

# PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

COVERING SEPTEMBER 2016



## President's Message



Teresa Dreyfuss

Rio Hondo College's community connections were showcased in September, demonstrating the College's integral role in our surrounding community.

Perhaps most prominent were the heroic efforts by EMT student Mark King Jr., who called on his Rio Hondo College training to save a woman's life. We are so proud of this remarkable young man.

Our community connections were further highlighted in a meeting with area transit leaders to discuss our upcoming Rio Plaza project, in our annual breakfast for area K-12 school leaders,

in Transfer Day activities featuring more than a score of colleges and universities, and in Guardian Scholars program events supporting students who have been in the foster care system.

Each of these programs underscores the deep and abiding links between Rio Hondo's educational mission and our mission to serve our community.

Ensuring student success extends beyond our classrooms and into community engagement efforts such as these to ensure community members have access to opportunities they need for academic and career success.

## Rio Hondo College EMT Student Saves Choking Woman

A Rio Hondo College emergency medical technician (EMT) student put his classroom training into practice when he stepped in to assist a choking woman at a local BJ's Restaurant.

Mark King Jr., 23, of Lynwood, was celebrating a friend's birthday at the restaurant in Downey on Sept. 16 when some of the guests told him a woman at the party was in distress, possibly having trouble breathing.

"They know I'm in school for EMT, that I'm CPR-certified and I know what to do," King said. "I rushed over and asked the woman if she was choking or if she just couldn't breathe. She pointed at her throat and gave the universal sign that she was choking. She was gasping for air."

King sprang into action.

"I got into position to give the Heimlich maneuver, the procedure you do to help someone who is choking. I gave three to five abdominal thrusts, and the food that was lodged in her airway came out," he said.

The student's poise and presence of mind were praised by Rio Hondo College leaders.

"Mark embodies the essence of the community service mindset we foster at Rio Hondo College," Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss said. "I'm proud that our training played a pivotal role in helping him save this woman. He is a true hero."

King who works at Disneyland, said he had been considering the EMT program for a while before he enrolled.

"I like helping people and I thought this would be a good field to go into. I have a couple of friends in the field and I have an older cousin who is an LVN (licensed vocational nurse)," King said.

To join the EMT program, King first needed to take a basic fire tech course over the summer. Then, in August, he began the eight-week program, which meets from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. four days a week. He picked Rio Hondo College because the program has a sterling reputation while remaining affordable.

King said his experience at the restaurant solidified his drive to become an EMT.

"It reassured me that I'm able to act under pressure, to execute the procedures in a safe and effective manner, to help someone," he said. "It also made me feel great."

**RIO IN THE NEWS!** Click here to read more about Rio Hondo's EMT Student Saves Choking Woman in *Los Angeles Wave*.



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# College Administrators Connect with Local Middle, Elementary Schools

Rio Hondo College administrators continue to engage nine local middle schools and two elementary schools through an Adopt-a-School program designed to encourage students to consider their options for higher education.

Already, this fall, administrators have visited five schools, including back-to-school nights and PTA retreats, and have plans afoot for more activities in the coming months, including invitations to attend the annual Discover Rio Day on Nov. 17.

"This program is a fantastic way to connect with students who may not realize all of the opportunities available to them for higher education, and especially may not realize how many extraordinary programs we have at Rio Hondo College," Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss said.

The program was launched in spring 2015 and includes a menu of engagement options, such as classroom visits, higher-education assemblies, attending back to school nights, presentations to PTAs and other campus leadership groups, and Rio Hondo College tours.

Nearly all of the schools, including Walter Dexter Middle School and Dean Shively Middle School, have taken advantage of at least one of those

options with participating in multiple programs. For example, both schools attended the 2015 Discover Rio Day, participated in programs hosted by Rio Hondo dance, speech and debate, and toured the College campus.

Other participating schools are: Richard L. Graves Middle School; Los Nietos Middle School; Hillview Middle School; Kranz Intermediate School; Columbia Middle School; North Park Academy of the Arts; The STEAM Academy at Burke Middle School; Scott Avenue Elementary and New Temple Elementary.



## Board Report

Rio Hondo College trustees commended two long-time faculty members on their retirement, praised the College's Purchasing, Warehouse, Mailroom and Print Shop staff, and received an update on the College's Adopt-a-School program during their Sept. 14 meeting.

Trustees bid farewell after 38 years of service to Jay Sunyogh, a professor of architecture, engineering, design drawing, CADD and BIM in the Career & Technical Education Division. Sunyogh started as a part-time faculty member in 1978 and joined the faculty full time in 1980.

