



PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

SEPTEMBER 2007

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WELCOME TO FACULTY AND STAFF



Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

As we all settle in for the new semester, I am glad to report that we made it through the first day without any major traffic or circulation problems. This success is a direct result of working together to communicate with each other and with our students about the changes on the campus. Trucks filled with dirt from the LRC construction headed down the hill every couple of minutes last week and the construction of that building continues to go well.

Enrollment management and our enrollment numbers have been the utmost importance over the last three years. At this time our numbers look strong with preliminary numbers showing increases in new and returning students. The numbers will be confirmed on September 17, 2007, which is our state census day. I thank you all for the work that you have done not only to promote the College but to give students individual attention and treat each student with courtesy.

Finally, I applaud our maintenance and facilities staff for the hard work that they have done to keep our campus clean. Students arrived to see a campus that was well kept, with several classrooms and railings repainted.

This year promises great successes if we all keep in mind our common goals of high quality education and strong student learning outcomes. I hope that we continue to get to know each other as the year progresses. I have an open door policy and I invite you to stop by or to stop me as I walk through the campus each day. Together let's continue to keep up the great work.

Rio Hondo College Welcomes Families

Rio Hondo College hosted over 200 people **FREE** on Saturday, August 18, 2007, for the *First Family Day/Día De La Familia*. The event began at 8:00am and was designed to welcome perspective students and their families' to the campus. Volunteers helped the attendees to become familiar with all that Rio Hondo College has to offer. There were several booths from a variety of departments and campus clubs.

"*First Family Day/Día De La Familia* has been in the making for several months," said Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr., Superintendent/President of Rio Hondo College. "Our staff, managers, faculty, and students came together to form the planning committee for this event. They have been working diligently to make this day very special for all who attend."

The day was filled with activities for both perspective students and their families. There were planned workshops and demonstrations, campus tours, a program fair, a continental breakfast, lunch, activities for children as well as child care.



BOARD REPORT

for the Board Meeting

August 15, 2007

Consultant Services: The Board of Trustees approved the consultant services listed individually in the board agenda and authorized the Superintendent/President or designee to sign the appropriate documents on behalf of the District.

Agreement and Resolution-Infant

Toddler Resource: The Board of Trustees approved the agreement and resolution for funding of the Infant and Toddler Program for FY 2007/2008 and authorized the Administration to sign the appropriate documents on behalf of the District.

Revenue Agreement-Center for Training and Development at the College of the Desert-Desert

Community College District: The Board of Trustees authorized an agreement between Center for Training and Development at College of the Desert – Desert Community College District and Rio Hondo's Center for Advanced Transportation Technology Institute (ATTI) to conduct Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) Bus Training through November 15, 2007.

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Search for the new Rio Hondo College Vice President for Academic Affairs

Since the departure of Dr. Voiza Arnold as the Executive Vice President for Academic Services in the Spring of 2006, Rio Hondo College has been searching for a full-time replacement. In the interim, Dr. Marilyn Brock has been serving that role. The search was put on hold when former President Rose Marie Joyce announced her retirement and the focus shifted to finding a new Superintendent/President. Having completed that process in July 2007 and with Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D. well in place, the search for a Vice President has begun again.

The position opened on August 1, 2007 with advertisement in the Los Angeles Times, The Chronicle of Higher Education, and several other publications. Employment Opportunity brochures were sent out, and the position was posted internally as well. The candidates that applied in the original search have been contacted and asked if they would like to continue to be considered in this search. The search will be conducted by the College and the names of the committee members will be submitted to Human Resources by August 31, 2007.

