



PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

PAST ISSUES

SEPTEMBER 2008

IN THIS ISSUE

President's Message

Rio Hondo College Develops Enrollment Strategies Plan

Rio Hondo College Hosts WASA

UPDATE Survey

New Faculty Learn the Rio Hondo College Ropes

Constitution Day Celebrated Across Campus

September Board Meeting

Self-Study Reviews Help Campus Prepare for Accreditation Visit

Veterans Department Expands

Rio Hondo College Student, Cancer Survivor, Shares Hope with Others

City Managers Meet at Police Academy, Experience Training Simulations

College Hosts Marrow Donor Drive

Club Rush Helps Students Connect with Campus Life

Applied Technology Building Renovation Groundbreaking

Construction Update

Computer System Timeline

.....

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

Please take time to review the college's Vision, Mission and Values statements on the web, in the College Catalog or in the Class Schedule. These statements are important to everyone as we work together to influence successful student learning outcomes. You will be seeing large posters positioned throughout the campus to help remind us all of the importance of the Rio Hondo College Mission.

Thank you to everyone who participates in the periodic review and modification of department and division websites, and to our Webmaster, Kevin Luong for his assistance. We know that our website provides an ever-increasing source of primary information about the college to our students and our public. Modifications and updates are a critical part of our ability to communicate with our multiple audiences. We will be sending reminders throughout the year.

We launched the Media Preferences Survey September 22, in hopes of learning more about how our students prefer for us to communicate with them, and to gather information to help us spend our marketing budget in the most effective and efficient way. Thanks to everyone who helped spread the word and encouraged students to participate in the anonymous survey.

Thanks also to everyone involved in the Enrollment Strategies Workshop with Dr. Dean Colli, September 18. The processes identified, especially the format of the data we will request about enrollment patterns, will help the college best configure the class schedule to meet student needs and to anticipate demand. The Student Services representatives had an opportunity to work together to identify ways to impact student success.

The review of the Accreditation Self-Study, standard-by-standard, during the past weeks should help refresh the standard committee members and others as we look forward to the visit of the site visit team October 13-16.

You will soon see our campaign to encourage students to petition for a degree or a certificate. We have noticed that many students, especially those who are transfer-bound, do not petition or receive a degree, even though they may have completed all the requirements. These students may not be aware they have the opportunity. I am asking everyone to help grow awareness of the importance of the associate degree and the November 7 deadline for petitions for degrees and certificates. The campaign slogan is "You've earned it, now get that degree". Remember, in June we awarded 1,148 degrees – putting us very close to the 100th college on the "Top 100 Community College degree producers" list published each spring. With some encouragement, we can help our students learn about the benefits of a Rio Hondo degree and land on the prestigious "Top 100" list. Help spread the word!

Mission Statement

"Rio Hondo College is a collaborative center of lifelong learning which provides innovative, challenging, and quality educational offerings for its diverse students and community."



Rio Hondo College Develops Enrollment Strategies Plan

Following June's initial workshop to help RHC develop an Enrollment Strategies Plan, a second session September 18 facilitated by Dr. Dean Colli, identified next steps in greater detail, and provided the opportunity for separate 'break out' sessions for Academic Affairs and Student Services personnel to analyze the data for each of their respective areas. The overall project will help RHC determine the most effective and efficient ways to allocate our educational resources and meet student needs.

Rio Hondo College Hosts WASA

Rio Hondo College hosted the Welcome Back Breakfast for the Whittier Area School Administrators (WASA) September 19. This annual event is typically held near the beginning of the school year and gives administrators from the Eight Whittier school districts, Whittier College and Rio Hondo College, an opportunity to meet to network and to introduce new administrators to the group at large. WASA hosts three events per year, the Welcome Back Breakfast, the Community Service Award breakfast and the final event of the year, the Administrative Assistants luncheon.



UPDATE Readers!

We want your input. Please go to the Rio Hondo College Website for a link to Readers Survey.

— Thank You!

New Faculty Learn the Rio Hondo College Ropes

Although several of the 21 new full-time faculty who began their service this fall semester have served the college in an adjunct, or part-time capacity, every teacher in a new assignment can use some tips as to how to get things done and what to expect as a member of the faculty. That's why the traditional one-day 'orientation' of the past was expanded to five sessions this fall, to include topics from attendance to parking to writing a syllabus.



