

PRESIDENT'S UPDATE

FEBRUARY 2019



President's Message



Teresa Dreyfuss

Rio Hondo College is enjoying another round of honors as 2019 begins – all representative of core strengths that exemplify our efforts to provide students with access, support and a pathway to success.

Our auto technology program earned recognition from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office for its environmental responsibility. This honor is the highest available and underscores the depth and breadth of our alternative fuels training programs, which include our partnership with Tesla.

It is heartening to see this hard work pay off not only in new jobs and success for our students, but also in a recognition of the teams that are leading the innovation that is a hallmark of the auto tech program.

Meanwhile, our science program received another grant for NASA-related student studies, which will allow a crew of students to explore their interests in rocket science. Rio Hondo College helped to pioneer this program a few years ago and remains committed to expanding opportunities for our students to develop their interests and skills.

Finally, new reports show that not only are thousands of students taking advantage of our Rio Promise – which now offers two years of free tuition to new full-time college students – but thousands more are getting a jumpstart on college during high school through our concurrent enrollment programs.

Both of these programs are designed to boost access to college among students who might otherwise never get this opportunity to explore and expand their potential. Such efforts are truly at the heart of our commitment to the community.

Auto Tech Students Connect with Employers

More than 60 Rio Hondo College students attended the Greater Los Angeles New Car Dealership Association (GLANCDA) Service Technician Career Fair on Feb. 21 at the Pacific Palms Resort, speaking directly to dealers who were all eager to share their job openings and provide insight into their industry.

The event featured dozens of local car dealerships ready to hire service technicians.

Along with receiving valuable career advice, many students were offered jobs on the spot; others have scheduled interviews for future employment. GLANCDA also awarded the Rio Hondo College Foundation with a \$10,000 scholarship that will be used to support auto tech students in need of covering the costs of book and tools.



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Board Update



Rio Hondo College's Board of Trustees reviewed presentations at its Feb. 20 meeting for a professor's sabbatical studies, outreach program, Rio Promise impact, partnerships with high school districts and an online board document management system.

Jeannie Liu, a professor in the accounting department of Rio Hondo College's Business division, outlined how she used her sabbatical to expand teaching

resources for accounting courses, including online programs.

As part of the effort, she attended an International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) workshop, read the "Interpretation and Application of International Reporting Financial Standards" and created an online course to educate accounting faculty on efforts to create a single standard by merging the U.S. Generally Accepted Accounting Principles and the IFRS.

Liu also researched and developed a composite of resources and tools to improve student retention and success in online accounting courses. The tools are available for all accounting instructors and may be applicable to other online courses.

She relayed the praise she received from students for her efforts to connect with them online.

In addition, Liu reviewed expectations for Excel skills for accountants so she could understand what students entering the workforce would need to know. Using that information, she created an Excel lab course with exercises and cases to provide students with practical skills they will need to enhance their marketability.

Trustees also received an update on Rio Hondo College's Outreach and Educational Partnerships from Dean of Student Success Dr. Melba Castro (pictured), learning that concurrent/dual-enrollment programs are in place at 14 schools across four school districts within Rio Hondo College's service area and at six schools and districts outside of the service area.

In 2017-18, more than 3,445 students took advantage of the program, with numbers rising sharply in fall 2018 over those from the previous fall semester.

The report also provided an update on students taking advantage of the Rio Promise, which offers free tuition for two years to new full-time college students. The program provided access to 2,384 first-time, full-time college students in 2018.

Students who enrolled at Rio Hondo College directly from high school received priority registration if they completed applications by Jan. 29.

During the meeting, trustees also learned about a cloud-based management system for Board of Trustee agendas and minutes called BoardDocs from Information Technology Services Director Gary Van Voorhis.



Cash for College Event Aids 67 Students

Sixty-seven students attended Rio Hondo College's 2019 Cash for College event, a workshop program that helped students and parents complete the 2019-20 FAFSA or Dream Act application.

The event included a presentation on the College's Rio Promise, which offers free tuition for two years to new full-time college students. The College partnered with Assembly Majority Leader Ian C. Calderon for the Feb. 2 event.



Alumna Dedicates Career to Education, Earns Doctorate

Angelica De La Rosa recalls how her struggles with education – a lack of motivation and the poor grades that resulted – changed overnight with the birth of her first son.

“The motivation wasn’t there, the goals weren’t set,” she said. “I come from a family of seven and going through school, it was difficult for me to do the things I wanted to do. I wanted something better for my children and I knew it was going to be up to me to make that possible. I decided education was going to be my path.”

