

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

AUGUST 2018



President's Message



Teresa Dreyfuss

As many of you know, I announced during our bi-annual FLEX Day that I will retire from Rio Hondo College at the end of this academic year.

Later, in this Update, you will see the details of that announcement. In this space, I wanted to reflect on our extraordinary institution, Rio Hondo College, that has been my home for more than 31 years.

I have been fortunate to be a part of this community on so many levels, from my first job as an accountant to these last seven years as your superintendent/president. I have been humbled by the talented faculty, our dedicated staff and administrators, and, of course, our inspiring students.

During my years at Rio Hondo College, our team of educators – Rio Hondo College's faculty, staff and administrators – has focused on providing a

life-changing experience for our students, many of whom can't imagine the possibilities their futures will hold until they arrive on our campus.

We have done so much to transform this campus over the years, but I know the work continues. To stand still is not in our hearts. We will always seek ways to provide students with new opportunities, to offer them support and to encourage the youth of our communities to reach for the stars.

In some ways, this makes this coming year even more essential – for me, it's my last chance to complete projects on many fronts. For the rest of the community, it will be about focusing on the business of education and starting the search for a new leader who reflects our shared values and goals.

As always, I look forward to joining you every day in the coming year as we continue to transform our campus and students' lives.

Students Return for Start of Fall Semester

Rio Hondo College buzzed on the first day of fall semester with the sounds of returning and first-year students greeting each other, connecting with friends and exploring their academic home for the coming year.

First-year student Matthew Amperano joined a steady stream of new students receiving advice and, in some cases, a guide to their first classes from an information booth staffed by peer mentors and members of the Associated Students of Rio Hondo College.

"It's always exciting when the students arrive for the first day of their college careers and return as knowledgeable leaders and peers," Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss said. "Each year, we try to give them a new, more amazing experience with continued growth of new programs and services to ensure their continued success."

Amperano has long planned his attendance at Rio Hondo College, lured by the College's strong Administration of Justice program. He hopes to complete his general education requirements and continue his studies at Cal State Fullerton en route to becoming a K-9 officer.

Amperano was on campus for one class on Saturday, Aug. 18 – the official first day of the fall semester – but was still a little daunted on Aug. 20, when most students started.

"I've heard it's small, but it looks big to me. And there are a lot of hills," said Amperano, a Whittier High graduate.

RIO IN THE NEWS: Read more in the Mid Valley News, page 5

A student guide escorted new student Victoria Holguin up one of those hills to her first class. **Continued on page 2**



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Board Update



Vice President of Student Services Henry Gee presented the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees with the 2017-18 efforts in the College's Adopt-a-School program,

which is designed to inspire a college-going culture at local public schools.

The program includes 11 schools spread across Rio Hondo College's five trustee areas: Kranz Intermediate School and Columbia Middle School in El Monte; the STEAM Academy at Burke Middle School and North Park Academy of the Arts in Pico Rivera/West Whittier; Dean Shively Middle School, Dexter Middle School and New Temple Elementary in Whittier/South El Monte; Graves Middle School and Los Nietos Middle School in Santa Fe Springs/South Whittier/Los Nietos; and Hillview Middle School and Scott Elementary School in East Whittier.

During the last school year, Rio Hondo College invited eighth-grade boys to participate in the CHOICE Conference, two middle schools to a Career and Technical Education open house and schools across the area to attend arts and cultural programs throughout the year.

In addition, College representatives attended back-to-school and open house nights, career day programs and a family resource fair/spring festival.

In the coming year, the College will implement college work study tutors.

Trustees thanked retirees for their service, recognized the Boys & Girls Club of Whittier's Youth of Year and nominees, and received an update on the College's Adopt-a-School program during its Aug. 8 meeting.

Rose Marino, an aide in the Child Development Center, is retiring after 16 years of service to the District. Custodian Camilo Gregorio is retiring after 15 years of service.

Trustees congratulated Clara Velazquez, who was selected as the 2018 Youth of the Year by the Boys & Girls Club, as well as nominee Daniela Ramirez. Nominees Sarah Subia and Jade Reyes were unable to attend the ceremony.



