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July 3, 2018

Dear Campus Community:

Rio Hondo College is a special place where we thrive on our sense of community, our unified mission and our commitment to providing an environment that supports our students as they pursue their educational goals. Our commitment is also to our employees, who are central to everything we do at Rio Hondo College and are the backbone for the strong educational opportunities we provide.

We want to thank each staff member who has come forward to voice their concerns regarding the May 31 incident, when a staff member discovered a handgun in a locked staff restroom in the Campus Inn. Information on the incident was funneled to both of us, as well as to our Human Resources Executive Director.

Together, as the President of the Board of Trustees of the Rio Hondo Community College District and as Superintendent/President of Rio Hondo College, we want to assure you we know how important it is that everyone feels safe and secure on campus. For this reason, we want to clarify what happened, share how we responded and provide our hopes moving forward.

In responding to that report, and in line with our objectives to ensure continued safety on our campus, Rio Hondo College followed all laws, procedures and policies, guided by our attorneys.

Our employees understandably have questions and concerns regarding this incident and the resulting disciplinary action. Although we cannot share details due to laws that govern personnel issues, we can share that the administrator in question was placed on paid administrative leave.

The administrator resigned effective July 3, 2018. The Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department's Pico Rivera Station continues to conduct a separate, external investigation.

At the request of employees, we have and will continue to provide confidential counseling to individuals affected by the situation.

Also, as part of our dedication to inclusive and collaborative leadership, our Planning Fiscal Council is charged with recommending revisions to our board policies and administrative procedures. This forum provides a space where any member of our campus community can share in the effort to make Rio Hondo College a stronger institution. We invite any individual who would like to provide their input to submit their suggestions to Dr. Laura Ramirez or Michelle Bean, Co-Chairs of the Planning Fiscal Council.

Please know that we have handled this incident with respect, honesty and with as much speed as is reasonably possible.

It is our fervent wish that we do not let this issue mar a relationship of collaboration that is one of the hallmarks of Rio Hondo College. Together, we will continue to build on our Rio Hondo family culture and achieve extraordinary successes as a team that supports and celebrates our individual unique skillsets and talents; and, ultimately student success.

Sincerely,



Madeline Shapiro  
Board President



Teresa Dreyfuss  
Superintendent/President