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## President's Message



*Dr. Ted Martinez, Jr.*

The Board of Trustees adopted a 'no cuts' budget for the 2011-2012 fiscal year for Rio Hondo College. Unlike other community colleges and four-year institutions in our region, Rio Hondo College is positioned to continue offering the same number of class sections with no reductions. We served 15,000 students during summer session again this year. Surrounding colleges severely reduced or cancelled their summer sessions. While other colleges have seen layoffs and furloughs, even reductions in benefits, Rio Hondo College continues to hold the line, even replenishing faculty and staff vacancies as they occur. We are indeed fortunate that we have prudent fiscal management that enables us to maintain our curriculum and services, even in the face of continuing and severe budget reductions from the State.

Fall semester is in full swing, as evidenced by activities taking place nearly every day. The 'new' Lower Quad is a nice venue to attract students for ASB Club Rush, Transfer Fair, 9-11 commemorative events, and Constitution Day. In addition, we have a full calendar of arts and cultural performances and events. My thanks to club advisors and staff for their assistance in the presentation of these important activities.

Our ability to assist our students through their educational journey is an important indicator of our success as an institution. In today's economic climate, we are expected to help students complete as efficiently as possible. Toward that end, I am working with our Division Deans to develop specific strategies to enhance completion and transfer. Dr. Pierson is leading a taskforce which focuses on developmental education which will identify practices that help students become better equipped to succeed at college-level work.

With the landscaping of the new Upper Quad, we have additional evidence that this long-awaited facilities resource is close to completion. We all look forward to the end of construction and related noise, detours and inconveniences. My appreciation to everyone for your good-natured patience throughout this vital improvement project.

## Rio Hondo College Students, Staff Remember 9-11

In commemoration of the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the September 11 attacks, the Rio Hondo College community came together through a series of memorial events.

- Fire Engine Display in the Lower Quad
- Moments of Silence (from 9:10 to 9:11 in the morning and evening)
- "The Guys" – staged readings in the Rio Hondo College Black Box
- Voter Registration opportunities hosted by the Veterans Club



## Board Meeting

The Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees held its regular monthly meeting Sept. 14, 2011.

- Instructor of English and Literature, Jim Matthis, made a presentation to the Board of Trustees regarding the 12<sup>th</sup> volume of *River's Voice*. The annual journal of art and literature is made up completely of student, faculty, staff and alumni submissions. The books are available for \$10. For more information, contact Jim at [JMatthis@riohondo.edu](mailto:JMatthis@riohondo.edu).



- Dean of Arts and Cultural Programs, JoAnna Downey, and Faculty Co-Chair, Katie O'Brien, provided a midterm report accreditation update to the Board of Trustees regarding the next report the College will submit in October. "Typically this type of report is accepted," said Downey. Currently, the report is in its editing stage and a draft will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval.



- Vice President of Finance and Business Teresa Dreyfuss provided a budget update to the Board of Trustees. Dreyfuss walked the members through the 2011-12 budget report, and provided highlights including what reductions would be made from the general fund, how the state was not implementing a COLA increase for 2011-12 and stated that no classes and/or class sections would be cut or eliminated.

## College Earns "Military Friendly School" Title from *G.I. Jobs*

*G.I. Jobs*, a premier magazine for military personnel transitioning into civilian life, selected Rio Hondo College for the second time as to receive the magazine's designation of Military Friendly School.

Rio Hondo College was one of only 1,518 colleges, universities and trade schools to make this year's list of Military Friendly Schools. Selection criteria included demonstration of experience and commitment to assist those who served in the nation's military. Sylvia Duran-Katnik, Rio Hondo College Veterans Resource Center Counselor/Coordinator served as primary contact and information source responding to the survey conducted by *G.I. Jobs*.



"This recognition is a special honor, as it reflects the Rio Hondo College commitment to reaching and serving our nation's veterans," said Rio Hondo College Superintendent/President Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D. "Establishing the Veterans Resource Center was an important step in our progress toward providing targeted services to veterans. The Veterans Service Center was the beneficiary of the first Rio Hondo College Foundation Gala, held in 2008. It is important to commend our Veterans Service Center staff for their dedication to helping those who serve our country reach their academic goals."

The 2012 list of Military Friendly Schools was compiled through extensive research and a data driven survey of more than 8,000 schools nationwide. Methodology, criteria and weighting for the list were developed with the assistance of an Academic Advisory Board (AAB) consisting of educators from schools across the country.

## ASB Holds 'Club Rush' to Highlight Campus Activity Options

To ensure all students are able to experience Rio Hondo College campus life, the Club Rush fair was held to showcase opportunities for participation in a variety of interest-based clubs and activities. Located in the lower quad, more than 20 booths were available for students to learn more about campus clubs and student services programs.

Club Rush annually takes place at the beginning of each semester to answer student questions and to encourage them to join the club/s of their preference. This year's theme, "luau" provided students with a colorful and fun atmosphere to learn about what clubs they want to join as well as what student services programs are available to them.



## New Dean of Student Affairs



The Board of Trustees appointed Dyrell Foster, Ed.D., as Dean of Student Affairs. Dr. Foster brings more than 10 years experience to Rio Hondo College. Prior to accepting this position, Foster worked

as an Associate Dean in Counseling at Mt. San Antonio Community College where he managed and directed students service programs within counseling, high-school outreach, academic bridge programs and others. He also coordinated partnership activities and projects with local K-12 high school districts to help facilitate the high school articulation process. Also while at Mt. SAC., Foster served as the Director of Student Life. He also worked as the Director of Student Life for Evergreen Valley College in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Foster's teaching experience includes: serving as a part-time lecturer for the master's program at California State University, Long Beach, and for the Doctorate Program for California State University, Fullerton. He also served as a member of the Mt. SAC. Adjunct Faculty from 2006-2009.

