

# PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

COVERING SEPTEMBER 2014



## President's Message



Teresa Dreyfuss

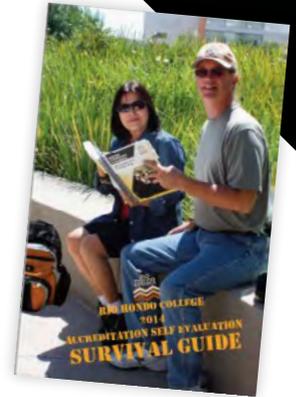
More than 100 Rio Hondo College faculty, classified staff, administrators and students were deeply involved in the development of the 348-page *Accreditation Self Evaluation Report* that the College submitted in July 2014 as part of the accreditation self-evaluation process. Congratulations, we did it together!

Rio Hondo College created a fun and practical accreditation "Survival Guide," to prepare the campus for the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) site team visit on campus from Monday, Sept. 29 to Thursday,

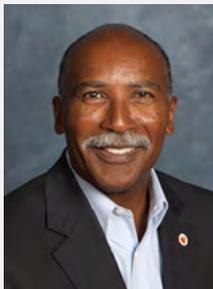
Oct. 2, as well as an Accreditation 101 Booklet with important facts and processes related to accreditation.

The six-year accreditation process is designed to provide an opportunity for the College to reflect on its mission, accomplishments and planning process. Through this accreditation process, Rio Hondo has conducted a thorough evaluation of its educational quality and institutional effectiveness. In the spirit of accreditation, the College strives to reach its goal of continuous improvement.

I am committed to a successful accreditation visit with our 12 visiting team members representing 10 different community colleges. We did it together – for the good of our institution and students!



## Seasoned Law Enforcement Professional Brings Experience to Post at Police Academy



Walter Allen III

Former California Youth Authority Director and State Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation Law Enforcement Chief Walter Allen III is assisting in the day-to-day operations of the Rio Hondo College Police Academy.

"Mr. Allen has a sterling reputation within the law enforcement community throughout the state of California," said Rio Hondo College Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss. "His vast experience in public safety will not only help the Police Academy grow, but he will also serve as a role model for those who wish to aspire to his level."

Allen – a graduate of the Rio Hondo College Police Academy – started his law enforcement career more than 30 years ago as a police officer and SWAT team member with the Chino Police Department. In 1986, he became a special agent supervisor with the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement in the Los Angeles and Sacramento offices.

Allen went on to become the special agent in charge of the Bureau of Organized Crime and Criminal Intelligence in San Diego and Los Angeles in 1990, and after several years working as senior special agent in many capacities he became Assistant Chief of the California Department of Justice.

In 2003, Allen was appointed by former Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to head the California Youth Authority and later chief of the law enforcement branch of the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation.

"For years, the Rio Hondo College Police Academy has trained top-rate police officers who have gone on to successful and notable careers in public safety," Allen said. "I have always admired the academy's outstanding performance and look forward to being a part of its future."

Allen, who is a current member of the Covina City Council, has served as past president and executive board member of the California Narcotic Officers' Association; member of the National We Tip Executive Board; member of the Citrus Valley Health Partners Board of Directors; and served on several advisory boards, including the Ettie Lee Youth and Family Services Executive Board, the Stillpoint Resources Advisory Board, the Bob Margett Foundation Board, the Saint Louise de Marillac Elementary School Board; and as a member of the Saint Louise de Marillac Church Pastoral Council.

"Mr. Allen is the perfect fit to help the Rio Hondo College Police Academy reach the next level," said Dean of Public Safety Academic Programs, Professional Academies & Regional Training Centers Dr. Ygnacio "Nash" Flores. "He has served as a uniformed police officer and at the highest branches of public safety. Currently, the Public Safety Division is increasing its community outreach efforts and Mr. Allen has made community service an entire second career. His credentials and his character are second-to-none and we are very fortunate to be able to utilize his expertise to improve the academy."

