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Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

Let's celebrate our busy launch into the fall semester! Not only do we continue to serve record-breaking numbers of students, but we also work together to provide an incredible array of events and activities for our campus community.

First, thanks to everyone who helped staff those important Information Booths during the first week of class. With construction detours and temporary use of the former library as 'swing space' for Physical Education and Athletics, it was especially important to be able to provide on-the-spot assistance for students to help them get to class. Kudos to our new security services team for keeping traffic moving smoothly, especially during the frantic first week.

We also appreciate our Financial Aid staff for assisting students with the new 'my RHC card' disbursement card, which gets financial aid money into students' pockets faster.

We have already dispersed more than \$1.5 million in Federal Financial Aid to 1,448 Rio Hondo College students.

We formally inaugurated the new South Whittier Educational Center with a community celebration, ribbon-cutting ceremony, plaque dedication and tours of the facility. These special events do not plan themselves, of course. My thanks to those who do the planning and make everything happen on schedule.



Club Rush was a lively event in the Upper Quad, made even more so with the entertainment of the simultaneous celebration of "El Grito" on September 16. Our ASB is hard at work executing a rewarding campus life for our students.

Be sure to take in the many upcoming performances and activities brought to you by our outstanding Arts and Culture program. We are fortunate to be able to bring these outstanding events to our campus and our community.

We are well on our way to another successful and eventful semester!

Dealing with Tragedy

In the course of a few days, Rio Hondo College has experienced tragic losses. On September 18, student-athlete and wrestling team captain Jesus "Jesse" Cruz collapsed during a match and died at the hospital. Two days later, three students were involved in a single-car crash near campus that took the life of Romina Polanco and seriously injured her son, and a friend who remain hospitalized.

While we cannot control or prevent such tragedies, we should acknowledge the teamwork of many who act expeditiously and professionally to communicate information as we have it and to keep our campus community informed. I am especially appreciative for our faculty, staff, and administrators in Physical Education, Student Services and Finance and Business and commend their collective efforts during these difficult times.

Board Meeting

The Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees held its regular monthly meeting Wednesday, September 8, 2010.

■ Director of Upward Bound, Dr. Zolita Fisher, provided an update to the Board of Trustees on the College's TRIO Program. She shared with the Board the program's goals and objectives and provided information on academic improvements. She also shared with the Board that the Upward Bound Senior Class had a 100 percent college acceptance rate this last year; with 71 percent of the students attending either UC or Cal State Universities.

■ Professor of Anthropology, Adam Wetsman, presented this year's Leadership Academy Cohort. He shared information on the Academy's first retreat and explained the workshop sessions that were held.

■ Dean, Arts & Cultural Programs, Joanna Downey, Staff Development/FLEX Coordinator, Katie O'Brien and Chemistry Instructor Matt Koutoulis presented an Accreditation/Student Learning Outcomes Report to the Board of Trustees. They highlighted how important Student Learning Outcomes are to the College's accreditation process. They also explained how they were working on a progress report on behalf of the College to send to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) in October. According to Koutoulis, "96.8 percent of Rio Hondo College's courses have Student Learning Outcomes available." He also mentioned how it is the ACCJC's goal to have all community colleges proficient by 2012. He assured the Board that Rio Hondo College is on track for this goal.

College Celebrates Mexican Independence With 'El Grito' Day of Events

It was all about "El Grito" on September 16 at Rio Hondo College, where students, staffers and administrators helped mark the 200th anniversary of Mexico's independence with a mix of food, music, history and performance arts.

All events on "El Grito" were free and open to the public. Instructors were encouraged to have their students attend any of the day's performances to learn about this important day in Mexican history as well as celebrate its heritage and culture. Refreshments will be served. The day's events included entertainment East Los Angeles Latin Jazz Band, Historical Perspective discussions, a performance by Maria Elena Ramirez and time with best-selling Author Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez.



Rose Hills Artwork Inventory Showcases Student Talent

Rio Hondo College art students are again on display at the Rose Hills Memorial Park and Mortuary. The partnership between Rio Hondo and Rose Hills, which began last year, showcases the art of students studying painting with Ada Brown and other art department faculty. Student pieces are displayed in the Rose Hills Reception area, and are available for purchase by the Rose Hills visitors.