De La Rosa, who enrolled in Rio Hondo College after high school only to be declared academically ineligible due to poor grades, returned with a plan.

Working part time and caring for her son, she jumped into a full schedule of classes. She retook the courses she had failed and did so well she was able to transfer to California State University, Los Angeles.

At Cal State L.A., she blazed a path through the curriculum, studying with a full schedule straight through summers to get her Bachelor of Arts in child development and multi-subject teaching credential in eight quarters.

She graduated on Dec. 12, 1998 and was working as a substitute teacher when Whittier City School District started its spring semester on Jan. 5, 1999.

“I was the first in my family to get a degree and I was the youngest,” De La Rosa said. “My family was so proud.”

De La Rosa soon found a full-time post at the district, teaching English and history for six years and then math. She shifted to high school instruction, taking another round of college classes to obtain a single-subject credential.

Along the way, she also picked up Master of Arts in education and, shortly after, became a National Board Certified Teacher in math – one of the nation’s toughest standards for teachers.

De La Rosa went on to earn an administrative credential in 2011 and moved into high school administration. She returned to middle school this fall, serving as an assistant principal at East Whittier City School District while completing a doctorate in education from the University of Southern California.

In February, she defended her dissertation on Future Ready Schools.

“When I left the room, they called me Dr. De La Rosa, and that was amazing,” she said.

She credits her parents for teaching her to work hard for her goals and her husband, Anthony, for supporting her as she tackled each new challenge.

“My parents had little to no formal education, but they taught us about hard work. It was so much more than that, yet simple. They didn’t make excuses or complain. They did what they needed to do to make sure our family progressed,” De La Rosa said.

She has also served to inspire her children. Her eldest son is studying for his master’s degree in public administration. Her second son is taking Rio Hondo College courses during high school and will graduate as a college sophomore. Her two daughters, ages 12 and 8, are still deciding their paths.

De La Rosa’s path also served as an inspiration for her older sister, who went to Rio Hondo College to earn a degree in nursing, followed by a bachelor and master’s degree at California State University, Dominguez Hills.

De La Rosa said she wanted to recognize the entire Rio Hondo College community.

“Thank you all for the work that you do for our students and our community,” she said. “Your slogan could not be more accurate, ‘Start Rio ... Go anywhere!’”



Student Trustee Advocates for Undocumented Students



Rio Hondo College Student Trustee Diana Laureano attended President Trump's State of the Union speech on Feb. 5 as a guest of U.S. Rep. Linda Sánchez, using the opportunity to continue her advocacy on behalf of her fellow undocumented peers.

Laureano – who is studying philosophy and political science and is part of the Rio Hondo College Pathway to Law School program – said she considers it her mission to ensure undocumented residents are seen and heard.

"It was a unique experience," Laureano said. "I was there, along with others, to represent the undocumented community, to show that we are here and we will not back down, we will not go back to the shadows, nor will we be fearful of the hateful rhetoric that is being used."

Rio Hondo College Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss praised Laureano for her outstanding representation of the College.

"We are incredibly proud of Diana and her pursuit of advocacy on behalf of our undocumented students," Dreyfuss said. "She is committed to making a difference in our community, just as Rio Hondo College is committed to ensuring our students realize the promise of change possible through higher education."

Laureano said she attended a pre-speech reception hosted by House Majority Leader Nancy Pelosi and had the opportunity to meet members of Congress. During the speech, she was a guest in the gallery.

"Linda Sánchez inspired me to take action two years ago, when she visited Rio Hondo College," Laureano said. "So, in many ways, I've come full circle, joining the Congresswoman to use that voice on behalf of my community."

Sánchez spoke to Rio Hondo College students in fall 2017, shortly after President Trump's administration announced the phase-out of the Delayed Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program that opened doors of opportunity to undocumented immigrants brought to America as children.

Laureano came to the United States when she was 5 years old. Growing up, Laureano gradually began to understand that she was an undocumented immigrant and that her status restricted what she could achieve.

DACA removed some of those limitations, and she became determined to ensure its rescission did not prevent her and others from pursuing their dreams. First, she joined an effort at Rio Hondo College to gather letters of support for undocumented students from her classmates, delivering those letters to members of Congress who opposed DACA.

Laureano then joined advocacy efforts through the Coalition for Humane Immigration Rights of Los Angeles (CHIRLA) and won selection to the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees as the student representative for 2018-19.