Beginning with a Saturday session the week before classes began, the new faculty had the opportunity to attend four additional Friday seminars to help them start on the right foot. Sessions included:

Saturday, August 6, 2008

- Mission/Vision
- Student Demographics
- Pay Day/Overload
- Health Benefits
- Policies & Procedures
- Tour/Parking
- Faculty Association
- FLEX obligation
- Add/Delete Students
- Emergency Preparedness Plan
- Evening/Weekend College
- Benefits
- Attendance
- Phone/e-mail, mail box

• Grading/Final Schedule • Faculty Handbook

Friday, August 29, 2008

- Sexual Harassment
- SLO Development & Assess.
- Role of Faculty on Committees
- Curriculum Process

Friday, September 5, 2008

- Full Time Faculty Evaluations

Friday, September 12, 2008

- Introduction to Student Services
- Library Services
- Registration

- Assessment
- Transfer Center
- Early Warning Program
- Career Center
- Disruptive Students
- Student Grading
- Academic Dishonesty

Friday, September 19, 2008

- On-line Courses
- Writing a Syllabus
- How People Learn
- Learning Theories
- Approaches to Learning
- Engaging students in the class
- Basic Skills Initiative

Constitution Day Celebrated Across Campus

Rio Hondo College joined in the national celebration of U.S. Constitution Day Wednesday, September 17, the anniversary of the signing of the document in 1787. The Associated Student Body hosted an event focused on the Constitution and what it means in our lives today. Other activities and events were designed to develop awareness of the importance of the Constitution.



This celebration reminds the campus community of the importance of the Constitution in our lives and in our governance. It was an opportunity for the entire campus community to learn more about and to be reminded of the importance of the Constitution and the protection it affords everyone today.

In the Upper Quad of the campus the Financial Aid Department had a booth where students could pick up a 'pocket' Constitution. Professor Joaquin Duran gave a presentation on the Constitution, and students answered trivia questions and won prizes. The library had display cases with the Constitution posted along with facts about the Bill of Rights.



September Board Meeting

The Board of Trustees met at the Rio Hondo College campus September 10. The meeting began by recognizing the retirement of the former Dean of Physical Education, Ellie Bewley. Ms. Bewley worked for Rio Hondo College for 34 years. Ellie spoke briefly and stated that the College gave her so much over the years, and that she was happy to go to work everyday.



Dr. Paul Parnell, Elle Bewley, Angela Acosta-Salazar, Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

New members and continuing members of the Citizen's Oversight Committee, in attendance were: Michelle Yanez, Rob Lawe, Bob Arculeta, Diana Villalba and Steve Valdez. Dr. Paul Parnell then introduced the 21 new faculty members that have been hired for this year, one of the largest faculty hiring of any California Community College this year. The ability to hire these new faculty members, even during tight financial times, is a result of the college's continuous prudent fiscal management. The new members include: Katherin Brandt, Nursing Instructor; Brian Brutlag, Sociology Instructor; Scott Dixon, Philosophy Instructor; Shelly Ferrari, Nursing Instructor; Sergio Guzman, Counselor; Shawna Hellenius, Librarian; Jorge Huinquez, Counselor; David Lindy, Electrical/Electronics Instructor; Patricia Luna, Nursing Instructor; Kelly Lynch, Child Development /Education Instructor; Dianne Martinez, Coordinator/Counselor Transfer Center; Ann Mansolino, Photography Instructor; Robert Miller, Ceramics Instructor; Krysia Mayer, Math Instructor; Lydia Okelberry, Math Instructor; Daniel Osman, English Instructor; Lydia Perez, Nursing Instructor; Dorali Pichardo, Counselor; Jeronimo Ribaya, Biology Instructor; Geoff Skarr P.E. Instructor/Cross Country and Track Coach; and Jennifer Tanaka-Hoshijo, P.E. Instructor and Women's Soccer Coach. Twenty-one new faculty members have joined the Rio Hondo College family this year.

continued on next page.

Self-Study Reviews Help Campus Prepare for Accreditation Visit

How time flies! Just a few months ago the teams working on each of the College's Self-Study standards put the finishing touches on their work. After the editors finished making it one 'whole' piece instead of independent sections, and edited for consistency and style, the 'book' was pronounced done. During the summer, it was submitted to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) for review by the visiting team.

In just two weeks, the site visit team will be on the Rio Hondo College campus, October 13-16, during which time members of the team will meet with committee members of each respective Self-Study standard. In order to refresh memories and to review the criteria against which the College is to be evaluated, four separate study sessions were held during the month of September, each focusing on a standard. The sessions were led by the standards' co-chairs. The entire campus community was invited to join in the review.