- Board Update..... 2
- College Hosts Breakfast for School Administrators..... 2
- College Faculty and Staff Learn Ins and Outs of Accreditation at FLEX Day ..... 2

- 'DiscoverRio' Showcases Campus Clubs, Services..... 3
- Star-Studded Fiesta Rocks Campus..... 3
- Rio Hondo College Remembers 9/11 .... 4

- Superintendent/President Hosts Advisory Council Meeting ..... 5
- Connect with us on Social Media ..... 5
- An Array of Speaking Events Slated for Fall, Spring ..... 5

IN THIS ISSUE

# Board Update

At the regular meeting of the Rio Hondo Community College District Board of Trustees on Wednesday, Sept. 10, attendees learned more about the Division of Career and Technical Education (CTE) and were introduced to new administrative staff members as well as learned more about the College's associate degrees for transfer.

Division of Career and Technical Education/Instructional Operations Dean Mike Slavich gave a presentation on his divisions and accomplishments.

Slavich highlighted several programs within the division that are designed to enhance the careers of students who are pursuing fields such as teaching, technology and more. In 2014, CTE hosted a seminar titled "Internal Combustion Technology Using Small Engines" for middle- and high school-students, a Common Core-CTE Instructional Material Alignment Workshop, and collaborated with a variety of community partners to host several events such as career days, workshops and the CTE Summer Academy, which hosted 124 students from area school districts who learned to launch rockets, create biofuel and more.



Following Slavich's presentation, Child Development Associate Professor Kelly Lynch, who is heading this year's Leadership Academy, introduced the 12 members of this year's cohort: Eric Belmal, Rosemarie Bustamante, Norma Garcia, Kathy Gomez, Michael Henley, Nellie Hernandez-Garcia, Steve Koelle, Katherine Lampert, Jasmine Lopez, Rowena Mendoza, Sandra Salcedo and Monica Villa.



Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss introduced three new administrative staff members: Director of Financial Aid, Scholarships and Veterans' Services Yvonne Gutierrez-Sandoval; Director of Extended Opportunity Programs and Services/Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education (EOP&S/CARE) Heba Griffiths; and Director of Accounting Stephen Kibui.

Dreyfuss also introduced Dr. Mike Muñoz – former Associate Dean of Student Services – as the Dean of Counseling and Student Success, a position responsible for implementing the College's Student Success Initiative.

Later, Dr. Kenn Pierson, Vice President of Academic Affairs, informed the Board that the College has exceeded its goal of creating 16 associate degrees for transfer by fall 2014 to a total of 18. In fact, the College is waiting for approval from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office on its 19th associate degree for transfer.

# College Faculty and Staff Learn Ins and Outs of Accreditation at FLEX Day



College faculty and staff were briefed on expectations for the accreditation site team visit, from Sept. 29-Oct. 2 at FLEX Day, which was held on Aug. 22.

Breakout sessions were held introducing the "Accreditation 101" booklet and featuring "Accreditation Jeopardy," a fun activity to re-familiarize faculty and staff with basic facts and processes related to Rio Hondo.

Multiple copies of the submitted report — as well as computers displaying the College's updated accreditation website and digital evidence used in the report — were available for faculty members to view.

Further discussion continued in the afternoon division meetings among faculty members and their deans. Classified staff, student leaders and Board members were briefed on the accreditation visit with trainings, tools and materials also available on the College accreditation website page.

An accreditation "Survival Guide" was created by the Marketing and Communications Department to offer all campus constituencies more details on the team visiting members and key events for interaction with campus members.

# College Hosts Breakfast for School Administrators



Rio Hondo College hosted the annual Whittier Area School Administrators (WASA) "Welcome Back" Breakfast at the Rio Café on Sept. 5.

Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss said she was honored to have provided the welcoming remarks to the nearly 115 administrators in attendance from the Whittier Union High, Tri Cities ROP, Whittier City, South Whittier, Los Nietos, Little Lake City, El Rancho Unified and East Whittier City school districts. Also invited and included were about 20 administrators from our College.