"The arts are such an integral part of our success here at Rio and we felt it was important to find an outlet for students to showcase their work," said Dean JoAnna Downey, who helped generate the Rose Hills partnership. "We are very proud of all our outstanding artists here at Rio Hondo and are ecstatic to once again put their talent on display."

Students who are showcased at Rose Hills include Liz Alcala, Paul Barrientos, Tony Beccera, Claudia Bibiano, Michelle Covey, Genevieve Delgado, Manuel Espinoza, Rosanna Fermin, Erika Flores, Ricky Gagne, Robert Garcia, Laura Garcia, Fady Habeb, Elizabeth Hennessey, Anna Martinez, Jessica Martinez, Martiza Munguia, Michael Oblea, Karly Razo, Sheila Rodriguez, John Saade, Joe Serrano, Ashley Vasquez, Ya-Ting Wen, and Mutong Wu.



From left, Rio Hondo College student Joe Serrano, Dean of Arts & Cultural Programs JoAnna Downey-Schilling, Superintendent/President Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr., Visual Arts/Painting Faculty Ada Brown and Executive Director of Business Development for Rose Hills, Bruce Lazenby



invites you to attend the

"Board Meeting and Community Mixer"

Wednesday, October 13, 2010

City of Santa Fe Springs Council Chamber
11710 E. Telegraph Road, Santa Fe Springs

The Community Mixer will begin with refreshments and a chance to meet the Board at 5:15 p.m.

The Board of Trustees Meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m.

Please help us to strengthen our connection with the community. Rio Hondo College belongs to you and all the residents it serves.

Angie Tomasich Selected

Angie Tomasich was recently selected to serve as an Administrative Assistant in the President's Office.



Tomasich has worked at Rio Hondo College since June 2008, where she started working as a Cultural Events Assistant in the Arts Department. Tomasich said she is very excited about this new opportunity.

"Rio Hondo College has always been a part of my life," she said. "I first attended Rio after I graduated from El Rancho High School where I obtained an associate degree in Accounting. Later on, when I wanted to take some art classes for personal enrichment, it was Rio again that afforded me the opportunity to quench my thirst for knowledge. The passion for education is something I found among everyone at Rio Hondo College."

Congratulations, Angie!

RHC English Instructor Participates in USC's Flor y Canto Literary Festival

In 1973, USC hosted the Flor y Canto literary festival, a three-day event that featured dozens of emerging Mexican American poets and writers in the nascent Chicano movement. One of the recurring themes was the contrast between great Mesoamerican civilizations of the past and the indignities suffered by those chasing the elusive "American Dream." This year, which marks the centennial of the Mexican Revolution and the bicentennial of Mexican independence, the university reprised the event.

Rio Hondo College English Professor Mary Ann Pacheco was asked to deliver the keynote remarks that kicked-off the three-day event at USC this year because she was a participant in the original event there. Congratulations Mary Ann!

Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony for New South Whittier Educational Center

We celebrated the completion of the first phase of the South Whittier Educational Center on September 10 with a grand opening, ribbon-cutting ceremony, and tours of the three-classroom building for invited guests.

The grand opening and ribbon cutting program consisted of an introduction by Rio Hondo College's Superintendent/President, Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D. as well as remarks by County Supervisor Don Knabe and Sheriff Lee Baca, musical entertainment, construction highlights for the \$1.6 million project and informational tours of the three-classroom building.



Angela Acosta-Salazar

Sheriff Lee Baca

The center is located at 14307 Telegraph Road in Whittier, the site of the Sheriff's STARS center, which the College leases from the County of Los Angeles. The Center offers a variety of teaching programs to the community as well as classrooms and a courtyard for student and staff use.

The new South Whittier Educational Center project is part of Rio Hondo's *Building Access and Excellence* building program. Completed projects include the Learning Resource Center, a pedestrian bridge, campus infrastructure, central plant, and construction of the Santa Fe Springs Regional Public Safety Training Center. The *Building Access and Excellence* program was designed to improve facilities and learning environments for Rio Hondo students.

