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## President's Message



*Teresa Dreyfuss*

Our search for the next Rio Hondo College Superintendent/President is taking shape. The Board of Trustees approved the key dates in the search timeline, and determined the composition of the Search Committee. There will be seven faculty representatives; four classified employees; four management/confidential representatives; and three students. A community member from each of the five trustee areas will be appointed by respective trustees. Appointments to the Search Committee will be made by each respective group's leadership, and members must commit to meetings on Thursday, Nov. 8, Friday, March 22, 2013, and Thursday/Friday April 11 & 12, 2013

The Board of Trustees selected ACCT as the Search Consultant. In early November, the consultant will visit the campus to conduct open public forums for the college community. Information gathered during these forums will be used to prepare a draft Superintendent/President Profile. The first meeting of the Search Committee will be held, and there will be a Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees to finalize and approve the Profile.

The target date for applications is Friday, March 8. On March 22, the Search Committee will have its second meeting and will review applications and select semi-final candidates for preliminary interviews. The Search Committee will meet again on April 11 and 12 to interview semi-final candidates and recommend four-six to Board of Trustees. During the week of April 22, final candidates will visit the College and participate in open forums. The Board will interview the final candidates and will receive ACCT in-depth oral summary reference reports on final candidates. A visit to the primary candidate's institution may be held in late April. It is the goal to have the new Superintendent/President selected by early May, 2013.

Happy birthday to us! We are in the midst of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year commemorating Rio Hondo College progress and achievements through the years. We organized a special Task Force to plan a series of activities and events to include all who wish to participate in the celebration. Members include senior staff: Karen Koos, Martha Carreon, Sandy Sandello, Shari Magnus and Lyla Eddington. Others include Adele Enright, Mike Munoz, Russell Castaneda-Calleros, Sylvia Viramontes, Teresa Buell, John Ramirez and Susan Herney. See the accompanying article for details about the activities and events!

## New Student Trustee Lupe Pasillas

Rio Hondo student Lupe Pasillas was sworn in as the new student trustee at the Oct. 18 board meeting.

A political science major in her fifth semester, Pasillas, 20, is in the Rio Hondo Honors Program and Alpha Gamma Sigma. A co-founder and co-president of the campus club Latinos United for Voting, she is particularly proud of the club's success in registering 865 voters this fall. Pasillas graduated from Santa Fe High School and hopes to attend either UCLA or UC San Diego in fall 2013.



## Board Update



El Monte Mayor Andre Quintero, on behalf of the City of El Monte and its City Council,

presented the Board of Trustees with a commemorative plaque in honor of Rio Hondo College's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Quintero spoke of the excitement and anticipation in El Monte and the surrounding areas about the soon-to-open Rio Hondo El Monte Educational Center.

The Leadership Academy, now in its third year; gave brief presentations on its cohort projects. Cohort One continues to fine-tune its Riosource web site <http://riosource.org/>; Cohort Two is in the midst of producing a new student guide in the format of an electronic magazine that outlines the matriculation process.



Susan Herney of the College Marketing and Communications Department introduced the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Task Force. She reported on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary schedule of events and described the many ways the College is marking the year.

## Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis Sends Congratulations



Secretary of Labor Hilda Solis sent a congratulatory letter to Teresa Dreyfuss on her appointment as Interim Superintendent/President to Rio Hondo, noting within that

Dreyfuss is the first Asian female to hold this position.

"While women now comprise almost half of the labor force, women, especially women of color, remain underrepresented in leadership positions in all institutions and sectors, including academia," she wrote. "Thus, your rise from your first employment with the college in 1987 to Interim President in 2012 is an example of dedication, service, and leadership that inspires all women, especially those just beginning their careers. Although I have never attended community college, like you, I have served as a trustee on the board of Rio Hondo College."

Solis was first elected to public office in 1985 as a member of the Rio Hondo Community College Board of Trustees, where she served seven years.

## 50th Anniversary Task Force Update



The special Task Force formed to plan activities and events to commemorate the Rio Hondo College 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary has been productive!

Employees (and Emeriti) were invited to participate in an all-campus photo session on the new Grand Staircase in the mid-quad on Flex Day, August 17. Approximately 350 people participated! The resulting photo has been turned into a poster titled "Rio Hondo College at 50" which now hangs in the Board Room.

When students returned to campus for beginning of this academic year in August, they were greeted with 70 new bright commemorative banners installed on light poles throughout campus. The banners display a 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary adaptation of the college logo and separate tag lines: ***A Community Legacy, and "Commit, Pursue, Achieve"***. The anniversary banners have already won a first place award in the multi-state regional competition sponsored by the National Council for Marketing and Public Relations!