Each superintendent had an opportunity to introduce their new administrators. Dreyfuss had the pleasure of introducing Rio Hondo's three new administrative managers that recently joined the Rio Hondo College family: Director of EOP&S/CARE Heba Griffiths, Director of Accounting Stephen Kibui, and Director of Financial Aid Yvonne Gutierrez-Sandoval. She also announced the position that the College reorganized to implement our Student Success Initiative, that of Dean of Counseling and Student Success, which is held by Dr. Mike Muñoz.

Everyone in attendance commented on how lovely the campus looks and how wonderful it is to visit and network within the beautiful surroundings of the Rio Café. Special thanks to Vice President Henry Gee and Rachel Garcia for their advance planning and to the facilities staff for a fabulous job with preparing our facilities.

## 'DiscoverRio' Showcases Campus Clubs, Services



In an effort to make the college experience a little more accessible to new students on campus, the Associated Students of Rio Hondo College (ASRHC) hosted DiscoverRio, an all-inclusive resource fair that introduced students to campus clubs, organizations, resources and student services.

"A lot of students don't know all the resources available to them at Rio Hondo," said ASRHC President Alex Ramirez. "With this event, we hope to inform them so that they know where to go when they need help."

Along with all the information at the Club Rush information tables and Student Services Programs Fair, the students were also welcomed to have fun at the carnival-themed event, which was held Sept. 10-11.

DiscoverRio was a collaboration of Inter-Club Council, ASRHC, Student Life and Leadership and Student Affairs.



## Star-Studded Fiesta Rocks Campus

Filled with music, dancing and fun, the Second Annual Latino Heritage Fiesta at Rio Hondo College on Saturday, Sept. 20 was one for the books as it welcomed to the stage a Grammy Award-winning sensation and an Emmy Award-winning inspiration.

**RIO IN THE NEWS!** Click here to read more about the Latino Heritage Fiesta in the Whittier Daily News!



Poncho Sanchez and His Latin Jazz Band – whose fiery beats rooted in straight-ahead jazz, soul music and Latin and South American rhythms earned Grammy acclaim –performed at the fiesta, a free and open event designed to celebrate Latino culture, art, music and dance. Kicking off the festivities was guest speaker and Emmy Award-winning journalist Dunia Elvir, an anchor and decorated investigative journalist with Telemundo.

"It is only the second year that Rio Hondo College has hosted this fiesta, and already it has become a huge draw for local talent and the community," said Rio Hondo College Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss. "The celebration of this rich and beautiful culture has really united our campus community, and we want those we serve to come out and experience this event as a 'thank you' for their support."

The fiesta was a co-production of the Division of Arts and Cultural Programs and Student Life and Leadership.

Other performers included the *Raices Peruanas* dance troupe, salsa band *Son Cinco* and a live broadcast by Mega 96.3 FM. The celebration featured games, inflatables, food trucks and art activities.

Attendees posted their photos, videos and experience on social media using the hashtag #RHCfiesta14.

"The role that Latinos play in the arts, entertainment and culture of this region is huge," said Jasmine López, Interim Director of Student Life and Leadership. "We have all kinds of music, food, art and entertainment—all coming out of the cultures of Latin America. We want to embrace and celebrate the Latino culture in all its aspects."



**RIO IN THE NEWS!** Click here to read more about this event in El Paisano Newspaper!



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# Rio Hondo College Remembers 9/11

*Students, faculty and staff came together on Thursday, Sept. 11 to remember those whose lives were lost 13 years ago in the worst act of terrorism the country has seen on American soil. The 9/11 Memorial Ceremony included speeches, a rousing rendition of "The Star Spangled Banner," and the presentation of colors by the Rio Hondo College Police Academy Class No. 200.*



# Superintendent/ President Hosts Advisory Council Meeting



On Sept. 18, Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss co-hosted the President's Advisory Council meeting with Co-Chair Victor Ledesma.

Those who joined her were Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Kenn Pierson, Vice President of Student Services Henry Gee, Director of Government and Community Relations Russell Castañeda-Calleros, and Director of Marketing and Communications Ruthie Retana.