Veterans Department Expands

New facilities for the RHC Veteran Department offices have been established in the Campus Inn with two offices and a student area. There has been excellent feedback from students who visited offices that have been open since September 1. Under the leadership of Sylvia Duran-Katnik, the office has been catching up on Veteran student certifications. The emergency loan program has already granted nine students \$300 loans to cover some of their costs while attending Rio Hondo College. The department will also have Sandy Prieto from the Veterans Vocational Rehabilitation Department coming to the new offices to meet with qualified veterans. There is also a new intern that will be handling a lot of the part-time staff support.

The Veterans club has been established and is very active. Jose Vasquez and four other students have worked together to recruit 50 additional students to the club. The club is open to non-veterans as well and 10 non-veteran students have also joined. The club has an e-mail site through gmail. The site has informational listing and offers a forum for discussion. There will be a number of speakers who will address club members on Tuesday afternoons at the club meetings.

There are big plans on the horizon, a possible comedy night fundraiser and a staff advisory committee for the club. The ideas and funding that came from last year's President's Gala are being realized on the campus right now. Drop in and say hello.

Rio Hondo College Student, Cancer Survivor, Shares Hope with Others

Rio Hondo College student, Patrick Franco, is sharing his inspiring story with others as a part of the City of Hope's speaker's bureau. Patrick has survived Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, better known as ALL. Seven years ago, his pediatrician suspected he had mononucleosis, but the tests came back negative. The doctor said he needed a hematologist and should go to the City of Hope. His symptoms included fatigue, body and bone aches, and a high fever. It was then that he learned that he had Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.

At the age of 12 things looked very bad. However, three years later his treatment ended and the final bone marrow showed absolutely no cancer cells. Patrick then felt that it was important to give back to the City of Hope—maybe to share with others that survival is possible. Patrick has been speaking on behalf of the hospital throughout the country and was one of the youngest people to be asked into the City of Hope's speaker's bureau.

This highly driven man feels fulfilled by service. He would like to be a law enforcement officer and chose Rio Hondo College because of the high quality reputation of the Administration of Justice. He has been at the College for the last two years and has found it to be a good fit for his future. He is hopeful that once he completes his General Education Requirements that he will be able to attend the Rio Hondo College Police Academy.



BOARD MEETING

continued from previous page

There is a profile of each of them in a document that was distributed during the Board Meeting September 10 and also circulated to the campus community electronically.



Teresa Dreyfuss, Angela Acosta-Salazar, Rob Lawe, Steven Valdez, Michelle Yanez-Jiminez, Bob Arculeta, Diana Villalba, Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

Two presentations were made. The first, by Dr. Paul Parnell, focused on Enrollment Management and the strategic planning the College is doing to ensure that resources are used in the most effective and efficient way to provide as many learning opportunities as possible. Mr. Jack Raubolt spoke to the Board about the progress of the Access Rio project and the 'mock' implementations that have taken place. For example, there was a mock registration of 1,300 students using the new system which Raubolt termed "an enormous success."



Dr. Paul Parnell



Jack Raubolt

The Board passed several agenda items including the approval of the proposed 2008-2009 adopted budget, consultant services, and the deferral of Rio Hondo Parkway.

City Managers Meet at Police Academy, Experience Training Simulations

City Managers from Whittier, Bellflower, Cerritos, Commerce, Hawaiian Gardens, Huntington Park, Lynwood, Santa Fe Springs, Signal Hill and South Gate met at the Rio Hondo College Police Academy for their monthly meeting in September. Dean of Public Safety, Joe Santoro briefed the managers about the Public Safety Department and highlighted the close working relationship the College has with neighboring cities.



After the business meeting, participants were split into groups where they were briefed on an array of weapons used by the Whittier Police Department Tactical Unit along with training weapons used by the Rio Hondo College Police academy.

Some of the city managers were taken to the firing range where they were able to fire AR-15s and MP-5s. They were given the opportunity to use the driving and firing simulators and run through various emergency scenarios where they had to make split second decisions for the safety of both themselves and the public. It was reported that several of the city managers shoot very well.



College Hosts Marrow Donor Drive

Rio Hondo College hosted a bone marrow donor drive at the Police Academy on September 18. The purpose of the drive was to identify a donor match for Steve Measer, a member of the local community, who is a leukemia patient at the City of Hope. Measer is in urgent need of a donor match at this time.



The National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP) sponsors bone marrow registration drives to make sure those patients with leukemia or other life-threatening blood disorders are able to find compatible donors for a life-saving marrow or cord blood transplant. According to the NMDP, registration is easy: **Step One:** Confirm that you meet donor guidelines (in order to register your bone marrow with the National Marrow Donor Program you need to be between 18 and 60 years of age and in good health.). **Step Two:** Complete the registration and consent form. **Step Three:** Complete a cheek swab test, to see if you match a patient in need. If you are a match to a patient, a NMDP representative will contact you with further information and instructions.