They also honored Professor of Reading Georgia Gaspar for her 28 years of service in the Communications and Languages Division.

A video appreciation was shown to recognize the efforts of behind-the-scenes employees in Purchasing, Warehouse, Mailroom and the Print Shop.

Director of Government and Community Relations Russell Castaneda-Calleros gave an Adopt-A-School presentation recapping efforts by Rio Hondo College leaders to connect with students at area middle and elementary schools and instill a college-going culture environment throughout the district.

## College Offers Update on Rio Plaza to Transit Partners

**RIO IN THE NEWS!** Click here to read more about Rio Hondo's College Offers Update on Rio Plaza to Transit Partners in *Norwalk Now*.

Rio Hondo College leaders on Sept. 7 discussed upcoming developments on the College's Rio Plaza transportation project with representatives of three transit partners and the Office of County Supervisor Don Knabe.

The project will be a transit hub at the base of the hilltop campus that provides a convenient place for students to access public and private transit options. The plan has drawn the support of both Knabe and the Office of Supervisor Hilda Solis, who represent the College's service area.

Knabe directed \$175,000 in county funding to construct a sidewalk along Workman Mill Road that connects Rose Hills Road with College Drive. This sidewalk, which provides seamless access between Rose Hills Memorial Park and the College, will eventually lead directly into the Rio Plaza area at the foot of the campus.

Supervisor Solis has initiated a feasibility study for a new Metrolink station that would be located directly across the street from the Rio Plaza.

At the meeting, the College briefed L.A. Metro Transportation Planning Manager Wayne Wassell and Stop and Zones Supervisor Jim Falcon; Foothill Transit CEO Doran Barnes and staff members David Reyno, Charlene Bailey and Joe Raquel; Norwalk Transit CEO Jim Parker; and Knabe representative Andrea Avila.

Rio Hondo College's Office of Government and Community Relations (GCR) organized the meeting for Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss to solicit feedback about how Rio Plaza could improve access to bus riders. The Office of GCR has enjoyed solid working relationships with Metro, Foothill and Norwalk Transit for more than 10 years because of the GO RIO program, which provides students with free or low-cost access to public transportation.

## College Briefs Area School Administrators during Annual Breakfast



Rio Hondo College hosted the annual Whittier Area School Administrators (WASA) Breakfast on Sept. 16, bringing together dozens of leaders of area public schools.

Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss shared information about Rio Hondo College's new bachelor's degree in automotive technology, expansion to 24 associate degrees that guarantee transfer to California State University campuses, as well as information about the trio of grants that will fund an expansion of services for students with a focus on improving delivery of basic skills instruction.

President Dreyfuss also shared details about the new Rio Hondo Educational Center at Pico Rivera, which brings educational opportunities directly into the community.

Finally, she highlighted that Rio Hondo College consistently ranks among the top community colleges for transferring underrepresented minorities to the UC system.

Also attending from Rio Hondo College were Interim Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. JoAnna Schilling; Vice President of Student Services Henry Gee; Dean of Math and Sciences Dr. Vann Priest; Interim Dean of Student Affairs Dr. Jennifer Fernandez; Associate Dean of Student Affairs Barbara Salazar; Director of Marketing and Communications Ruthie Retana; Dean of Public Safety and Interim Dean of Business Dr. Ygnacio "Nash" Flores; Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Public Safety Don Mason; Dean of Career and Technical Education/Instructional Operations Mike Slavic; Director of Contracts Felix Sarao; Interim Director of CalSOAP Yicel Paez; Interim Director of Human Resources Loy Nashua; Vice President of Finance and Business Myeshia Armstrong; Director of Government and Community Relations Russell Castañeda-Calleros; Dean of Institutional Research & Planning and Executive Director of the Rio Hondo College Foundation Howard Kummerman; Student Success and Support Program Manager Lisa Chavez and Program Manager of Student Equity Cecilia Rocha.



## College Invites Former ITT Students to Consider Rio Hondo

Rio Hondo College is inviting former students of recently shuttered ITT Educational Services to consider the Whittier-based community college as a viable option for continuing their education.

In materials posted to the Rio Hondo College [website](#) and social media, Rio Hondo assures the former ITT students of its stability – more than 1 million students served since 1963 – and its sterling reputation for academic programs and career technical preparation.

Rio Hondo's website lauds not only the College's groundbreaking Bachelor of Arts degree in automotive technology, but also its longstanding programs in public safety, business and computer technology.

Also, Rio Hondo College notes the significant difference in affordability between Rio Hondo College and private, for-profit institutions.

