

# PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

JANUARY 2018



## President's Message



Teresa Dreyfuss

Our Rio Hondo College staff, administration and faculty leaders were hard at work throughout the month of January on our ongoing effort to strengthen student support services.

We dedicated this January's FLEX Day – a day when we all come together to focus on our shared mission – to the Chancellor's Office Guided Pathways Initiative. This program will shape how we guide students from their arrival at Rio Hondo College through their realization of academic and career goals.

It's a goal that's never been more fundamental.

Over the years, we've learned just how significant support services are to ensuring student success. That knowledge has driven the creation of a host of support programs, from our tutoring services and Summer Bridge program that foster academic success, to our First Year Success Center and programs for students in need.

Together, these programs create a safety net that gives students the best opportunity possible to achieve their dreams.

As we now turn our focus to implementing these latest improvements during the spring semester, I would like to thank our incredibly dedicated team of educators, classified staff and administrators for continuing to go the extra mile on behalf of the students we serve.

## ▲ Rio Hondo College Police Academy Class 206 Begins Studies

Rio Hondo College's Police Academy Class 206 started classes on Jan. 30, welcoming 45 cadets for the six-month session. Students will undergo about 1,000 hours of rigorous physical and classroom training in 42 required learning domains. Cadets will graduate on July 12.



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# Board Update



Rio Hondo College trustees in January celebrated the retirement of two staff members (pictured, left) who dedicated more than 56 years of collective service to the college.

Justina Chen, an instructional lab technician, retired after completing 24 years of service. Erich Munden, a tool room attendant, closed up shop after 32 years.

Rio Hondo College Professor Shin Liu (pictured below, center) also briefed the trustees about the College's study abroad program in Taiwan in summer 2017.

Ten Rio Hondo College students joined 11 students from Cerritos College, 25 students from Western Sydney University, five students from Singapore, Canada and New York and 30 students from Southern Taiwan University of Science and Technology for the program.

Now in its third year, the Taiwan Experience Education Program (TEEP) seeks to share Taiwan's culture and build strong relationships across the globe.

Students stayed with families in Tainan, the oldest city in Taiwan, from June 25 through Aug. 1, experiencing the culture and sharing their knowledge of English.

The five-week program started with culture and language classes, including a tea ceremony, martial arts, calligraphy and toymaking. Students then embarked on local city and campus tours, taught English Summer Camp at the university as well as at elementary and middle schools, and enjoyed a week of travel time to explore the culture.

To fund the trip, students sold pizza and worked on campus services, and pitched their plan on a YouTube video. They also received donations from the Rio Hondo College Computer Science Club, Assembly Majority Leader Ian Calderon and other area groups and individuals.

The program will include new opportunities for visiting Taiwan in spring and fall semester as well as trips from May 20 to July 6 and July 9 to Aug. 11



## Rio Hondo Hosts Chamber Mixer

Rio Hondo College hosted the Wake Up Whittier Chamber Mixer on Jan. 17, sharing information about the College's programs and services.

Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss welcomed the guests, noting the history of interdependence and partnership between the College and the Whittier Chamber.

"It is important for the College to be able to host events like this so that we can share with you all of the wonderful things we are doing for the community," Dreyfuss said.

"Rio Hondo College depends on the Chamber and its members to help promote and publicize our College programs. At the same time, I understand



that the Chamber relies on the College to support certain events throughout the year. I look forward to continuing this partnership."

Dreyfuss noted the College's support for local businesses, service groups and government agencies with its educational and career preparation programs.

The College set up information tables with details about its outreach programs, child development center, student support services and the Rio Hondo College Foundation, which hosts the annual "A Taste of Rio," a scholarship benefit scheduled for April 27.



# Truck Academy Trains Firefighters in Advanced Techniques

Forty-six firefighters from across California hewed their way through structures with axes and chainsaws and carved up cars during an advanced training course at Rio Hondo College's annual Regional Truck Academy.

Representing agencies from Tracy to San Diego, the firefighters took part in the 13th annual Regional Truck Academy at the Santa Fe Springs Fire Training Center from Jan. 22 to Feb. 2. The professionals received a mix of

instructional lectures and hands-on exercises, including forcible entry into burning structures, structure ventilation, high-rise operations, elevator rescues, rope rescues, thermal imaging, auto extraction and rapid intervention tactics.

The academy spans 88 hours over 11 days.

**RIO IN THE NEWS:** Watch Rio Hondo College's Truck Academy in Action on *KMEX 34*.



# College Leaders Focus on Guided Pathways during FLEX Day



Rio Hondo College's staff, administration and faculty gathered on Jan. 26 for their bi-annual FLEX Day, a time to review accomplishments and initiatives for supporting students and re-dedicate themselves to their shared mission.