The committee will be made up of seven (7) faculty members appointed by the Academic Senate, five (5) managers appointed by Management/Confidential Council, one (1) confidential employee appointed by Management/Confidential Council, three (3) classified employees appointed by CSEA, and two (2) representatives of the Associated Student Body. The committee members will participate in an orientation on September 7, 2007 in the Board Room from 1-4 p.m. The search process will follow Board Policy CP 5025 which states that *"the selection committee members shall participate in an orientation for the particular position being filled. The orientation will include a detailed review of the job announcement and the position's job description. The President or designee will be available to answer questions about the position, to define its role in the institution, and to provide information on specific needs or emphases the committee should be aware of."*

The application process will close on September 12, 2007. The new Vice President of Academic Affairs will begin work on January 2, 2008.

This search is critical as the college heads into accreditation and the search committee is committed to get the very best person for Rio Hondo College.

Sylvia Viramontes Wins CSEA Award for Outstanding Service and Achievement

California School Employee Association (CSEA) held the 81st Annual Conference in Las Vegas where Rio Hondo College's Sylvia Viramontes in the Office of Marketing Publications, who was selected from 2000 nominations as one of six to receive the CSEA Statewide Employee Recognition.

This was a spectacular moment where more than 2,100 CSEA members, staff and guests gathered in Las Vegas July 30–Aug. 3. At the conference dedicated classified employees from all over California shared ideas, vote on resolutions, adopt a budget and present awards for outstanding service and achievement.

Ms. Viramontes had the opportunity to speak to the attendees after a 3 minutes video testimonial featuring her colleagues at Rio Hondo sharing about her important work at the college and her fantastic attitude. This is a special honor not only for Ms. Viramontes, but also for Rio Hondo College. The Rio Hondo College board of Trustees Vice President, Angela Acosta-Salazar presented Ms. Viramontes with a commendation from the Board of Trustees.



Instructional Services

Agreements: The Board of Trustees approved Instructional Service Agreements to make Police Training available to local agencies. These courses include Administration of Justice and Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certified classes. The agreements are with City of Pomona Police Department for the term through June 30, 2012 and City of San Gabriel Fire Department for the term through April 18, 2012.

Budget Augmentation – Classified

A-Day Positions: The Board of Trustees approved certain positions to increase the work year of 2007-2008. The increase of salary and the benefits of the work year is \$22,922. CSEA contract language, Article 7.9 specified that starting with 2006-2007 fiscal year, the District shall make available \$25,000 annually to increase the work year of A-Day positions. A-Days are defined in the 2005/2008 CSEA contract, Article 7.9 as: “part-time employees worked in 10 month, 10½ month or 11 month blocks and had the balance of the year off.

Hewlett Packard Hardware and Enterasys Network Upgrade to Support SunGard’s Banner

ERP/MIS Software: The Board of

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Rio Hondo College Student Awarded Coca-Cola Scholarship

Rio Hondo College student Blanca Herrera is one of 400 recipients nationwide who have been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship from the Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation, through the Coca-Cola Two Year Colleges Scholarship Program. Ms. Herrera received a commendation from the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees, a commendation from California State Assemblymember Tony Mendoza from the 56th Assembly District and a certificate from Coca-Cola at the August 15, 2007 Board meeting.

The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation awards a total of 400 scholarships annually to students attending higher-education institutions granting two-year degrees. Recipients are chosen because they have demonstrated academic success and participated in community service within the past 12 months.

“The Board of Trustees is very proud that Blanca Herrera has been chosen for this elite honor,” said Maria Elena Martinez, President of the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees. “This scholarship speaks not only to the quality of Rio Hondo College students, but to their character as well.”

The Coca-Cola Two-Year Colleges Scholarship Program is made possible with funding from the Joseph B. Whitehead Foundation. The Whitehead Foundation provides grants in support of human services initiatives. The late Joseph B. Whitehead was one of the original bottlers of Coca-Cola.

“Rio Hondo College is dedicated to student success, and part of that dedication is making sure that our students are supported both academically and financially as they seek higher education,” said Rio Hondo College President, Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr. “On behalf of the entire Rio Hondo College community I would like to congratulate Blanca on this outstanding recognition.”

The Coca-Cola Scholars Program is one of the most recognized and respected corporate-sponsored scholarships in America. The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation is supported by the financial commitment of the Coca Cola Bottling Company of Southern California and The Coca-Cola Company.