She also served as president for Rio Hondo's undocumented club, Students Without Borders, as legislative affairs chair of Associated Students of Rio Hondo and as a steering member of the California Dream Network.

"Rio Hondo College has given me so many opportunities and has opened so many doors for me that I want to make sure other students also have those opportunities. I want to give back to the community as someone who once felt her voice did not matter. I want to ensure that the voices of the students are heard," Laureano said.

Sánchez praised Laureano for her contributions.

"When presented with someone like Diana, it is hard to ignore the fact that immigrants contribute to every facet of our society," Sánchez said. "Their success is our country's success. I was proud to have Diana as my guest to the State of the Union to show the country that undocumented immigrants are our neighbors, friends and coworkers who love this country and lift it up."



College Students Head to Taipei for Internships

Eight Rio Hondo College students will participate in a semester-long internship program in Taipei, Taiwan as part of a program that connects them with Chinese elementary and middle schools. The program runs from March 5 to June 20.

The Taipei internship program provides a tuition-free, all-expenses paid internship in which students serve as teachers aides, teaching English three days a week. Students may also take courses at Taipei University without cost. Meals, home-stay lodging, insurance, cultural classes and local trips are included in the program, as is a monthly subway card.

Professor Shin Liu, the program coordinator, provided an orientation about the program for the students and their parents in February.

"Part of our core mission is to make our students global citizens and to expose them to rich cultural experiences and opportunities that will have lasting effects on their academic development," Liu said.

Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss congratulated students on their decision to join the program.

"This internship gives students a once-in-a-life-time cultural experience abroad," Dreyfuss said.

A fall 2019 program will run from Aug. 20 to Dec. 20. Applications are available at <https://shinliu.wordpress.com/2019-study-abroad-program/>

College Hosts 90 Schools for Regional Science Olympiad



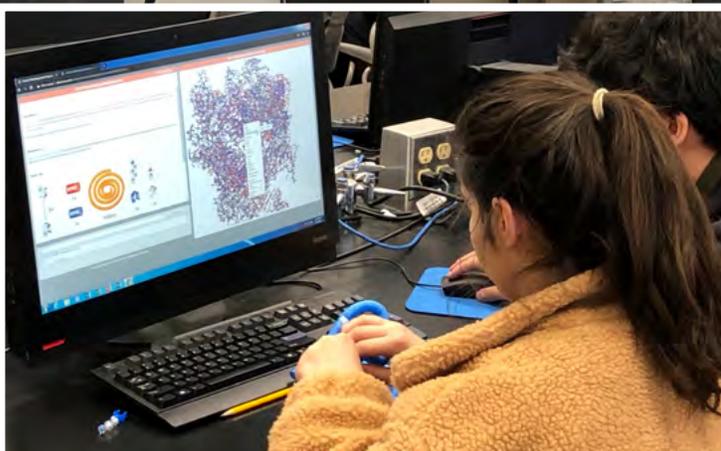
Rio Hondo College hosted students from 50 Los Angeles County high schools and 40 middle schools on Feb. 23 for the 2019 Regional Science Olympiad, a series of highly competitive science and engineering contests.

Arcadia High School and Mesa Robles Middle School took top honors.

“So many members of Rio Hondo College’s faculty and staff worked to make this an overwhelmingly successful event,” said Dr. Vann Priest, dean of mathematics, sciences and engineering.

Priest praised chemistry professor Allen Leung, who served as tournament host, the College’s facilities and security staff, the information technology team, MESA student volunteers, students and alumni from Caltech who staffed the competition, Dean of Kinesiology, Dance and Athletics (KDA) Steve Hebert, who oversaw competitions at the KDA complex, and KDA staff member Pauly Lona.

Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss welcomed competitors and, along with Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Laura Ramirez, assisted at the awards ceremony.



College Receives New Grant for Space Studies

Once again, Rio Hondo College has been selected to receive a NASA-sponsored California Space Grant that will provide 10 students with hands-on instruction in science, technology, engineering and math as a way of boosting their interest in STEM fields and raising academic performance.

The competitive grant from the California Space Grant Consortium brings the College \$6,000 for student scholarships, \$500 for purchasing electronic kits, \$500 for additional electronic assembly equipment and \$500 for faculty mentor awards.

In addition, the consortium will fund a one-day trip to either NASA's Armstrong Flight Research Center or the Jet Propulsion Laboratory and will host online webinars on research topics that highlight the work of each national NASA center.

