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President's Message



Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.



Rio Hondo College art student Olivia Marcial, left, with Dr. Martinez and her first painting, "Just a Phase." Marcial's painting is displayed with other RHC student art for sale at the Rose Hills reception facility.

During this very active time in our semester, it is important to acknowledge everyone's efforts to keep the doors to educational opportunity open. We believe that Rio Hondo College has excelled in meeting the challenges imposed by the State's budget crunch, and commend the superior efforts of faculty and staff to maintain focus on student success.

I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know more of you through a new series of President's Listening Outposts at various locations on the campus. I hope you will stop by to say hello.

Two years' of planning, very hard work and commitment comes to fruition with the launch of the new student information system, known as AccessRIO. Students are registering for the Spring 2010 semester, using the dynamic web-based search function of the electronic class schedule. A major benefit included in this new system is that it will create waiting lists for full classes, especially important in times of high demand. Faculty and staff will also appreciate this new feature which provides a method to allocate available seats on a first-registered, first-served basis. Students will be notified of their waitlist status via new RioMail e-accounts. My thanks to all who have served on the implementation team and especially division secretaries who have been responsible for huge quantities the data input. Other benefits include the elimination of the need for students to do registration and other enrollment business in person, and the parallel elimination of those long lines at registration time. Our AccessRIO system is made possible by the Measure A facilities bond, and we are grateful to our community for making such improvements possible.

We know that Rio Hondo College students are talented in many ways. This month, we entered into a partnership with Rose Hills to showcase the art of students studying painting with Ada Brown and design with Dale Harvey. Students' pieces are displayed in the Rose Hills Reception area, and are available for purchase by the Rose Hills visitors. Thanks to Dean JoAnna Downey for helping generate yet another community opportunity for Rio Hondo College Visual Arts students.

Next week we welcome a return visit from AACJA/WASC. They will meet with groups and individuals they have identified to review the College's Follow-up Report. I am confident that they will be impressed by the progress our College has made in meeting the recommendations made to us in February. The report is posted on the College's website.

I encourage you to read this issue for more information about the exciting events and progress here at Rio Hondo College, including our new Student Ambassadors and the event celebrating the grand opening of the new Learning Resource Center

Please mark your calendar and plan to attend a Facilities Construction Forum November 10, 1 p.m. in LR 128. We are planning to begin new construction projects soon, and I hope everyone will take time to become informed about the anticipated impacts.



DON'T FORGET TO VOTE!
Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2009

Logo Usage Manual Distributed

In an effort to unify its brand and image in the community, and aid in the creation of materials supporting its vision and mission, Rio Hondo College officials recently released a new *Logo Usage Manual: Standards, Guidelines and Rules for Using the Logo and Related Materials*.



The Manual, which extensively covers proper handling and usage of such things as Rio Hondo advertisements and even the Rio Hondo mascot, will help the entire College Community present itself as a professional, high caliber institution of higher learning. In a brief introduction to the document Rio Hondo Superintendent/President Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D. asked readers to, "Please join me in supporting this program and work with us to produce materials of which we can all be proud." The document was developed by a task force representing a cross-section of campus entities.

The 10-part document provides information on how to properly use the Rio Hondo logo as well as provide information on when and how it should be used. Sections of *The Manual* include proper usage of the logo, communication systems, print collateral, the College's Web Site, audio visual materials, the college mascot and other club images, taglines, the college seal, and promotional materials.

The Logo Usage Manual has been distributed to campus division deans and department directors, is available for view at the Library, and may also be viewed online at the "P" drive in the Marketing and Communications folder.

New Ambassador Program Introduced



The new Rio Hondo College Ambassador Program connects student volunteers with opportunities to serve. Student Ambassadors are described as a highly diverse, select, and prestigious group of students who are dedicated to the promotion of the college. Ambassadors provide information and services to the community about the College and its Foundation.

And while being a student ambassador does come with much work and responsibility, it also provides valuable benefits. Ambassadors get the opportunity to serve Rio Hondo College, gain leadership experience, meet and network with campus officials, alumni and members of the community, participate in new learning opportunities, acquire public relations experience, enhance their resumes and make new friends while also having fun.

The duties of student ambassadors are numerous but are also essential in the promotion and upkeep of Rio Hondo College. These duties and responsibilities include: conducting campus tours, meeting and greeting prospective students, acting as an Ambassador from the student body to visitors of the College at various campus-wide events, staffing the Information Booth the first week of each semester, serving as hosts/hostesses at Presidential functions and at special events, assisting in Foundation fundraising/community relation efforts, representing the College at off campus recruitment fairs and activities, assisting at Commencement Ceremony, offering outreach to high schools, and much more.

As the Ambassadors Program is tasked with such demanding roles in the community, its selection process is very rigorous. To learn more about the Ambassador Program or if you know a student who would be a good candidate for the Ambassador Program, contact Cathy Butler.

Career Development Center Offers Students Networks and Support

According to a recent National Association of Colleges and Employers survey, the current recession has significantly impacted new graduates in the workforce, with less than 20 percent of 2009's graduates being able to find jobs. While it is truly a challenge to find work in today's economy, Rio Hondo College's Career Center is serving as a resource for students to help increase awareness on what they need to be doing to increase their chances in finding a job.