Exciting News Around the Campus



The Nursing Program was notified on Wednesday, August 8, 2007 that 29 out of 30 VN students from 7/01/2006-6/30/2007 passed the VN board exam, giving Rio Hondo College a 96.67% pass rate.



The Grand Opening of the Rio Hondo College Santa Fe Springs Fire Training Center will take place on October 19, 2007. The Academy has been renovated as a part of the *Building Access and Excellence* building program. More information on the event will be provided in the month of October.



Eighteen students successfully completed **Emergency Medical Technician training** at the Regional Training Center on August 9th and are now prepared to sit for the National Registry of EMT's test offered in late August, early September 2007.

Trustees awarded contracts to, a) Systems Technology Associates for HP Equipment under the DGS agreement #IS-05-70-16-01, for \$735,360 and, b) NE System for Enterasys network equipment under the CMAS agreement 3-04-70-2045B in the amount of \$60,213 from Bond Funds.

Revenue Agreement – Digital Volt Ohm Meter Training Course – Southern California Regional Transit Training Consortium: The Board of Trustees authorized the District to enter into a contract with Southern California Regional Transit Training Consortium and authorized the Administration to execute appropriate documents on behalf of the District.

New Board Policies 5000s, Student Services (First Reading): The Board of Trustees voted to table the item until they could have a study session and discuss suggestions brought forward by Crisella Ruiz of the ASB and have time to digest the information before voting.

Construction Update

Contractors have mobilized on the Library/Learning Resource Center, the Central Plant Project, and the Infrastructure Project. The Lot A Pedestrian Bridge will be awarded soon and construction is anticipated to begin by the end of the year. Parking, as always, is an issue, and while the contractors and the program team are trying to minimize impacts to students and faculty, extra patience will be appreciated during construction. To alleviate parking impacts, the campus recently added over 50 parking stalls to Parking Lot A. In addition to parking impacts, traffic flow has been modified around campus. Some streets that were formerly one way streets, including Circle Drive, have been restriped to allow for two way traffic. In addition, certain projects, including the infrastructure project, will require closure of street sections for weeks or months at a time, while the streets are excavated and utilities are installed, so traffic patterns on campus will continue to evolve.



Although they are not very visible on campus, some projects are wrapping up. The first is the building panel upgrade on the Science, Administration, and Business buildings. In addition, construction is nearing completion on the renovation of the Regional Fire Training Facility in Santa Fe Springs. The facility is presently in use, while final touches are underway to complete the project.

Learning Resource Center

Bernards Brothers is the general contractor. Work is ongoing, with site clearing and grading activities currently underway. When complete, the facility will be a 94,000 square foot two-story Library and Learning Resource Center. The building will have a modern library, training and meeting rooms, writing and reading labs, study rooms, and a rooftop garden on the second floor. The building is a LEED Certified project, meaning that it has been designed with sustainability in mind and emphasizes performance in sustainable site development, water savings, energy efficiency, materials selection, and indoor environmental quality.

PE Complex

The project is currently under design. Submittal for review by the Division of the State Architect (DSA) is scheduled for November. This state-funded project will include renovation of the existing gymnasium and fitness center buildings, and new construction of support and training facilities. The project will address the current needs of the campus, building codes, ADA requirements, and Title IX requirements. It will also include parking for approximately 40 cars, a new competition pool, and a new exercise pool. Approximately 30,000 square feet of existing space will be demolished and replaced by approximately 45,000 square feet of new space.

Lot A Pedestrian Bridge

Bids were recently received for this project which will connect Lot A to the Applied Technology Building, the Science Building, and the campus core. Construction is anticipated to begin by the end of 2007, with a duration of approximately 6 months. Parking Lot A will remain open for student parking and the stairs down to the intersection of North Road and Circle Drive will remain open during construction. New accessible parking stalls will be added to Parking Lot A.