Rio Hondo College participated in a pilot program for the grant in 2013-14 and 2014-15, with 24 students receiving similar training and NASA-related experiences. It received the full grant for the first time in 2017. In spring 2018, as a capstone event to the program, students launched rockets and drones and collected various scientific measurements in the Lucerne Valley.

The program includes a faculty team of two mathematicians and a physicist/physical chemist. The faculty members have backgrounds in robotics coding,

including Arduino electronics/robotics kits, and have conducted projects analyzing rocket launch data.

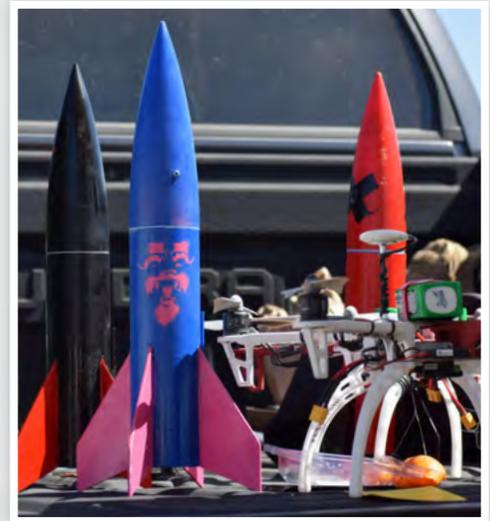
Students are recruited from Pre-Calculus or Calculus I classes, when they are often not yet committed to a STEM major. They will work in teams on programming tasks on Friday afternoons through the end of March and then on project development. Projects will be completed in the summer when lighter class loads will allow students to immerse themselves in the effort.

Rio Hondo College leaders say they expect the program to help improve student performance in their academic pursuits.

Rio Hondo College has a longstanding commitment to inspiring interest in STEM fields among its student body, which includes a high number of first-generation college students, students from low-income families and underrepresented minorities.

Since 2008, the College has offered a mathematics, engineering and science achievement (MESA) program that is designed to increase the number of these students who transfer to four-year institutions in STEM majors. In 2009, the College added the federal TRIO Student Support Services STEM program.

Together, the programs have increased enrollment in STEM major preparation classes by more than 100 percent.



College Leaders Attend Guided Pathways Conference

Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss was joined by administration and faculty leaders at the Guided Pathways Conference from Jan. 31 through Feb. 2.

The program provided an opportunity to connect with college presidents and chancellors who are implementing the statewide framework that aims to improve students' chances of achievement by ensuring they receive a roadmap to success and support along their journey.

Accompanying Dreyfuss at the event were Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Laura Ramirez, Vice President of Student Services Henry Gee, professors Dr. Adam Wetsman and Gerson Montiel, Institutional Research and Planning Director Dr. Caroline Durdella and counselor Mary Rivera.

In related Guided Pathways news, Professor Libby Curiel has been named

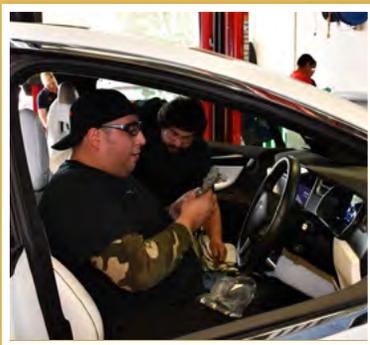
Guided Pathways Regional Coordinator for the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

"Guided Pathways is a framework we are all empowered to design and develop, that can transform colleges to equitably meet the needs of our students," Curiel said.

"My role is to partner with colleges to support the implementation of the Guided Pathways framework. This effort is unique at each college, with various strengths and challenges emerging as they engage in this important work. My goal is to help colleges elevate their high impact practices and provide information, assistance and resources as needed."

To share information with Curiel, contact her at LLCuriel@cccco.edu.

Community Colleges Board of Governors Recognizes Rio Hondo



Rio Hondo College received the California Community Colleges' highest honor – a 2018-19 Exemplary Program Award – for its alternative fuels program, in keeping this year's award theme of "Environmental Responsibility."

Riverside City College, Santa Barbara City College and Sierra College received honorable mentions.

"These colleges are successfully training students to combat climate change and sustainably address food insecurity on campus," said California Community Colleges Board of Governors President Tom Epstein. "The collaborations among faculty and students to achieve these important goals serve as models for other community colleges throughout the state."