Should former ITT students choose to attend Rio Hondo College, they could receive course credit for ITT classes by passing subject matter proficiency exams.

ITT's announcement that it would be closing its campuses across the nation in early September left about 35,000 students seeking new options for their education.

**RIO IN THE NEWS!** Click here to read more about Rio Hondo's inviting former ITT Students in *The Whittier Daily News*.

# Forensics Team Earns Awards at September Speaking Events

Rio Hondo College's award-winning Forensics Speech & Debate team has launched into a busy fall schedule of tournaments, competing at Fullerton College on Sept. 16 and at El Camino College on Sept. 23-24.



At Fullerton, the team took home 10 awards, including six speaker awards and four team awards. Awards are given in two classes – novice and open. In novice, Saul Garcia won first place and Alyssa Delgadillo took seventh. In open, Melissa De Leon won second; Patricia Hughes, third; Kelley-Jo Shain, sixth; and John Kaldas, seventh.

In the team competition, novice team Kevork Abechian and Alyssa Delgadillo won third place while in the open contest Summer Gomez and Jonathan Kaldas took first place, Melissa De Leon and Kelley-Jo Shain garnered fifth, and Patricia Hughes and Jonathan Carlos snagged sixth.

At the Pacific South West Collegiate Forensics Association Warm Up Tournament hosted by El Camino College, students competed in debate, impromptu and extemporaneous speaking, winning two awards.

In novice Tyerra Boyd was honored for "Excellence" in extemporaneous speaking while novice team members Andrew Gonzalez and Daniel Tomicic were honored for "Excellence" in parliamentary debate.

The team was led at both events by Forensics Coordinator Libby Curiel and Debate Specialist Grant Tovmasian, and supported by Rio alumni volunteer judge Mike Moran (BGSU graduate 15'). At Fullerton College, additional support was provided by alumni volunteer judges Jose Larios (CSULB) and Victor Wright (CSULB). At El Camino, aid was provided by former Forensics competitors Felix Rodriguez and Samantha Recinos, and current competitor Gabriel Sanchez.



# Hundreds of Students Attend University Transfer Day

Representatives of more than 40 universities and colleges joined Rio Hondo College for its annual University Transfer Day on Sept. 22, providing hundreds of students with information on admission requirements, campus life, housing and financial aid.

The event ran from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the College's mid-quad area.

After the event, University of California and California State University representatives staffed an admissions panel that gave students an opportunity to learn more about their campuses and admission requirements.

More than 70 students attended each of the standing-room only panels.

Faculty, staff, and administrators supported the event by wearing alma mater gear all day to encourage our students to "Start Rio...Go Anywhere."



## Participating universities:

- Arizona State College, Lake Havasu
- Art Center College of Design
- Azusa Pacific University
- Biola University
- Cal Poly Pomona
- California Baptist University
- Charles Drew University
- Concordia University Irvine
- CSU Dominguez Hills
- CSU East Bay
- CSU Fullerton
- CSU Long Beach
- CSU Long Beach School of Business
- CSU Los Angeles
- CSU Sacramento
- Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising
- Hope International University
- Mount St. Mary's University, Los Angeles
- National University
- Northern Arizona University
- Oregon Tech
- Otis College of Art and Design
- Pacific College
- Pacific Oaks College
- Point Loma Nazarene University
- San Diego Christian College
- Southern Vermont College
- Trident University
- Trinity Law School
- UC Berkeley
- UC Davis
- UC Irvine
- UC Los Angeles
- UC Merced
- UC Riverside
- UC Santa Barbara
- UC Santa Cruz
- University of La Verne
- University of Nevada, Las Vegas
- University of Redlands
- University of Southern California
- University of the West
- Vanguard University of Southern California
- West Coast University
- Woodbury University
- Whittier College

# Guardian Scholars Begin Semester with Trio of Events

Rio Hondo College's Guardian Scholars program kicked off the fall semester with a student conference the week before classes began, followed by a lunch program and then a weekend retreat the first week of the semester for new and continuing Guardian Scholars.

The program is dedicated to providing services and support that meet the personal and academic needs of students, who are or were in foster care.

During the conference, held Aug. 17, students attended a workshop given by guest speaker Sade Burrell, a Master's of Social Work graduate of the University of Southern California and Guardian Scholars Alumni from San Diego State University.

During the lunch, students heard from Vice President of Student Services Henry Gee. Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss, Assistant Dean of Title V Grant and Project Director of Student Success & Retention Barbara Salazar and Director of Marketing and Communications Ruthie Retana also attended.