The Task Force recommended that we sponsor an informal, family-friendly festival that would include community members and everyone who wished to come together to celebrate this important milestone. RioFest, held in mid-October, featured interactive games, gourmet food trucks, and an outdoor showing of the film classic "West Side Story" on the soccer field. Thanks to the Emeriti Association and Student Association for helping underwrite the event.

New commemorative lapel pins are now on sale at the Bookstore. Our bookstore partner for 47 years, Follett Higher Education Group, has agreed to underwrite the production of *Our History*, a book about the founding and 50-year history of Rio Hondo College. We anticipate delivery of this publication, rich in vintage illustration and narrative about the college, early in 2013. The all-employee photograph is to be included on the book's dust jacket.

We are currently seeking information about individual program cumulative accomplishments through the years to incorporate into the *2012 Annual Report to the Community*, which will be produced in early 2013. The Task Force has been working on a special presentation for FLEX Day, a visual review of college history. Other activities planned for spring 2013 include a time capsule; a formal anniversary celebration on April 13 to invite our community to join us as we honor those who have been named as Fellows of the College or who have received the Distinguished Community Service Award and who will be presented with specially-designed commemorative 'Medallion' awards.

There is more to come as the Task Force completes plans for the second half of the celebration!

## RioFest Celebration

With bouncy houses, interactive games, live music, and gourmet food trucks, RioFest Celebration on Oct. 20 was an active community-inclusive celebration of Rio Hondo College. The family-friendly event on the soccer field was another marker of the College's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, and featured a large outdoor movie screening of the 1960s classic film *West Side Story*.



Rio Hondo thanks the College Emeriti Association and Associated Students, who made significant financial contributions to help underwrite RioFest as well as Dr. Mike Munoz and the students who organized the spectacular event.

## Rio Hondo Alum is New Editor of Whittier Daily News



When Andrew Landeros, newly appointed city editor of the Whittier Daily News, came to Rio Hondo College for a recent meeting and campus

tour with Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss, it was something of a homecoming.

Landeros attended Rio Hondo College from 1995-1997. During that time he was editor-in-chief of El Paisano and editor-in-chief of La Cima. In these positions Landeros won writing and design awards at the state and local levels of the Journalism Association of Community Colleges.

Landeros began his career in California's Central Valley as a reporter and designer for a bilingual weekly newspaper. He subsequently worked as sports editor at the Glendale News-Press and later the prep editor and lead sports designer at the Tucson Citizen. Landeros, who has held the post of city editor on an interim basis since last spring, has been with the Los Angeles News Group since 2006.

## Your Vote Counts Nov. 6



Rio Hondo students eligible to vote can have their voices heard on the state and national levels by voting Nov. 6. Besides choosing the country's next president, registered voters will decide the fate of 11 California state ballot measures, two of which deal directly with education. Students can find out about state ballot measures at <http://voterguide.sos.ca.gov>.

## Transfer and Career Conference

First-year students, undecided majors, and transfer-ready students received a wealth of information on transferring to CSU, UCs and private colleges, filling out applications, and financing four years of education. The occasion was the Transfer and Career Conference that took place Oct 19 in the Wray Theater. Students also had a chance to get tips on networking, creating resumes, and adding value to their college degrees.

## El Monte City Council Presentation



On Oct. 17 a delegation of Rio Hondo College representatives presented to the El Monte City Council. Interim Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss provided a fiscal update; Dr. Kenn Pierson addressed the status and preparation for opening the El Monte Educational Center and Luis Rojas provided visual updates on construction of the project; Russell Castaneda-Calleros recognized the impact of El Monte support for the Go Rio transit program. In honor of the ongoing relationship between the City of El Monte and the College, Board President Norma E. Garcia presented a Rio Hondo College 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary banner.

## Latino Heritage Month

Activities and events continued across campus in October in recognition of Latino Heritage month. The national celebration pays tribute to the generations of Hispanic Americans who have positively influenced and enriched the nation.

A Chicano/Latino Struggle for Educational Access & Equity panel discussion took place Oct. 4 in the Student Lounge. Faculty from Rio Hondo as well as other institutions discussed the legal challenges to educational segregation and opportunities of Chicano/Latino students and how their struggles relate to the current state of public education.

On Oct. 11 Irene Torres, classified schedule technician, was guest speaker at the Latina Leadership Network's "Caldo y historias...para el alma." Torres spoke about her artwork and donated several pieces as a fundraiser opportunity for scholarships. Attendees sampled a variety of homemade soups, tostadas, quesadillas and desserts.