He earned a bachelor's degree from University of California, Davis and a master's degree from California State University, Long Beach. He received a doctorate in education at the University of Southern California.

## Constitution Day Celebrated

The Associated Student Body observed September 19 as Constitution Day at Rio Hondo College. Several events took place on campus to highlight the day, including a "We the People" booth, a presentation on the U.S. Constitution and a U.S. Constitution display. The display was held in the Library.

## PARK Campaign Highlights Driving & Parking Options to Students

New to this fall semester, Rio Hondo College officials developed the PARK (Plan Ahead, Rideshare, Know Your Options) campaign to help increase awareness and make the commuting process as efficient as possible for students and staff.

Coupled with beefed-up traffic management and new signage, the focused PARK campaign was launched to help inform students about resources available to them. E-mail messages, flyers, and website instructions included useful information:

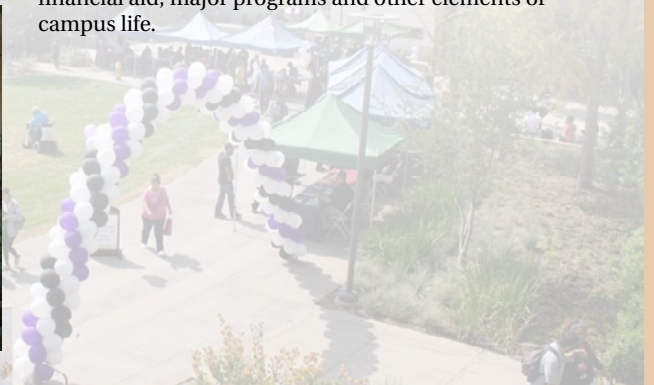


- **GO RIO** – Rio Hondo College created partnerships with local transit operators to provide eligible students with discounted transit passes to help them commute using public transportation. Partially funded by self-assessed student fees through the ASB, this program is ongoing throughout the academic year and is available for full-time students. This year for the first time the GO RIO pass is going high-tech as it is now offered in the form of a TAP (Transit Access Pass) card instead of a sticker. For more information, please visit [www.riohondo.edu/gorio](http://www.riohondo.edu/gorio).
- **Rider Relief Transportation Program** – This program provides bus fare subsidy coupons to eligible students who are not eligible for GO RIO, but who plan to purchase daily, weekly or monthly transit passes. To determine if a student is eligible for this program or to find out more information, please call (562) 806-0250 or email staff at [rrtp-info@hsala.org](mailto:rrtp-info@hsala.org).
- **Overflow Off-Site Parking and Free Shuttle Service** – New to the campus this fall semester, Rio Hondo College provides students and staff opportunity for overflow, off-site parking with the temporary use of 200 commercial parking spaces located just one mile from campus. The owner of the property, Majestic Reality, donated the use of the site for a short-term lease of \$1. Patrons will be shuttled to campus in a new CNG Shuttle Bus. The two-mile round-trip takes approximately 10 minutes. The College provides security, signage, and insurance.
- **On-campus parking** – Approximately 100 additional curbside student parking spaces are provided by the temporary re-routing of traffic to a one-way format on Circle Drive adjacent to Lots A, B, and C.
- **Pico Rivera Sports Arena parking** – Thanks to the City of Pico Rivera, the College secured no-cost additional parking for security staff and for College service vehicles. This plan frees up on-campus parking for students and other employees that would otherwise not be available.



## Transfer Fair Held to Provide Information to Students

A Transfer Fair was held on Sept. 15 in the lower quad to help increase awareness among students of the academic options after Rio Hondo College. Students were able to meet representatives from nearly 40 four-year universities from across the state and to learn more about admission, financial aid, major programs and other elements of campus life.



## Interim Associate Dean of Academic Affairs (Public Safety) Named



The Board of Trustees appointed Don Mason as Interim Associate Dean Academic Affairs (Public Safety). Mason brings more than 16 years of law enforcement experience to Rio Hondo College. Mason's professional experience includes working for the Los Angeles Unified School District Police, where he held a variety of positions including sergeant, field sergeant, senior police officer, field training officer and training officer.

Mason has also taught at Rio Hondo College as a full-time Public Safety instructor since 2001. Prior to that position, he worked part-time for Rio since 1995.

He earned a bachelor's degree from Southern Illinois University and master's degree from Capella University.

## Upward Bound Students Visit Universities/Landmarks in San Francisco

The TRiO Program at Rio Hondo College recently sponsored a Northern California trip. A total of 28 Upward Bound and Student Support Services students visited universities and cultural landmarks in San Francisco. The purpose of the trip was to introduce students to the colleges and universities in the area in hope to broaden academic opportunities and transfer options.



## United Friends of the Children Tour South Whittier Educational Center

Recently members from the United Friends of the Children took part in a community tour of the South Whittier Educational Center. Board of Trustees Member Gary Mendez invited the organization, which is a Los Angeles based non-profit that works to prepare foster children for college and career. Staff from the organization praised the College for the Center and said the tour was incredibly beneficial for all participants.