Also attending were representatives from Children's Institute Inc. and other key organizations that provide focused resources to current and former foster youth. At the end of the day, students received college supplies and updates on assistance in purchasing textbooks.

The retreat, held Aug. 26-28 in Running Springs, drew 19 students. Titled "Reach for SUCCESS, the event focused on the concepts of support, understanding, choices, connections, exceling, strength and striving for excellence.

The retreat was led by Interim Counselor/Coordinator Marisela Saenz and FKCE/ILP Program Specialist, Deborah Lopez along with three staff members and former Rio Hondo Guardian Scholar and Children's Law Center of California Peer Advocate Marcy Valenzuela.

Students gained valuable knowledge and tools on setting goals, student responsibilities as well as identifying and accessing valuable support resources. Some common themes shared by students included:

- Realizing that they are not alone in regard to the adversity they have experienced;
- Letting go of unresolved issues that may be holding them back from reaching their potential; and
- Recognizing that they have the strength to conquer any hurdle in college, and in life.

Students also created support systems among peers while participating in a variety of individual and team-building activities, including zip lining and high ropes courses. By the end of the weekend, hugs and tears were shared and friendships were forged.

The retreat was made possible through Student Equity Funding in collaboration with the California Community College Youth Empowerment Strategies for Success (YESS) Grant.



## Connect with Us on Social Media

 **RHCRoadrunners**

 **RioHondo\_College**

 **RioHondoCollege**

 **#iLoveRioHondo**

 **bit.do/riohondocollege**

## 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

## Mission Statement

Rio Hondo College is committed to the success of its diverse students and communities by providing dynamic educational opportunities and resources that lead to degrees, certificates, transfer, career and technical pathways, basic skills proficiency, and lifelong learning.

## Save the Date



### 9 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 26:

Inter Club Council Boo Bash, Lower and Mid Quads

### 7 p.m. Friday, Oct. 28:

Observatory Public Night

### 7 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 3:

Transfer Fair, Mid Quad

### 3 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 3-Saturday, Nov. 5:

The Laramie Project, Wray Theater

### 7 p.m. Friday, Nov. 4:

Observatory Public Night

### 8 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 10:

Holiday Boutique, Lower Quad

### 4 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 10:

Veterans Comedy Night, Wray Theater

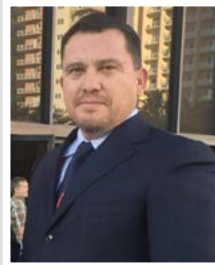
### Friday, Nov. 11:

Campus closed for Veterans Day

### 9 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 17:

Adopt-a-School Discover Rio Day, Wray Theater

## Graduate's Film Honored for Shining Light on Health Care Challenges of Veterans



A Rio Hondo College graduate's documentary about an unconventional therapy's potential to aid veterans who have suffered traumatic brain injuries is a contender for a special award recognizing its powerful portrayal of the health issue.

One of five nominees in the 20th annual PRISM Awards online category, "Hyperbaric Miracles, Episodes 1 and 2" recounts the history of hyperbaric oxygen therapy and barriers to its application to veterans. [\(Click here to see the film on YouTube.\)](#)

The film was written, directed and produced by John Salcedo, an Army veteran who graduated from Rio Hondo College in 2007 with an associate degree in small business management and entrepreneurialism.

"My goal is for hyperbaric oxygen therapy to be made available through the Veterans Administration and be accepted and recognized as a legitimate therapy," said Salcedo, who created the film as an academic project as he studies to become a filmmaker. "I feel like I'm continuing to serve, but in a different way."

The PRISM Awards focus on entertainment that realistically portrays mental health issues, substance abuse and treatments.

"The Rio Hondo College community would like to congratulate John for his extraordinary contributions to both film and humanitarian causes," Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss. "His work reflects well on the academic preparation he received at Rio Hondo College as well as our commitment to serving our greater community."

Salcedo, a former chemical weapons specialist and civilian contractor to the U.S. military, stumbled across the barriers to using hyperbaric therapies after leaving Rio Hondo College.

Hyperbaric oxygen therapy works by flooding damaged cells with pure oxygen inside a pressurized chamber, which speeds healing. It is used to treat carbon monoxide poisoning, gangrene, thermal burns and decompression sickness, among other ailments.

It is currently not a recognized practice by the federal government or insurance companies for injuries that are symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder. Salcedo's program advocates for changing the treatment's status.

Most recently, Salcedo combined his Rio Hondo degree with his ongoing film education to create a company called LA City Films, which specializes in online programming for corporations.

"I'm reinventing myself," Salcedo said. "I come from a family of photographers and I shot wedding videos in the past. So I've always had this passion."