Students Return for Start of Fall Semester (Cont.)

Holguin, who is studying biology, chose Rio Hondo College because it was more affordable than University of California, Irvine, where she was also accepted. She was thankful for the guide, who helped her navigate a crowd of fellow students just after 9 a.m.

"There's a lot of people. I'm kind of nervous," said Holguin, a Pioneer High graduate.

Student information booth workers helped a number of students overcome similar uncertainties, as well as directing them to financial aid offices, the First Year Success Center and other student services. The College is known for its strong array of support services, including tutoring programs, programs to guide students along their chosen courses and services for students in financial need or who have been part of the foster care system.

Many students were returning for their second or third year of studies, navigating the campus like seasoned professionals. Sophomores Taylor Alcala and Miranda Fernandez laughed together as they climbed the stairs near the campus quad. The two met during summer conditioning for the school's softball team before their first year.

Fernandez, a Covina resident who is studying psychology, started at Whittier College but decided to enroll in Rio Hondo College.

"The programs are good here and they have good diversity as far as different programs," she said.

The two arrived just before 9 a.m. but avoided the annual first-day parking rush by snagging spots by the softball field.

Second-year student Samuel Cox, who is studying history, said he continues to be struck by Rio Hondo College's hilltop location even as construction continues to improve the campus L Tower, one of its most distinctive buildings.

Cox said he's enjoyed strong teachers in a variety of subjects and participating on the College's award-winning Forensics Speech and Debate team.



Award-winning Choreographer Joins College Dance Program

Award-winning choreographer Vanessa Kanamoto has joined Rio Hondo College's dance program, teaching a combination of entry-level and advanced courses.

Kanamoto, who holds a Master of Fine Arts from UC Irvine, is teaching Dance Conditioning and Alignment this fall, serving as the College's guest choreographer and working with advanced students in Rio Hondo's Dance Collective.

"Vanessa has an incomparable talent on the stage and in the classroom. She presents dance with an inspirational humanness and vulnerability and teaches with simplicity and beauty in a way that is accessible to dancers of all levels," said Dr. Alyson Cartagena, Dance, Yoga, and Pilates Program and Outcomes Coordinator.

Cartagena said she encountered Kanamoto's work in January at the American College Dance Festival, where her work "Shikata ga nai" was chosen as a Gala Concert Winner (as was Rio Hondo College's) and was one of two pieces selected for the national festival.

"Shikata ga nai" is a Japanese phrase translating to "it cannot be helped," an expression used by many Japanese people detained in U.S. internment camps, signifying their ability to maintain dignity despite uncontrollable circumstances.

"I think that she characterizes a great balance in dance – offering a strong foundation in classics, such as ballet, with her innovating teaching approach," Cartagena said. "In addition to her strong dance background and her choreographic talent, she also has a background in kinesiology and full certification in the Pilates method and Zumba."

Kanamoto's work was also selected for the prestigious Jacob's Pillow Dance Festival as part of the Inside/Out: American College Dance Association Gala Highlights on Aug. 23 and her dancer won the Capezio Award for Excellence in Performance.

Kanamoto has taught at East Los Angeles College for nine years, including courses in ballet, jazz and hip-hop. In addition to choreography, she continues to perform.

This summer, she danced a piece called "but is it affective" choreographed by a fellow UC Irvine alum at the Santa Monica Mix Match Festival.

Kanamoto said she has been impressed by Rio Hondo College's Dance Collective.

"I was instantly impressed by their hard work, focus, eagerness and maturity," she said. "These dancers increased my excitement to be a part of this institution."



Degree, Certificate Programs Take Aim at Rapidly Growing Homeland Security Field

Rio Hondo College has created Associate of Science and Certificate of Achievement academic offerings in Homeland Security, adding to the array of topnotch public safety programs that are a hallmark of the College.

The program, open for enrollment this fall, features the establishment of a Regional Training Center on par with the College's Police Academy, Fire Academy and Wildland Fire Academy, creating a fundamental framework for responding to threats posed daily by manmade and natural disasters.