## STARSS Award Presentations

On Oct. 6 students and their families gathered in the Rio Cafe to accept their National Science Foundation Scholarships. The "Scholarships to Aid Rio Hondo STEM Students" or STARSS program, is coordinated by Drs. Gisela Spieler-Persad and Vann Priest.

Five transfer students received awards of \$6,000 each, and 18 current students received awards ranging from \$4,000 to \$6,000.

Last spring the National Science Foundation awarded Rio Hondo College a five year, \$600,000 grant to provide scholarships to academically talented but financially disadvantaged students in its Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) programs. The awards are designed to enable students to focus on their studies full time.

This first group of STARSS scholars was chosen in early summer for the 2012/2013 academic year.

Students need support from several places, says Spieler. The college's Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) and TRiO Student Support Services STEM (SSS STEM) programs provide academic support, the STARSS scholarships financial support, and students' families provide important emotional support.

Students Jamie Bello and Edgar Bocanegra both transferred this year from Rio Hondo to UCLA as math majors. They shared their stories of academic perseverance at the event. Ten faculty members who serve as mentors attended the event as well.

STARSS scholars must attend school full-time, work no job or fewer hours at jobs, meet regularly with faculty mentors, and participate in the college MESA and/or TRiO SSS STEM programs.



## National Coming Out Week



The Gay-Straight-Alliance Club and Associated Students invited the entire campus to celebrate diversity during National Coming Out Week, Oct. 15 to 19.

A Pride Day Festival on Oct. 16 included food, DJs, games and prizes, free rapid HIV testing and even drag queens. The Empty Closets Full of Life panel discussion on Oct. 17 featured courageous stories of coming out of the closet and breaking silence.

Pride Walk on the Upper Quad featured moving and heartfelt stories and testimonials from students and allies about their personal experiences around coming out gay.

## State of the College for Students

In a joint effort between Student Services and Academic Affairs, a series of student town hall meeting took place in the Student Union on Oct. 16, 18, 22. The State of the College for Students was an interactive forum for students to learn about class section cuts for Spring/Summer 2013, get updates on financial aid and transferring, and hear useful tips from Rio Hondo faculty on how to achieve success in the classroom. Meetings were organized as a joint effort of the vice presidents of academic affairs and student services, Henry Gee and Dr. Kenn Pierson.

## New College Policy for Nonpayment of Fees

In a step that aligns its practice with that of other community colleges in the region, Rio Hondo has made an important change regarding payment of registration fees: students must have paid all registration fees by 11:59 p.m. on Jan. 12 or they will be dropped from their classes. They must also have cleared all prior debt and holds before they register.

The College's new policy of allowing students to attend classes only if all fees have been paid broadens fair access to all students who may be on the waitlists. Check AccessRio portal for some existing exemptions that do apply.



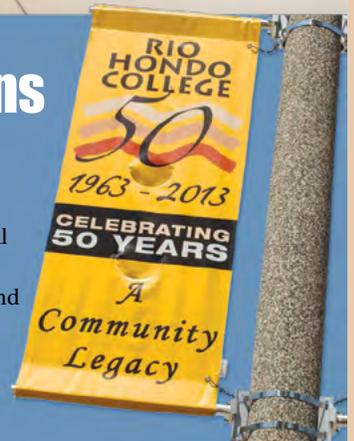
## Puente Program Excursion

On Oct. 18 the Puente Program ventured to the Museum of Latin American Art in Long Beach, where students spent the day studying and creating art. Puente students toured the art gallery with docents and spent time in an art workshop, creating photo-montages inspired by artist Debora Arango and photographer Lola Alvarez Bravo. Puente Coordinators Michelle Bean and Jose Rodriguez also infused a STEM focus into the day, as students ate lunch with engineers from a local Fortune 500 company. The Puente Project mission is to increase the number of educationally disadvantaged students who enroll in four-year colleges and universities, earn college degrees and return to the community as mentors and leaders to future generations.



## Marketing and Communications Department Wins Awards

In October Marketing and Communications Department staff Sylvia Viramontes and Crystal Maes attended a regional meeting of the National Conference of Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) to receive the following awards: Gold Award for 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Banners in Banners and Outdoor Media category; and a Silver Award for the 2012-2013 Arts and Cultural Events Program Calendar Brochure in the Brochure category. Congratulations!



## Rio Rally

On Oct. 24 Associated Students honored Rio Hondo athletes with a Rio Rally that took place on the Lower Quad. Athletes from official fall athletic teams competed with one another in soccer and volleyball contests, and enjoyed food and prizes.