"The South Whittier Educational Center is our first true satellite center and will be followed by a satellite center in El Monte," said Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., Superintendent/President. "The College is eager to meet the community's needs. Not only will the satellite educational centers help alleviate traffic on the main campus, they will also provide new access and pathways to higher education for some of the underserved areas of our District. Of course, we are most appreciative to our community for their support in passing Measure A facilities bond, which makes it all possible."



College Marketing Works Earn Regional Medallion Awards

The National Council for Marketing and Public Relations (NCMPR) sponsors regional juried competition to recognize outstanding achievement in communications for community college professionals. Our District includes Arizona, Nevada, Utah, California, Hawaii and the Pacific Trust Territories. Rio Hondo College Medallion winners in this year's competition include:

First Place Gold Award for Poster

The winning entry is Crystal Maes' poster for "The Diviners" production.

First Place Gold Award for Wildcard category

The winning entry is the brochure, "Facilities Facts."

Second Place Silver Award for Brochure/Flyer Series

The entry is the high school targeted brochure series, "What's Next?" and "Let's Talk College."

Second Place Silver Award for Catalog 2010-2011 College Catalog.

Foundation to Host Annual Golf Tournament

The Rio Hondo College Foundation will host the 6th Annual Rio Hondo College Golf Tournament Friday, Oct. 29 at one of Southern California's finest golf courses, the Babe Zaharias at Pacific Palms Hotel and Conference Center in Industry Hills.

To register for the 6th Annual Rio Hondo Golf Tournament, or for sponsorship opportunities, please visit www.riohondo.edu/foundation.



New Security and Emergency Resources Serve Students/Staff for 2010-11 Academic Year

As part of a continuing commitment to provide safe and secure learning environments, Rio Hondo College is implementing a series of important new safety enhancements. Although the College and its off-campus sites are public non-gated areas, Rio Hondo College is diligent in maintaining a high level of security for its visitors, students and employees.

In addition to ongoing security patrols and related services, the College has already implemented a new system that notifies students and staff of any emergency on campus via email using the College's RioMail system. The email communication is designed to reach thousands of recipients in minutes and will better ensure safety and communication at Rio Hondo College in times of campus closure or other emergencies. In time, the College plans to expand this service to also notify students and staff via voicemail and text message.

Other enhancements include new "blue light" emergency solar-powered phones, which are being installed in parking areas and other public locations throughout the campus; and security cameras in the new Learning Resource Center, which will help deter theft and other crimes in high-traffic locations. Security cameras are planned for all new construction on the campus. The Rio Hondo College website will also continue to provide security information and reports as well as breaking information on campus closures and/or emergencies.

"Rio Hondo College is confident in our multi-prong strategies for campus safety," said Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D., Rio Hondo College Superintendent/President. "We are encouraged by the opportunities to adopt new technology and methods as proactive efforts to further enhance the security of our campus and to help keep our Campus as safe as possible."



Rio Hondo College Names Ramirez Assistant Director of Facilities



John Ramirez is no stranger to education. The new Assistant Director of Facilities, Ramirez has spent the past eight years as a dedicated employee of the Los Angeles Unified School District, the largest public school system in California. While there Ramirez served as both Area Supervisor in the LAUSD Maintenance and Operations Branch and Manager of New Construction Coordination Center.

"I am both very honored and excited to begin my work here at Rio Hondo," said Ramirez. "I've had a lot of experience in the field of public education and I'm eager to collaborate with the Rio Hondo staff to make the school the best it can possibly be."

Some of Ramirez' many accomplishments include simultaneously administering 90 formal and informal contracts totaling over \$25 million; purchasing liaison responsible for 123 Annual Contracts totaling over \$210 million; developing, and implementing the Community Projects Manual for donations to Los Angeles Unified School District; and initiating and implementing training for proper maintenance and inspection of athletic and playground equipment. Ramirez earned his A.S. in Business from Ivy Tech College in Indianapolis, Indiana and his B.S. in Business Management from the University of Phoenix in Glendale, Arizona.

SanFACC Mentor Program

At the challenge of Mt. Sac President Dr. John Nixon, the San Gabriel/Foothill Association of Community Colleges (SanFACC) recently began an intercollegiate Mentor program, pairing employees who aspire to administrative leadership positions with mentors from neighboring colleges whose backgrounds and expertise correspond to the mentees' professional development needs. In this inaugural year of implementation, 21 mentees, comprised of college faculty, staff, and management, have been paired with mentors from four participating colleges: Rio Hondo College, Mt. Sac, Glendale College and Citrus College.