"Rio Hondo College's Homeland Security Program will provide an academic foundation for a career field that is growing rapidly in scope and importance to our communities," Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss said. "This innovative program will provide a foundation for students seeking additional instruction in homeland security as well as enhance the knowledge and capabilities of experienced public safety professionals."

The interdisciplinary program was designed in consultation with experts in law enforcement, fire services and homeland security, and incorporates courses in fire technology, wildland fire technology, administration of justice and geographic information services. A course in cybersecurity policy also will be offered in conjunction with Rio Hondo College's new cybersecurity degree program.

"The Homeland Security program will expand employment opportunities for students by adding a new field of study to public safety careers for those new to the field, or professionals in the career who are looking to enhance their career path," said Dr. Ygnacio "Nash" Flores, the coordinator for the Homeland Security Program.

Career fields open to graduates in homeland security have the potential for more than 400,000 job openings by 2024.

Potential jobs include security management, information security, business continuity planning, border protection, customs, the U.S. Coast Guard, emergency management, transportation security and law enforcement and fire careers.

Roadrunners Fire Crew Joins Battle against Ferguson Fire

Rio Hondo College's Roadrunner Crew 77 has been called up for the second time this summer – this time to assist crews battling the massive Ferguson Fire that threatened Yosemite National Park.

The crew, led by a U.S. Forest Service crew boss, included 17 recent graduates of the College's Wildland Fire Academy. A Type II hand crew, the team assisted with all aspects of fire monitoring, suppression and control, including digging fire containment lines.

"We are extremely proud of the contributions of our Wildland Fire Academy crew," Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss said. "They represent the best of Rio Hondo College – students and graduates who are dedicating their careers to helping their communities."

The crew can be called up for 21 days with each activation. It was activated over the July 4 weekend to assist in battling the Agua Caliente fire in Palm Springs.

This call-up started on July 26 when the crew was activated to cover parts of the Angeles National Forest for crews shifting to fight the Ferguson Fire and other blazes. During the first days of that activation, the Roadrunners helped quash a brushfire. On Aug. 2, the team joined the battle against the Ferguson Fire.

Each crew member has met or exceeded U.S. Forest Service requirements for seasonal wildland firefighters. Students also must pass an arduous physical fitness regime. Rio Hondo College has fielded the crew since 2002.

"The Angeles National Forest fire chief and his staff are huge supporters of this program where we train students from a diverse group of people to become firefighters," said Tracy Rickman, coordinator of the Fire Technology programs at Rio Hondo College.

Lead Instructor Ryan Carey, also a wildland fire fighter prior to joining Rio Hondo College's faculty, said the young men and women earn the job – nothing is given.

"You have to want to be gone from family and friends for up to 21 days at a time and sleep under the stars and work hard for a 12-hour operational period putting out a fire," Carey said. "It's not for everyone."

The Ferguson Fire burned more than 96,000 acres since July 13. At one point, more than 2,300 firefighters were engaged and fatalities include Arrowhead Interagency Hotshots Capt. Brian Hughes, 33.



RIO IN THE NEWS:
Read more about the fire crew in the Mid Valley News.

Internationally Distinguished Conductor to Lead Choirs



Steven Salts, an internationally distinguished Fulbright Scholar of choral music, has joined the Choirs at Rio Hondo College.

Salts has directed choirs throughout the United States and Europe, including performances at Westminster Abbey, four basilicas in Rome and venues in New York City and Los Angeles.

In addition to his conducting engagements, he is in demand as a bass-baritone. He has been featured as both a soloist and a chorister on major studio

recordings released by Hyperion Records, for whom he also co-authored liner notes for a recording of contemporary American choral music.

Some of Salt's singing highlights include performing for Queen Elizabeth II, singing with the L.A. Philharmonic and performing with The Rolling Stones.

Salts is an associate faculty of music at Riverside City College, where he conducts the Concert Choir and teaches a studio of voice and conducting students. Previously, he was conductor of the Royal Holloway Founder's Choir, assistant conductor of the internationally acclaimed Choir of Royal Holloway and assistant conductor of the 2016 "Choir of the World" – the Bob Cole Conservatory Chamber Choir.

