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## President's Message



*Teresa Dreyfuss*

I would like to take this opportunity to bring our campus community up-to-date with regard to three important projects.

First, we are moving forward with the search for the next Superintendent/President of Rio Hondo College. Last month, we received responses to our Request for Proposal (RFP) to identify a professional search firm to assist us with this process and to help conduct a national search.

By mid month, we had invited three firms to meet with us in two sessions to a) receive input from a panel of representatives of our participatory governance constituent groups – students, classified employees, faculty, and management/confidential; and b) to be interviewed in a special meeting of the Board of Trustees. As a result of this process, the Board selected ACCT. Next month, we will have additional updates with regard to the search process.

Next, we continue to meet with our governance constituent representatives in efforts to identify ways to close our budget gap, which is approximately \$7 million. The Budget Reduction Task Force has met twice and learned the following: Student Services has been asked to reduce their overload teaching class budget by six percent and to reduce hourly counseling to live within budget allocations. Academic Affairs divisions are being asked to reduce their schedules by 250 sections during the 2012-2013 academic year, with savings resulting by avoiding budget overruns in part-time and overload salaries.

Additional savings are being accomplished with more efficient deployment of contract security staff, and also by decreasing budgets by 20 percent for supplies, operating and equipment. Further, we anticipate savings by reducing hourly part-time and overtime classified budgets by 20 percent. Because there will not be an election for Board members this year, the college will save in that category. Administrators who perform extra assignments are contributing to the savings, along with additional funds saved by administrative sharing of Evening Administration duties and a reduction of release time for coordinators; administrative vacancies also contribute to the savings.

At its meeting in September, the Cost Savings Task Force identified yet additional savings in Student Health Services, and other possible revenue generation to further reduce the funding gap.

I would like to commend the spirit of cooperation in order to help Rio Hondo College make it through yet another difficult year with as little impact to educational programs and staffing as possible. We will be watching carefully to learn if the Governor's tax proposal passes in November. We have scheduled a meeting after the election to review the budget at that time.

## Tickets on Sale Now for "Rio Fest"

Rio Hondo College will celebrate its 50th Anniversary with a special celebration for students, families, and the community. "Rio Fest" takes place Saturday, Oct. 20, from 3 to 9 p.m. on the College's Soccer Field.

Planned activities will evoke the College's early days, when it first opened for classes in 1963, including a groovy Best Dressed 1960s fashion contest and a screening of the 1961 musical movie "West Side Story" (6:30 p.m.) The day will also feature music and free interactive games (3-6:30 p.m.) Food will be available for purchase from 14 of L.A.'s best food trucks.

Attendees are encouraged to wear their most colorful 1960s fashions to participate in the fashion contest. Movie-goers can bring low-back lawn chairs, blankets, and flashlights to enjoy the screening.

Advance tickets for "Rio Fest" are \$5 and available in Student Life & Leadership, Student Union Building (SU 202). Day of event tickets are \$10; \$5 for children 6-11. Children five and younger are free. Free parking available in Lots 1-6 and Lot C.



## Board of Trustees



The Board of Trustees honored Pico Rivera Mayor Bob J. Archuleta and Pro Tem Mayor Gustavo V. Camacho for their service on the Citizens Oversight Committee. Thank you!

Two staff presentations took place at the Sept. 12 Board of Trustees meeting. Rebecca Green and Marisela Saenz of the Foster/Kinship Program reported that Rio Hondo has started a new program for its Foster Youth students. CONNECT – Connections Necessary to Experience College Transition – works to connect Foster Youth students to campus services and to provide ongoing support that contributes to their college success and helps avoid the stigma sometimes felt by Foster Youth as they seek college services.

Colin Young and Martha De La Mora of the College Honors Program gave an update on the open access program that currently serves about 331 students. Most compelling were statistics that highlight acceptance rates between honor and non-honor students: in Fall 2012, 23 Rio Hondo honor students applied to UCLA and 17 were accepted for a 74 percent acceptance rate. Among non Honor students, 71 applied and 21 were accepted for a 29.6 percent acceptance rate.

The benefits honor students reap are numerous: smaller class size, designated counselors, and priority admission consideration at many four-year schools.