Many ideas and valuable information to increase enrollment were discussed through an engaging dialogue. Ledesma announced his retirement after he co-chaired his last meeting. Dreyfuss shared her gratitude for his leadership and service to the College and to the President's Advisory Committee.

## Connect with Us on Social Media



RHCRoadrunners



RioHondo\_College



@RioHondoCollege



#iLoveRioHondo

## Serving the communities of

- El Monte
- Santa Fe Springs
- South El Monte
- Whittier
- Pico Rivera

### and portions of:

- Norwalk
- East Whittier\*
- Downey
- South Whittier\*
- La Mirada
- West Whittier\*
- City of Industry
- Avocado Heights\*
- Los Nietos\*

\*Unincorporated communities within our District

# An Array of Speaking Events Slated for Fall, Spring

This academic year, the Division of Communications and Languages is hosting an array of speaking events from notable writers, filmmakers and actors that are free and open to the public.

On Wednesday, Oct. 8, the Mass Communications Department will host journalism guest lecturer Broderick Turner, a sports writer from the *Los Angeles Times*, in the Learning Resource Center, room 128. Turner is a beat reporter for the Los Angeles Clippers at the Times, where he has been since 2008. He has also covered the Lakers and UCLA.

The Language Department will host on Thursday, Nov. 6 a foreign film festival at the Wray Theater featuring documentary "Wrestling with Angels: Playwright Tony Kushner," directed by Academy Award-winning filmmaker Freida Lee Mock, who will give the opening remarks via iPhone.

"Wrestling with Angels" is a film that follows the personal and political life of Tony Kushner, who wrote "Angles in America." It follows him over three years and highlights his play "Homebody/Kabul," his marriage to Mark Harris and his work on John Kerry's presidential campaign.

On Thursday, March 5, the Forensics Program will hold the Fifth Annual Forensics Showcase at the Wray Theater, which will be moderated by Emmy-nominated actress and *New York Times* best-selling author Carolyn Hennesy.

The Forensics Showcase is designed to highlight the hard work of the Forensics Speech and Debate Team.

Finally, the English Department will host its annual Writes of Spring Festival from April 29-30.

Writes of Spring is a celebration of writers and writing that includes readings from River's Voice Campus Journal of Art and Literature. Each year, notable authors, journalists, playwrights and others attend and present at the event.

"Here in the Division of Communications and Languages, we are very proud of how each department has continued to set the bar higher and higher," said Communications and Languages Dean Dr. Robert Holcomb. "We have some notable speakers, filmmakers and other artists coming to campus. All of these events are going to be a real treat for our students."


FREE EVENTS

## COMMUNICATIONS & LANGUAGES DIVISION

3600 WORKMAN MILL ROAD • WHITTIER, CA

# CAMPUS EVENT SERIES

## • FALL 2014 •



**WEDNESDAY  
OCTOBER 8, 2014**

**Journalism Guest Lecture**

**Broderick Turner**  
Los Angeles Times Sports Writer  
• Learning Resource Center, room LR 128  
*Hosted by the Mass Communications Department*



**THURSDAY  
NOVEMBER 6, 2014**

**Foreign Film Festival**

**Wrestling with Angels**  
Featured Documentary  
• Wray Theater

**Opening Remarks Via iPhone**  
**Freida Lee Mock**  
Academy Award Winning Filmmaker  
Director of Wrestling with Angels  
*Hosted by the Languages Department*

## • SPRING 2015 •



**THURSDAY  
MARCH 5, 2015**

**Fifth Annual Forensics Showcase**

**Guest Moderator Carolyn Hennesy**  
Emmy Nominated Actress/  
New York Times Best Selling Author  
• Wray Theater  
*Hosted by the Forensics Program*



**WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY  
APRIL 29 - 30, 2015**

**The Writes of Spring:  
A Celebration of Writers and Writing**

**Including readings from the River's Voice  
Campus Journal of Art & Literature**  
Guest Authors to be Announced  
• Wray Theater  
*Hosted by the English Department*