

FOCUS ON RÍO

June 2022

President's Message



Dr. Marilyn Flores
Superintendent/President

Hello Río Hondo College community,

My name is Dr. Marilyn Flores and I am overjoyed to serve as the next Superintendent/President of Río Hondo College. I firmly know that through the support of the Board of Trustees, our staff and administration, Río Hondo College will continue to thrive and serve its community with excellence.

I know that I have some big shoes to fill – former Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss was an incredible administrator and leader and I am honored to be following

in her footsteps and continuing her legacy of achievement.

I believe the work that I have done over the course of my career in community colleges has led me to Río. I vow to serve this amazing community and boost its diversity, equity, inclusion and most of all, its opportunities to allow our students to flourish and grow.

I could not be more excited to join such an amazing College and be a part of our students' academic journey.

Thank you.

'A Taste of Río' Returns with Evening of Delicious Eats, Raised Nearly \$70,000 for Scholarships, Support Services



"A Taste of Río," the signature event of the Río Hondo College Foundation, astounded guests with an evening of fine foods and drinks on June 17, bringing in nearly \$70,000 for student scholarships and other support services.

Foundation officials hosted a crowd of some 400 guests at the College's campus, where they were met with lively music and bright decorations. Guests enjoyed a wide variety of tastings from Wilson Creek Winery & Vineyards, Gondola Pizza, Mi Burrito Mexican Grill, Eastaza Coffee and Angry Horse Brewing.

The guests included students, community members, Río Hondo College Board of Trustees, staff and

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administrators, as well as Assemblymember Mike Fong, El Monte Union High School District Superintendent Dr. Edward Zuniga, Whittier Union High School District Superintendent Dr. Monica Oviedo and other elected officials.

"We are so thankful for the outpouring of support for 'A Taste of Río,'" Former Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss said. "The money raised from this event is paramount in providing scholarships and support services to our students. I'm so happy that this marked my ninth year attending this event, which was yet again another great success."

Dreyfuss also said she felt honored to have attended all nine 'A Taste of Río' events and that this latest was a heartfelt and proud way to say goodbye to the campus and start her retirement.

"A Taste of Río" began in 2012 as a way to provide additional financial support to students, but was put on hiatus for the last three years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This year's event also included a silent auction, during which guests bid on items such as a Las Vegas getaway, a Nespresso coffee maker, tickets to a Los Angeles Dodgers baseball game and more, raising an additional \$8,374.28 for student scholarships and other support services.

"It is so great to have A Taste of Río back after a short hiatus – I greatly missed having the event because it always brings the community together for a good cause. Now that it's back, it is also a neat and fun way to mark the start of summer for the Río Hondo College community," Board of Trustees President Vicky Santana said. "Thank you to everyone who attended and a special thank you to Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss, for all of her support through the years."



College Hosts Juneteenth Celebratory Event



Río Hondo College's Black Scholars Program held its first ever Juneteenth event on June 16 in the Student Success and Dream Center. The program's mission was to bring light to Juneteenth as a day of remembrance.

Students, staff and faculty engaged in learning and reflection exercises focused on what they can do to move the College towards an accessible and equitable institution for our Black and African-American students. Guests celebrated the day with food and refreshments with over 55 individuals. Vice President of Student Services, Dr. Earic Dixon-Peters, stopped by the event to engage with students and share following statement:

"For more than two years after the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863, approximately 250,000 in Texas were still enslaved. On June 19, 1865, the enslaved Black people in Texas received news of Freedom. Today, we commemorate the perseverance of all enslaved Africans and hold a space where we can imagine what it felt like to hear the words you are FREE on June 19, 1865. I celebrate by dancing, singing, learning, and fighting for Freedom. Freedom to live without fear. Freedom to love. Freedom to vote. I celebrate Black Independence Day, 1865."

The College would like to thank all the students, staff and faculty that made this first commemoration event a success. The Black Scholars program looks forward to holding more events in the future in solidarity and in support of Black and African American students.

RÍO IN THE NEWS: To learn more about the CAWA 2022 Scholarships, visit [aftermarketNews](https://www.aftermarketnews.com).

CAWA Announces 2022 Scholarship Winners



California Automotive Wholesalers' Association (CAWA), Representing the Automotive Parts Industry, has announced the recipients of its 2022 scholarship awards. CAWA provided more than \$13,000 in scholarships this year to 13 individuals.

"Once again, CAWA is proud to assist these young people in pursuing their education and careers in the auto care industry," said Rodney Pierini, president and CEO, in announcing the awards.

Recipients of this year's scholarships are:

- Marcos Alvarez-Guzman – Río Hondo College

received the Mort Schwartz Award – given to the highest ranked applicant

- Ethan Times – Arizona State University
- Joel Harvey – WyoTech
- Luke Waters – WyoTech
- Emmanuel Figueroa – Universal Technical Institute
- Ednilson Cuatete-Hernandez – Universal Technical Institute
- Melina Camarena – Citrus College
- Joaquin Cruz Roldan – Las Positas College
- Yasmin Garcia – Fresno City College
- Ben Ebright – Solano Community College

- Leonardo Zuniga – Los Angeles Pierce College
- Diego Martinez – San Jacinto College
- Kacrana Chamroeun – San Diego Miramar College

The primary scholarship fundraising effort by CAWA is its annual dinner gala, underwritten by Motorcar Parts of America, to be held the Sunday night before the AAPEX and SEMA Shows. This year, it will be held on Oct. 30, at the Venetian in Las Vegas. Scholarship funding also comes, in part, from a grant provided by the University of the Aftermarket Foundation.