This year's program focused on the College's effort to support students as they pursue their goals. Called Guided Pathways, the program rests on four pillars:

- ▶ Clarify paths to student end goals
- ▶ Help students choose and enter a pathway
- ▶ Help students stay on path
- ▶ Ensure that students are learning

The group discussed how the Guided Pathways program is being incorporated across the campus.

Rio Hondo College is one of 20 community colleges selected to be part of the California Guided Pathways Project.

"Our Guided Pathways implementation is important to the College and especially for our students," Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss said. "This framework will shape our future and create greater success for students."

Dreyfuss also promoted the College's Leadership Academy and introduced a quartet of new managers:

- ▶ Dr. Melba Castro, dean of student success
- ▶ Alisia Kirkwood, interim dean of student affairs
- ▶ Cesar Oyervides-Cisneros, project manager of PASS
- ▶ Mark Yokoyama, dean of public safety



# College Connects with 130-plus High School Counselors

Rio Hondo College hosted more than 130 high school counselors from three area school districts as well as officials from other local high schools for its fifth annual Regional Counselor Breakfast on Jan. 19.

The event focused on the College's effort to support student success, including an effort to guide students along the pathway from high school through college and into careers.

"This breakfast has become a valuable touchstone for Rio Hondo and our high school partners," Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss said. "It allows us to present our latest efforts to support students in their pursuit of college and career goals as well as to learn from the counselors about current student needs."

Counselors also received an update on the Rio Promise, an initiative launched in spring 2017 that covers first-year tuition costs for local high school graduates and priority registration, as well as presentations about the College's transfer, honors and STEM programs.



College officials highlighted academic instruction in business, fire technology and graphic design. Rio Hondo College's extensive career technical education (CTE) program also took the stage. Guests toured campus CTE facilities and the campus as a whole.



# College Baseball Standout Evan Longoria Joins SF Giants

Rio Hondo College baseball alumnus standout Evan Longoria was recently traded to the San Francisco Giants and introduced to media and fans at a press conference at AT&T Park.

Longoria played one season for Rio Hondo and current head coach Mike Salazar in 2004 and earned All-Southern California as well as All-Foothill Conference honors after hitting .430 with seven home runs and 39 RBI over 35 games.



The shortstop, who attended St. John Bosco High School, went on to play at California State University, Long Beach before being selected as the third overall pick in the 2006 Major League Baseball Draft by the Tampa Bay Rays.

Longoria was named the 2008 American League Rookie of the Year and became the face of the franchise for the Rays after playing 10 seasons in Tampa (2008-17) while being selected to the American League All-Star team three times.

He was traded to the Giants on Dec. 20 for four players and will take over third-base duties in San Francisco.

## Connect with Us on Social Media

 **RHCRoadrunners**

 **RioHondo\_College**

 **RioHondoCollege**

 **Rio Hondo College YT Channel**

 **bit.do/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

## 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



**6 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21:**  
Board of Trustees meeting, Rio Hondo College

**7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 21:**  
Nationally known seismologist Dr. Lucy Jones hosts a talk, Wray Theater

**9 a.m. to 3 p.m. through Monday, March 5:**  
Internationally known color theorist William Lane shows selected works spanning from his tenure at Rio Hondo through the present, Rio Hondo Art Gallery

**9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 9, 23, March 9, 16, 23, April 13:**  
Free tax preparation help, Rio Hondo Administration of Justice Building. For information, call (562) 463-7359 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

**9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Friday, March 2, April 6:**  
Free tax preparation help, Rio Hondo Educational Center at Pico Rivera. For information, call (562) 463-7359 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m.

**8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 7 and Thursday, March 8:**  
Senior Preview Day, Wray Theater

**6 p.m. Friday, April 27:**  
A Taste of Rio. Purchase tickets at [www.riohondofoundation.org](http://www.riohondofoundation.org)

**RIO IN THE NEWS:** Read about Rio Hondo College's free tax assistance program in the *Whittier Daily News*.

## Student Performs for National Dance Group

Rio Hondo College student David Bernal performed a solo piece entitled "Cocoon" in the American College Dance Association's (ACDA) Gala Concert on Jan. 26.

"This is a huge success for our small program," said Dr. Alyson Cartagena, who directs Rio Hondo College's dance program.

Bernal was chosen for the Gala based on his performance during the ACDA's Baja regional conference, a four-day festival that featured four adjudicated performances, master classes, workshops, lectures and three informal concerts.

Three national judges selected Bernal to perform at the Gala Concert at Cal State Dominguez Hills.

"David's athletic and sinuous solo was a mesmerizing performance and received a standing ovation," said Cartagena, who along with Rachel Lopez acted as rehearsal director. "We are extremely proud of David, the dancers, and the choreographers of the Rio Hondo Dance Collective."