Salts earned his Bachelor of Music in voice from Florida State University, a Master of Music in choral conducting from the Bob Cole Conservatory of Music at California State University, Long Beach, and another Master of Music with highest honors in the United Kingdom at Royal Holloway, University of London.

President Dreyfuss Announces Retirement Plan



Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss, who helped lead Rio Hondo College through the Great Recession, execute close to \$300 million in construction projects, open three regional campuses and create a historic four-year degree in automotive technology, will retire at the end of the 2018-19 academic year.

Dreyfuss started at the College as an accountant in 1987 and rose through the ranks to become interim superintendent/president in 2012 and assuming the post permanently a year later. She announced her plan to step down on Aug. 17 to administrators, faculty and students attending a bi-annual FLEX staff development event.

Her last day will be June 30, 2019, ensuring time for a seamless transition in leadership.

In her roles as senior accountant, controller/business manager, chief financial officer and vice president of finance and business, Dreyfuss focused on ensuring the College's fiscal stability. During the Great Recession, Rio Hondo College avoided layoffs and furloughs, an achievement attributed to Dreyfuss' careful planning.

An immigrant from Taiwan, Dreyfuss often called on her journey to the presidency as a way to inspire Rio Hondo College students with their potential to succeed.

"I came into this country as an immigrant and discovered a place at Rio Hondo College, one of the most creative and dedicated communities I have ever experienced," Dreyfuss said. "I love this College and what it has become."

El Monte Mayor André Quintero praised Dreyfuss for her oversight of nearly \$300 million in capital projects.

"I have had the honor to know President Dreyfuss for 17 years," Quintero said. "I will always be grateful to her for her masterful implementation of the facilities master plan and bond program. Her devoted leadership provided us with facilities that will serve generations of students."

Since 2004, the College has built an Administration of Justice Building, Learning Resource Center, Applied Technology Complex, P.E. Complex, police and fire training facilities, a Student Services building and the Student Union.

Regional campuses also opened in South Whittier in 2009, El Monte in 2012 and Pico Rivera in 2016.

Pico Rivera Mayor Gustavo Camacho said Dreyfuss should be credited with transforming the College and extending its reach deeply into the local communities.

"It has been an honor working with President Teresa Dreyfuss," Camacho said. "Through her leadership we have a satellite campus in the City of Pico Rivera and have a positive working relationship with the College."

The next president of the College will have some big shoes to fill. Teresa will be missed."

Whittier Mayor Joe Vinatieri said Dreyfuss provided a perfect blend of fiscal stewardship and inspirational leadership.

"She has a great sense of providing leadership for the academic program, the students and the faculty, while at the same time having a tight rein on the spending ... a balance that has brought strength to the College," Vinatieri said.

In 2013-14, Rio Hondo College became one of a select group of community colleges to host the Pathway to Law School program, which guides students from community college, through four-year universities, to one of eight top California law schools. Earlier this year, the College's program received the **Diversity Champion Award** from California LAW for excellence.

The College also created a historic **four-year Bachelor of Science in automotive technology**. In June 2019, the first graduates will receive their bachelor's degrees.

In 2017, the College created the **Rio Promise**, which offers a free year of tuition and priority registration to recent public high school graduates in its service area. A free tuition program for second-year students will launch in September.

Meanwhile, from 2014-15 to 2017-18, the number of associate degrees conferred increased by 80 percent and the number of students who received certificates increased by 276 percent. Rio Hondo College also expanded its associate degrees for transfer – which guarantee admission to a California State University campus – from four to 27.

Dr. Adam Wetsman, a Rio Hondo College anthropology professor and president of the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges, praised Dreyfuss for her leadership.

"Over the last half-dozen years, Teresa Dreyfuss has embodied everything a great college president should be," said Wetsman, who received the college system's 2018 Hayward Award for excellence in teaching, professional activities and commitment to students.

"While ensuring that student success and equity are the foundations for everything we do, she has overseen sound fiscal practices, solidified enduring connections with the community and maintained positive relationships with the faculty," Wetsman said. "Rio Hondo College is a better place because of President Dreyfuss."

Dr. Tom Huffman, who served as director and dean of admissions and records from 1983 to 1996, called Dreyfuss "one of the most important individuals in the history of Rio Hondo."