Everyone at the College was asked to participate in the drive, but it was open to anyone who would like to help save lives. The coordinator for the event was Barbara Keith, the Basic Academy Coordinator for the Rio Hondo Regional Training Center.

Club Rush Helps Students Connect with Campus Life

The Student Services Fair/Club Rush was held over a two-day period in mid-September. Club Rush is an opportunity for clubs on campus to recruit new members and for students to learn more about their opportunities to participate. Fourteen clubs turned out to recruit new members:

- Alpha Gamma Sigma (Honors)
- Artists Creating Theatre
- BBQ Club
- Campus Light
- Catholic Newman Club
- Gay Straight Alliance
- Honors Transfer Society
- Musicians for Cultural Unity
- Parents in College
- Psychology
- Student Advocacy Club
- Tri Omega (Administration of Justice)
- Veterans Club
- Vocal Arts Alliance



Special activities included free pizza to students who paid their College Service fees on Wednesday; on Thursday, the ASB Senate gave out 400 bbq hot dogs, and chips to students who paid their CSF.

September 11 was dedicated to the memory of 09-11-2001. A fire truck and police car were displayed in the quad and a wreath in memory of those who lost their lives in 911 placed nearby a list of those who died that day. There was also a moment of silence at 11 a.m.

Applied Technology Building Renovation Groundbreaking

Rio Hondo College celebrated another facilities milestone with a groundbreaking ceremony to mark the inception of the extensive renovation of the Applied Technology Building September 9. The \$11.1 million dollar project will include upgraded communications and information technology capacities, more energy efficient heating and cooling, reconfiguration of the auto tech and welding laboratories, state-of-the art equipment for the auto tech and welding labs and renovated classrooms.



Local, state and federal elected officials attended the celebration along with members of the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees, faculty, students and staff to mark this important step in the renovation of the Rio Hondo College campus. Associated Student Body President Ernesto Zumaña presented the students' perspective, noting the wide array of career and technical program path opportunities available at Rio Hondo College.

Representatives included the office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Kanabe, the office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina, office of Congresswoman Linda Sanchez, the office of Assembly member Bob Huff, the office of Assembly member Mike Eng and the office of Assembly member Charles Calderon.

The project is designed by Martinez Architects. Construction Management team for this project is Vanir Construction Management. The contractor for the project is W.E. O'Neil Construction Company.





Construction Update

The mix of heavy equipment, road closures and student vehicular traffic at the beginning of the semester is always challenging. However, with good planning and strategic adjustments recommended by the Parking Task Force, the first weeks of class were relatively smooth for staff and students alike.

Contractors continued with their work and deliveries were made to construction sites. One of the College's primary goals was to minimize traffic and parking impacts during the first few weeks of the semester without impacting construction schedules. To that end, the Parking Task Force was convened and developed a plan for tram routes, traffic guard locations, overflow parking, and traffic routing. Thanks to the coordination of the Facilities Department, the Administration, and the Program Management Team, impacts were minimized, even with an increase in enrollment. For example, the Information Booth was temporarily relocated to the parking lot by the Gym, eliminating a bottleneck at the main campus entrance where cars would back up waiting to turn left across College Drive.

Several building projects are currently underway. On September 9 the College held a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the commencement of the Applied Technology Renovation project. The \$11.1 million project will involve the interior renovation of the entire Applied Technology complex and is anticipated to take approximately 18 months. The contractor has mobilized and work is now underway.

In addition, the other ongoing projects are continuing toward completion. The structure of the Library and Learning Resource Center building is up and the interior construction is proceeding at a rapid pace, with plumbers, electricians and framers on site, even while exterior earth moving continues.. The infrastructure project is moving down Central Drive and will continue moving west for the next couple months. After Central Drive is complete the project will move to South Road. The Central Plant project is now visible at the top of campus, near Maintenance. The building, constructed of concrete blocks, is nearly complete and site work and equipment construction should start soon.

Upcoming projects include the Administration of Justice Building and Student Services Complex, which are currently under DSA review, and the PE Complex. The Board of Trustees recently made the decision to defer construction of Rio Hondo Parkway, which will necessitate some changes to the PE Complex design as well as some other changes at different points on the campus. Everyone is excited about the ongoing and upcoming work, as well as the long range benefits.

Computer System Timeline