"The SanFACC Mentor Program was designed to deepen and broaden the pool of potential college leaders," said Katie O'Brien, Staff Development/FLEX Coordinator. "We look forward to a productive year and the exciting possibilities this program will create for individuals, their colleges and the community."

At the 2010-2011 SanFACC Mentor program Orientation, held at Mt. Sac on September 2nd, mentors and mentees met and discussed the goals and activities they would undertake during the year to assist one another in their professional development. Rio Hondo has one mentee, Rebecca Green from Sociology, and two mentors, Dr. Paul Parnell and Joanna Downey, participating this year.



"I was very pleased to learn of the opportunity to participate in the SanFACC mentor program," said Assistant Professor of Sociology, Rebecca Green. "As a faculty member I have looked for ways to develop my leadership skills and this program will do just that. While I love teaching – and will forever be a teacher, I have always wanted to explore the possibility of an administration position as well. I have met on two occasions with my mentor, Jim Jenkins, the Associate Dean of Social Sciences at Mt. Sac. His enthusiasm for his job, his candor and his willingness to "show me the ropes" was exciting and much appreciated. I have very high hopes that my job shadowing opportunities with Assoc. Dean Jenkins will be truly beneficial."

RHC Library for Literacy Program Receives Grant

The Rio Hondo College Library recently received a \$15,000 grant from Verizon to help support *Reinforcing Literacy @ Rio: A Librarian-Faculty Collaboration*, a program that addresses the need for the library to provide satisfying reading experiences for older, new readers of books written in English. The library will use the grant monies to develop a Verizon Collection of high-interest, low-literacy level materials. Three resource types will be purchased: life-skill oriented/informational materials, study and instructional materials, and adult leisure reading.



In the Rio Hondo Community College District area, more than 26% of the students attending public schools are English learners. Of district residents, over 35% speak a language other than English at home, according to the 1999/2000 report of the U.S. Census Bureau. New students at Rio Hondo Community College take an academic preparedness test to identify reading level. The majority of students (63%) test into the remedial English (Reading & Study Skills) classes.

"This is a great resource for developing readers," said Robert Holcomb, Assistant Dean of Student Success and Retention. "Thanks to this new grant, over 1,100 students could benefit from the *Reinforcing Literacy @ Rio* program by the spring of 2011."

This is the third Verizon grant that Rio Hondo College Library has received in the last two years. In the fall of 2008, Verizon gave \$12,500 for the initiative *Project Rio Hondo: An e-Learning Tutorial*. This money was used to develop online tutorials for the library Web site. In the summer of 2009, Verizon contributed \$20,000 to *Children's Story Time @ Rio Hondo College Library: A Campus Collaboration*. This project resulted in the creation and implementation of storytelling classes for Child Development Department students.

Housing and Urban Development Collegiate Partnership

In an effort to gain a better understanding of current community issues, and how community members can take an active role in addressing them, Rio Hondo College, in partnership with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, recently launched its first-ever National Fair Housing Collegiate Partnership. A special Fair Housing Forum featuring Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing & Equal Opportunity John Trasviña was held on Sept. 20 to kick-off the new partnership.

"It is important that students truly learn their rights as citizens and this partnership will help us educate the next generation about those rights," said President/ Superintendent Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D. "This is an exciting opportunity for our students and we are eager to implement this new program."



Congressional Representative Grace Napolitano, Assistant Secretary for Fair Housing & Equal Opportunity John Trasviña and Rio Hondo College's Superintendent/President, Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.

The partnership, which is designed to promote fair housing, will educate students about their rights under the Fair Housing Act, which prohibits discrimination in housing based on race, color, national origin, sex, religion, families with children, or disability. In addition, Rio Hondo will develop service-learning opportunities with local fair housing groups and encourage students to consider public service as a career.

"HUD is committed to ensuring that every door is open to our next generation of renters and homebuyers," said Trasviña. "We will accomplish this through education and vigorous enforcement of the law."

The HUD/RHC partnership is in the planning stages and will involve internships, fair housing training, community service and classroom work. For more information please contact Michelle Yriarte in the President's Office at (562) 908-3403.