Rio Hondo College received the [Exemplary Program Award](#), on Jan. 16 for its alternative fuels program, which includes hybrid, fuel cell, compressed natural gas, liquid natural gas, liquid petroleum gas and electric vehicle technologies.

Rio Hondo College's alternative fuels program involved extensive work with community colleges and universities across the nation on safety standards to improve technician safety. The program prepares students and employees to become alternative fuels specialists at transit agencies, government maintenance facilities, heavy equipment dealerships or independent repair facilities.

"This is a terrific recognition of the strength of Rio Hondo College's automotive technology program," Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss said. "For many years now, we have been at the forefront of innovation and industry partnerships to create a program that trains our students for the jobs of today and tomorrow."

The annual Exemplary Program Awards, sponsored by the Foundation for California Community Colleges, were launched in 1991 to recognize outstanding California community college campus programs.

Award nominees demonstrate overall program success; faculty engagement; demonstrate a response to the needs of students, faculty and the college; collaboration among other programs on campus or within the community; support the community college mission; and serve as models for other community colleges.



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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



5 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 20:
Adult Re-Entry Success Conference, Campus Inn

6 p.m. Thursday, March 21:
Career and Technical Education programs informational session, Technology Building

10 a.m. Friday, March 22:
FAFSA/California Dream Act application workshop, First Year Success Center

9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, March 22:
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, Administration of Justice Building

Saturday, March 23 through Friday, March 29:
College closed during Spring Break

8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Friday, April 5:
Second annual Together We Dream Conference, Campus Inn

9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, April 5:
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, Administration of Justice Building

9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, April 12:
Volunteer Income Tax Assistance, Administration of Justice Building

FREE TAX PREPARATION!



2019 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)

IRS-Certified volunteers provide FREE basic income tax return preparation to qualified individuals & families who earn \$55,000 or less.

LOCATION, DATES & TIMES

FRIDAYS WALK-IN ONLY

RIO HONDO COLLEGE (RHC)

Administration of Justice Bldg.
3600 Workman Mill Road, Whittier, CA 90601
Room 322, Park in Lot 1

Fridays - 9:30AM - 1:00PM

February 1, 8 and 22
March 1, 8, 15 and 22
April 5 and 12
(Closed February 15 and March 29)



We speak:

- English
- Spanish
- Vietnamese
- Mandarin
- Thai

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR ITEMS YOU WILL NEED TO BRING.

QUESTIONS? Call the Rio Hondo College Business Division at 562-463-7359.

11:30 a.m. Friday, April 26:

Graduation of Rio Hondo College's third cohort of Tesla START students, Automotive Lab

6 p.m. Friday, April 26: A Taste of Rio community engagement and scholarship fundraiser, Quad

7th Annual 'A Taste of Rio' to Support Student Scholarships



More than 700 guests are expected to sample artisan cuisine, fine wine and craft beer during the Rio Hondo Foundation's seventh annual "A Taste of Rio" event at 6 p.m. Friday, April 26.

The event, which supports Rio Hondo student programs and scholarships, will feature more than two dozen local restaurants, music and over 100 opportunity drawings.

"'A Taste of Rio' grows in stature every year, and through our local partnerships we are able to offer more incentives and gifts – all to benefit Rio Hondo students," Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss said. "It's a tremendously entertaining night with the community engaging with local vendors and helping the Foundation fulfill its mission to promote student success."

The Rio Hondo Foundation launched 'A Taste of Rio' in 2012. The event has become a significant component of the Foundation's fundraising efforts, with the 2017 and 2018 events selling out. All money goes to fund student scholarships and other support services.

"The Foundation has set a goal to raise \$100,000 more for student scholarships in 2019," Foundation Interim Executive Director Henry Gee said. "As 'A Taste of Rio' expands, we are able to bring more diversity to the event, which leads to stronger support not only for our students, but for the Rio Hondo community."

A \$75 VIP Access ticket includes exclusive access to select spirits, wine and craft beer, a souvenir glass and a VIP gift; pre-registration tickets for restaurant, beer and wine tastings only are \$35; general admission at the door is \$50. All attendees must be 21 or older. For information, go to www.riohondo.edu/a-taste-of-rio/ or call (562) 908-3476.

Three levels of opportunity drawings will be offered, with a minimum prize value for each level. Classic drawings are valued up to \$200 with tickets at \$5 apiece; Premium drawings are valued at a minimum of \$300, with tickets at \$10; Fund-A-Scholarship prizes are valued at \$750 and above, with tickets at \$100. All levels offer multiple-ticket discounts and are available online.