"Her leadership on the fiscal side and on governance has given our communities the college that they deserve – one that symbolizes excellence, leadership, innovation, fiscal stability, high morale and a student-centered approach," Huffman said.



Gallery Honored as among Southern California Colleges' Best

Rio Hondo College is featured in a list of the top 15 galleries on Southern California campuses in a recent article by L.A. Weekly. The gallery's current show, Hagop Najarian: Atonal Chromatics, will run through Oct. 2.

RIO IN THE NEWS:
Check out Rio Hondo College in L.A. Weekly!

Educators Get Inspired for 2018-19

Rio Hondo College's faculty, staff administrators revved up for the fall 2018 semester during the College's bi-annual FLEX Day, held Aug. 17.

The event included remarks by Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss and the leaders of the Academic Senate, Faculty Association, California School Employees Association and Associated Students of Rio Hondo College. Attendees included members of the Board of Trustees.

Among the topics of discussion were the College's student learning outcomes, the behavioral intervention team and a dynamic presentation by Dean of Public Safety Marc Yokoyama on "Situational Awareness."

Breakout sessions tackled strategies to engage students, the College system's new Guided Pathways initiative, designed to support degree-seeking

students, scholarships, online instruction techniques, dual enrollment and characteristics of the College's student body.

Dreyfuss lauded the College community for its many accomplishments in 2017-18, including outreach efforts that connected with more than 2,100 students and a strong transfer program that sent 20 students to UC Berkeley, 64 students to UC Irvine, 88 students to UC Riverside and 40 students to UCLA.

In 2017-18, the College awarded 1,399 students with about 1,600 academic degrees, topping numbers from previous academic years. In addition, 18 students completed the College's Pathway to Law School program.



Rio Hondo College Hosts First Year Family Night

Rio Hondo College hosted its fourth annual First Year Family Night on Aug. 9, acquainting families of new students with programs, support services and opportunities for their engagement in their children's education.

"Rio Hondo College is a community college dedicated to seeing every student succeed, including our first-year students," Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss said. "Rest assured that you will have the resources and support needed to succeed, such as free tutoring in both math and English. Remember, we are all here to help you."



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Rio Hondo College YT Channel



bit.do/riohondocollege



rhcroadrunners

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. to 3 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, through Tuesday, Oct. 2:

Hagop Najarian: Atonal Chromatics, Rio Hondo Art Gallery

7 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 20:

Transfer Fair, Mid-Quad

Thursday, Sept. 20 through Friday, Nov. 2:

Dia de Los Muertos Community Altar Building, Learning Resource Center

7:30 p.m. Friday, Sept. 21:

Conjunto Hueyapan, Trio Chicontepec and Nuestras Raices Performance: A Celebration of Mexican Music and Dance, Wray Theater

8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 21:

Observatory public viewing

9 a.m. Tuesday, Sept. 25:

Rio Promise Second Year Launch, Rio Hondo College

11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 27:

Barrio Mobile Art Studio printmaking, paper flower and papel picado workshop, Lower Quad

8 p.m. Friday, Sept. 28:

Observatory public viewing

6 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 10:

Board of Trustees meeting, Rio Hondo College

RIO HONDO COLLEGE ARTS AND CULTURAL EVENTS CALENDAR:

Check out the full list of 2018-19 events.

College Hosts Santa Fe Spring Chamber



Rio Hondo College hosted more than 50 individuals representing Santa Fe Springs businesses, nonprofits and other local organizations for the Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce's monthly Business Card Exchange on Aug. 1.

Guests enjoyed breakfast prepared by Campus Food Services at Café Rio and sponsored by the Office of the President.

Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss delivered welcome remarks, speaking about the new funding formula and asking community leaders to encourage residents to take classes at Rio Hondo College, one of the top community colleges that transfers underrepresented minorities to the UCs.

Dreyfuss was presented with a certificate of appreciation from Santa Fe Springs Chamber of Commerce officials. She thanked the Rio Hondo College Facilities Staff, the Office of Government and Community Relations, Audio/Visual Tech, and Marketing and Communications for their help with this event. Vice President of Student Services Henry Gee also attended this event.