## Dr. Robert Holcomb Appointed Interim Dean, Communications & Languages



The Board of Trustees appointed Dr. Robert Holcomb as Interim Dean, Communications and Languages, effective Sept. 13. Dr. Holcomb has

served as assistant dean of Student Success and Retention since 2009. He previously worked as the ESL professor/program coordinator.

Holcomb has a Ph.D. in Education from Claremont Graduate University; and a Master's, TESOL, and BA degree from USC.

## Grand Opening for South Whittier Educational Center Annex



Rio Hondo College held a ribbon-cutting ceremony Sept. 25 to celebrate recent additions to the South Whittier Educational Center (SWEC).

The SWEC Annex adds three classrooms to the existing facility, as well as office space and a student/faculty lounge. It further increases accessibility to higher educational opportunities for area residents; this fall SWEC offers 26 college classes that range from biology and child development to mathematics and theater to almost 875 students.

"SWEC, as we call this site, has grown in popularity, and is doing what we hoped it would do...offer access to college education to residents in one of the most remote portions of our service area," said Interim Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss.

The grand opening and ribbon-cutting program also included remarks by James Coyne, assistant director of facilities for the L.A. Sheriff's Department. "Education is extremely important to the Department," he said.

The facility, located on the former L.A. County "STARS" Administration Facility Site, was developed in conjunction with the L.A. County Sheriff's Office.

After the formal program attendees toured the 4,300 square-foot Annex as well as the existing 3,200 square-foot main building that first offered classes in fall 2010.



## Transfer Fair and University Pride Day

Students looking to transfer had the attention of reps from almost 40 universities and colleges at the year's largest Transfer Fair on Sept 12. Browsing information from Art Center, Humboldt State, UC Irvine, UCLA, and Woodbury University, among many others, students could ask questions regarding admissions, majors, financial aid and more. A UC/CSU Admissions panel presentation took place in the afternoon. In spirit of support, employees wore either "Rio Pride" gear, or their own college/university logo gear.



## Rio Hondo Achieves “Military Friendly” Distinction Once Again



Rio Hondo College is once again named in the ranks of “Military Friendly Schools”. The prestigious annual listing by *G.I. Jobs* magazine is based on a national survey conducted independently, and according to the magazine editors, “The honor shows military student readers and others that your policies, efforts and results in recruiting them are top shelf.” Thanks to Dr. Dyrell Foster, and Sylvia Duran-Katnik, Veterans counselor/coordinator, along with Tina Caldera and Arely Rodarte, for assisting with the survey and providing our students who are active duty military or veterans or eligible dependents with quality service and assistance. The designation reflects that Rio Hondo College is in the top 15 percent of all colleges, universities and trade schools nationwide.

## Voter Registration

Students from a new organization known as L.U.V. (Latinos United to Vote) organized a well-attended voter registration drive on Sept. 13 that registered more than 200 Rio students in just over five hours. The effort raised awareness of the upcoming election and placed new registrants in a position to have their voice heard in an election for the first time.

The group will continue the effort through classroom presentations by faculty members who are interested in encouraging their students to register.

A big thanks to the Government and Community Relations office, in conjunction with Student Life and Leadership, the President’s Office, Facilities Services, Printing Services, student volunteers and faculty advisors Manuel Baca and Martha Carreon for helping with the drive.

## Howard Kummerman Appointed Director Rio Hondo College Foundation



The Rio Hondo College Foundation Board of Directors has appointed Howard Kummerman as the new executive director of the Rio Hondo College Foundation, effective immediately. Kummerman will continue his responsibilities as dean of Institutional Research and Planning and will continue to oversee the office of Grant Development & Management, positions he has held since 2008.

Kummerman brings considerable experience working with nonprofit foundations. He has conducted fund raising and led nonprofit organizations since 1990, and has served as executive director of the Grossmont College Foundation from 2000 to 2006.

“Our primary focus at this time is to award scholarships to Rio Hondo College students, and many scholarship opportunities have recently been posted,” says Kummerman. “We have received applications from many students, and we will continue to focus our efforts on regularly offering and awarding scholarships.”

“We are also reviewing the Foundation’s governance structure to insure that we are operating within all appropriate state guidelines; and are working to improve the infrastructure of the Foundation by taking concrete steps to improve communication between the Foundation and the College, especially the students.”

Kummerman has a Master’s degree in executive leadership from the School of Business at University of San Diego and a B.A. in psychology from San Diego State University.