The Career Development Center is designed to help students find what career fits them best as well as helps them find work. Students can seek employment from the extensive job and internship postings in the Center as well as seek resume and application support from Rio Hondo Career Counselors. The Career Center also offers Industry Field Trips, which are set up one-to-two-times a semester. These trips are designed to give students a hands-on view of industry career paths.

Jonathan Martinez is one student who knows just how valuable the Career Center is. Martinez had been working with the Assessment Center as a student worker. Upon the advice and guidance of the Career Center, he applied and was accepted to be a part of the Student Ambassador program at Rio Hondo College.

Another example of a student who has benefited from the services offered by the Career Center is Dave Tracy. Tracy already had a degree in Biology when he arrived to Rio Hondo College's campus, but he wanted to make a career transition.

"I found an internship listing at the Career Center that sounded perfect for me," said Tracy. "Counselor Jenette Noriega worked with me to apply for the job and sure enough, I got the internship." Tracy is now an intern at GTE Bio and says the position is meeting all his expectations in event and project management.

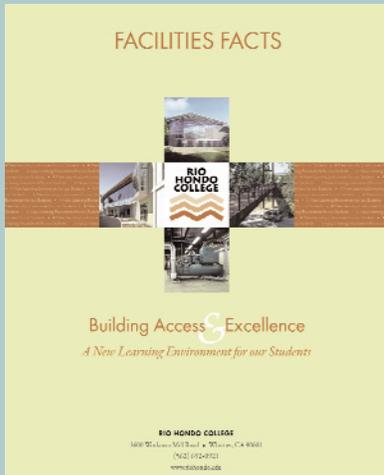
Student Marco Tulle, is another example. Tulle came to Rio Hondo years ago, before transferring to UC Santa Barbara, where he majored in Physics. "After graduation I had trouble finding a job in my field," said Tulle, "so I decided to re-enroll at Rio Hondo College, while I looked for work."

Once again at Rio Hondo, Tulle sought out the assistance of Troy Flores-Olson and Belen Torres-Gil, two Career Center counselors who had worked with Tulle in the past.

"We assisted him with counseling support and guidance, a letter of recommendation and resume assistance," said Torres-Gil. Tulle is now employed as an Apprentice Nuclear Chemistry Technician for the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Plant.

New Facilities Facts Update Available

With the recent grand opening of the new Learning Resource Center, and as new facilities continue production in the community, Rio Hondo College recently released its newest Facilities Facts Update for the benefit of all members of the Rio Hondo community. The update highlights facilities projects, including those completed, in design or under construction.



Completed projects featured in the update include the Santa Fe Springs Regional Public Safety Training Center, the Learning Resource Center, the Campus-wide Infrastructure, the Central Plant and the Pedestrian Bridge. One project still under construction is featured as well; the Applied Technology Center, which is projected to be completed in April of 2010.

The update also highlights projects that are currently still in their design phases. These projects include the Administration of Justice, the Student Services Building, the Student Union Building, the Central Quad Plaza and the Physical Education Complex. A final project featured in the Facility Facts Update is the South Whittier Educational Center, which is classified as a community project that is scheduled for completion in May 2010.

To view the new Facilities Facts Update, please visit the Building Program portion of the Rio Hondo College website.

Grand Opening Held to Celebrate New Learning Resource Center

To celebrate completion of the long-awaited Learning Resource Center project, the College hosted a grand opening and ribbon-cutting for the facility on Oct. 15. The new LRC is a two-story, 94,000 square-foot facility that houses new reference, resource and educational spaces for the advancement of reading and writing abilities, distance learning and other classroom space, as well as a multi-media resource center.

Part of Rio Hondo's *Building Access and Excellence* building program, the Learning Resource Center, approved for construction in 2004, is the program's first major classroom building to be completed. Representatives of area legislators, construction company representatives, and civic groups attended, as well as members of the Rio Hondo College campus community. There was a formal program, unveiling of the dedication plaque and a ribbon cutting, followed by tours and refreshments.



College Submits Accreditation Follow-up Report

The College submitted its Accreditation Follow-up Report to the Accrediting Commission of Community and Junior Colleges (AACJC) of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges this week. The full report is available on Rio Hondo College's web site at www.riohondo.edu/accreditation.

The 56-page report is a campus response to the recommendations put forward by the Accrediting agency as a result of its October 2008 accreditation site visit. In early 2009, the College received a rating that was less-than-perfect and was placed on warning. The College notes that during the follow-up period, the College's students' course credits are fully transferable and eligibility for Financial Aid is not affected. "Warning" is the least severe sanction on the AACJC's scale.

Rio Hondo College received a list of recommendations which were addressed in the Follow-up Report.

The six recommendations from the Accrediting Agency included areas for improvement. The recommendations mostly involved curriculum and administrative planning work that was already in progress at Rio Hondo College, but only further accelerated the process. The recommendations fall into topics titled: 1.) Institutional Effectiveness, 2.) Student Learning Outcomes, 3.) Student Support Services, 4.) Human Resources, 5.) Leadership and 6.) Governance.

According to Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent/President, "We believe this Follow-up Report indicates substantial progress in meeting the recommendations made by the Commission, and are optimistic that full reaffirmation of accreditation will be the outcome. This report was the product of several months of deliberation and work by campus-wide committees that were formed to address the agency's recommendations. We have great confidence in the work of the Accreditation Response Team as well as the significant input given by our Board of Trustees."