Nursing Program received a \$49,500 grant from the Dorothy D. Rupe Nursing Program at the Arthur N. Rupe Foundation. The funds will enable the College to offer a second section of Certified Nursing Assistant training and Home Health Aide training during the 2013 spring and summer semesters.

"We are excited about the potential to grow the CNA/HHA programs and serve those students on the waitlist that would otherwise wait another year to enroll in the program," says Nursing Instructor Patricia Luna.

The Arthur N. Rupe Foundation is dedicated to achieving positive social change by shining the light of truth on critical and controversial issues through the support of scholarly studies, education, research, and public debates, and by the dissemination of the results via a variety of media to all segments of the public.

Dance Collective Presents "The Nutcracker"

The Rio Hondo Dance Collective will present a special performance of "The Nutcracker" on Sunday, Dec. 16, at 2 p.m. in the historic SkyRose Chapel. The Chapel is located at Rose Hills Memorial Park & Mortuary, 3888 Workman Mill Rd., Whittier.

The 12 dancers belonging to the Rio Hondo College Dance Collective will present an hour-long contemporary version of the holiday classic, abbreviated for children but appropriate for all ages.

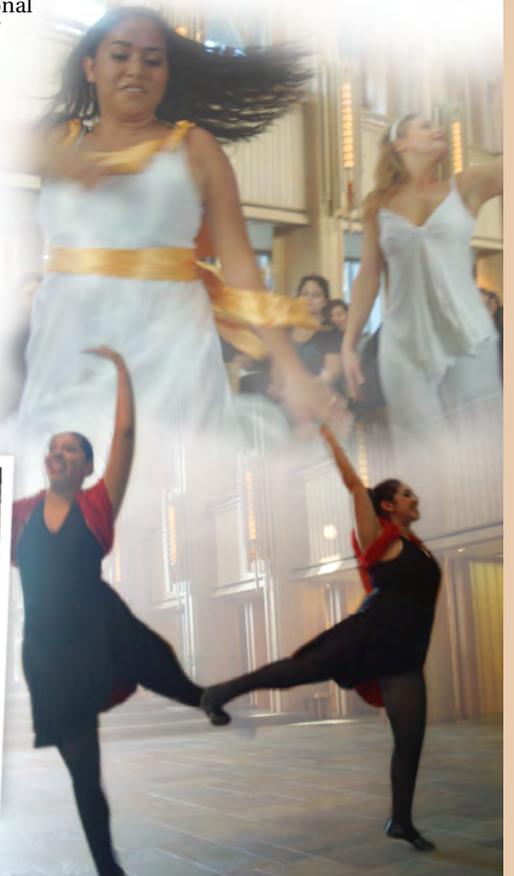
"We will focus on the Land of the Sweets and develop the fun characters, giving it a contemporary edge with hip hop, jazz moves, even traditional Chinese dance," says Alyson Cartagena, director of the dance program. "The traditional music will be updated, layered with contemporary sounds."

The aim for the performance is to make it affordable for families with children who live in the area. Tickets are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. Children five and younger are free. Attendees also have the opportunity to view the historic SkyRose Chapel. The performance will take place in the main level sanctuary.

The Rio Hondo Dance Collective is a touring ensemble comprised of Rio Hondo College's advanced dancers. Under the direction of Alyson Cartagena the repertory company performs at area festivals, workshops, and dance concerts. Collective dancers also represent the college at the American College Dance Festival.

"The Nutcracker" performance serves as a fundraiser for dancers in the Collective who hope to attend the American College Dance Festival in Spring 2012.

Advance tickets can be purchased by email at acartagena@riohondo.edu.



Veterans Club Fifth Annual Comedy Night



Comedian Benny Mena & Friends headlined the Veterans Club's fifth annual Comedy Night Nov. 1 in Wray Theater. The Veterans Club's annual fundraising event provides scholarships for veteran students as well as benefits the nonprofit organizations Wounded Warrior Project and Stand Down.

Benny Mena's comedy credits include the Latino Laugh Festival, Latino Laugh Festival on SiTV, Loco Comedy Jam, Latino Comedy Fiesta DVD, Cholo Comedy Slam DVD, and more. Since its establishment in 2008, the Rio Hondo College Veterans Service Center has served more than 4,000 veterans and eligible dependents from five branches of the United States Armed Services annually.

For the fourth consecutive year Victory Media and G.I. Jobs magazine has designated Rio Hondo College as a "Military Friendly School."

Chinese College Professors Tour CTE Programs

Rio Hondo College hosted educators from China for two days in early November. The visiting group included deans and professors from Dalian Vocational & Technical College in Liaoning Province.



"The purpose of their visit was to see first-hand the successful community college career technical education programs at Rio Hondo College," said Professor Dr. Shin Liu, who orchestrated the visit.

The group was greeted by Dr. Kenn Pierson, vice president of Academic Affairs, Mike Slavich, dean of Career and Technical Education, and Rebecca Green, dean of Behavior and Social Sciences. Professor Warren Roberts presented Geographic Information Systems projects and curriculum. Computer Information Technology students proudly presented their Windows 8 apps and games. The visitors then toured business division classes and the El Paisano newsroom.

The Business and Technology Divisions offer various CTE programs that teach students high demand technical skills and prepare them for employment in current and emerging occupations. Because the delegation was also interested in learning the processes for curriculum and student registration, Dean of Library and Instructional Support Dr. Kats Gustafson and Director of Admission and Record Judy Pearson explained both in great detail.

During a Q&A session the delegations shared and exchanged information about the Chinese higher learning education process.

Sports Round Up



Rio Hondo baseball team winners – The California Community College Baseball Coaches Association (CCCBCA), in its preseason rankings for 2013, ranked the Rio Hondo Men's Baseball Team as number one in Southern California; number one in the state, and number one in the Pacific Athletic Division. Congratulations Roadrunners!

Coach Mike Salazar is also proud that the 2012 baseball team was a runner-up for the California State Championship and finished 40 - 5. A number of team members received scholarships and continued on to four-year institution, including: Christian Ibarra, Louisiana State University; Adam Hurley, University of Hawaii; Andrew Morales, UC Irvine; Jacob Smigelski, UC Riverside; Bryce Rutherford, Cal State Northridge; Kyle Butcher and Andrew Melchor, Lynn University; Cody Doyle, Cal State LA; and Andrew Stein, Cal Poly Pomona.

Lady Roadrunner Volleyball Team Makes Playoffs – For the first time in 17 years the Lady Roadrunners attended the California State Regional Playoffs that began Nov. 20 at Pierce College in Woodland Hills. "Our match was a tough loss," says Coach Teddi Esko after the game. "We played the number one ranked team in California. We fought hard, but fell short in the end."

Season highlights include:

- ***16-6** overall record and 12-2 conference record
- ***8-0** at home conference record
- ***9** match winning streak
- ***9** Lady Roadrunners earned Foothill Conference Honors (most of any team in conference)

Congratulations to the team and to Coach Teddi Esko and her assistant coaches.