## Club Rush

MEChA, Men In Nursing, Forensics, Tri Omega, Veterans Club, Students Without Borders, Parents in College and many more -- a Club Rush fair on Sept. 5 and 6 showcased numerous opportunities for student participation in a variety of interest-based clubs and activities. Club Rush takes place at the beginning of each semester to answer student questions and allow them to join the clubs of their preference.



## Ribbon “Breaking” for New East Campus Passenger Drop Off



Rio Hondo College held a formal grand opening and ribbon “breaking” ceremony for its new East Campus Passenger Drop Off.

To celebrate the six-space zone located between Parking Lots B and C where drivers can safely drop off, or pick up, their passengers, decorated carts and an automobile with the official Roadrunner mascot as a passenger ‘broke’ through a symbolic ribbon at the Drop Off zone exit.

“We are always looking for ways to improve traffic flow and safety,” said Interim President/Superintendent Teresa Dreyfuss, “and this new designated drop-off zone will help alleviate congestion on the main roads, especially at peak times.”

New campus Wayfinding signage, an important component in helping everyone easily navigate around campus, was recognized at the event as well.

## New Recycling Program



Students celebrated the inauguration of the long-awaited recycling program, the result of directed advocacy efforts, with a special ribbon-cutting event September 13 in the Upper Quad. The entire campus community now has new opportunities to contribute to sustainability while raising funds for student activities.

## Wildland Fire Academy Cadets Join Fire Season Firefighting Efforts

Cadets from the Rio Hondo College Wildland Academy, hired by the US Angeles National Forest Service as seasonal firefighters, have already joined efforts in combating two fires this fire season: Northern California’s “Lost Fire” in August and the Glendora “Williams Fire” in September.

The Rio Hondo Crew fulfilled a 20-day rotation on the Lost Fire and 12 days on the Williams Fire.

“The crew from the Wildland Academy did a great job and received accolades from other fire crews,” said Tracy Rickman, coordinator of the Academy. “There aren’t too many programs that provide such an opportunity for this kind of real experience.

The 40 students had graduated May 8 from the Rio Hondo Wildland Academy, a 16-week 348 hour program that they started in January. The aggressive Fire Technology program specializes in wild fire fighting techniques and prevention.



## Artist Yoshio Nakamura Retrospective Showcases 60 Years Of Works



Local artist Yoshio C. Nakamura will display more than 60 years of his art works in a solo exhibition that opens Oct. 2 and runs through Nov. 15 in the Rio Hondo College Art Gallery. A public reception takes place Thursday, Oct. 4, 7 to 8:30 p.m.

About 35 pieces will be on display, selected from his considerable body of work that centers primarily in printmaking but also extends to sculpture, ceramics, painting, and digital art. The award-winning artist’s work resides in the Guggenheim Collection in New York and the Hirshhorn Museum of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C, as well more than 150 public and private collections.

Concurrent with his art career Nakamura had a long and distinguished career as an educator. He was among the first faculty members to sign a contract with Rio Hondo College, and was first chair of its Fine Arts Department (a position now known as dean of Arts and Cultural Programs). Before his retirement in 1992, Nakamura also served as professor and vice president for Community and Student Services.

Nakamura’s exhibition takes place in conjunction with the College’s 50th anniversary year. Nakamura says he considers himself first and foremost an art educator. This coupled with his strong interest in community colleges has led him to create the Yoshio C. Nakamura Art Scholarship for Continuing Students at Rio Hondo College.

“Community colleges are a wonderful place for young people to find a foundation, to explore and make mistakes that they can learn from before they transfer to a four-year school,” he says.

# Chicano/Latino Heritage Month



Ballet folklorico dancers, an Aztec dance performance, music, live art, and free giveaways, all hosted by Associated Students, filled the Middle Quad on Sept. 20, as a festive kick off for Chicano/Latino Heritage Month.



The celebration that runs from Sept. 15 through Oct. 15 will include speakers, film, and more. It is among the Cultural Heritage Celebrations that support Rio Hondo College's commitment to celebrating diversity.

# 9/11 Memorial Ceremony

The campus community came together for a heartfelt ceremony and moment of silence for those who perished in the attacks of September 11, 2001. Combined color guards of the Rio Hondo College Fire and Police academies posted their colors and student vocalists sang "Amazing Grace". Students raised funds for the national 9/11 memorial by selling commemorative wrist bands.