RÍO IN THE NEWS:

For more information on the future of electric vehicles and education, visit [Community College Daily](#).

What's Hot: Electric Vehicles, Drones and More

Emerging technology trends are always evident in [Mentor-Connect](#) teams' proposals.

This summer, 21 faculty-led teams from two-year colleges are continuing to receive Mentor-Connect mentoring to sharpen their ideas for innovations in technician education fields ranging from hydroponic agriculture to autonomous vehicles.

Electric vehicle (EV) technologies are the very hottest topic among this year's Mentor-Connect cohort with five mentee colleges working on proposals with distinct approaches for starting EV maintenance technician programs.

"I'm encouraging people to make stand-alone degrees for electric vehicles however they name it ... I think a dedicated degree that addresses electric vehicles is where it ought to be," said Ken Mays, a Mentor-Connect mentor to two colleges and a resource for the other colleges.

Vicki S. Jeppesen, director of resource development at [Northcentral Technical College \(NTC\)](#) in Wisconsin, is mentoring one college on the development of a sustainable transportation services program and another on the creation of an unmanned aerial systems (UAS) program.

Jeppesen, who is also executive director of the NTC Foundation and NTC Property Foundation, is encouraging both of her mentee teams to make their programs adaptable for other educational institutions and to use what they are learning during the proposal-writing process to assist other programs at their colleges.

Jeppesen's specific advice for the transportation program team is "to strengthen their collaboration with industry, to provide laddered credentials that strengthen the skill sets, and to identify credentials that can also train the current workforce (their alumni in particular) for this increasing need."

A growing national interest in EV

As EV manufacturing ramps up, Mays said demand for EV maintenance technicians is expected to double annually. This particular STEM workforce demand has the potential to drive enrollment growth at community colleges because EVs require technicians who "understand a whole different way of testing and repairing" vehicles. Mays is a professor of automotive technologies and director of the program at [Central](#)

[Oregon Community College.](#)

Since receiving Mentor-Connect mentoring in 2014 to prepare the proposal for the [Northwest Engineering and Vehicle Technology Exchange project](#)—his first [Advanced Technological Education \(ATE\)](#) grant from the [National Science Foundation](#)—Mays has become a national leader in the development of EV maintenance technology programs.

The success of his first ATE grant led to another ATE grant for the [Northwest Engineering and Vehicle Technology Exchange \(NEVTEX\)](#), a collaboration with John Frala, another 2014 Mentor-Connect alumnus. Frala is a professor and coordinator of alternative fuel and EV programs at [Rio Hondo College](#) in California. NEVTEX's development of credentials for West Coast community colleges expanded with industry partnerships and has resulted in the creation of [national EV technician skill standards and certifications](#).

Based on what he has learned as the principal investigator of those two ATE grants, Mays advises the automotive technology faculty he is mentoring to learn new technical skills and attain EV certifications, and to build their programs by reaching populations historically underrepresented in STEM fields.

"You can't just say 'We're going to introduce the technology' ... without trying to introduce diversity into your region. You've got to do both together," he said. It's a challenge he's tackled with his ATE grants, and he proudly reports that 25% of Central Oregon's EV students are women.

Myriad applications

For her mentees working on the UAS proposal, Jeppesen is urging them to think broadly about how UASs, or drones, could be used in their community. UAS use in agriculture is the focus of the team's small project in the program track for institutions that are new to ATE.

"Due to the vastness of their region, UASs will expand what the workforce can do with more efficiencies. I have been encouraging this team to showcase the multiple technician positions that can adapt and apply the skill sets their new program will offer. By exposing people to the technology and aligning the learning with the work, they will be able to grow the awareness and use of this expanding technology from hobbyists to users who can have a positive environmental and workforce impact," she explained.

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 Río Hondo College YT Channel

 bit.do/riohondocollege

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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

Río Hondo College is an educational and community partner committed to advancing social justice and equity as an antiracist institution that collectively invests in all students' academic and career pathways that lead to attainment of degree, certificate, transfer, and lifelong-learning goals.

College Updates

The Board of Trustees approved the following employment in closed session during the June 8 meeting:

- Alicia Kruiuzenga, M.A., Dean of Student Affairs
- Maria Erika Leon Ph.D., Assistant Dean of Adult Education
- Heba Griffiths, Dean of Student Support Services



Río Hondo College to Offer Study Abroad Program in Madrid, Spain

WHAT: Río Hondo College students will have the opportunity to expand their horizons through the new study abroad program, which gives students enrolled in 12 or more units the opportunity to study in Madrid, Spain during the 2023 spring semester.

Study abroad students will enroll in general education classes, taught by faculty from Río Hondo College, Citrus College and Cuyamaca College and will live alongside students from eleven other local California community colleges.

WHEN: Feb. 16, 2023 – May 13, 2023

WHERE: Madrid, Spain

DETAILS: For more information, please contact Professor Rebecca Green at rgreen@riohondo.edu.



Save the Date

Monday, June 6 – Friday, August 12:
Full term dates for Summer 2022 semester

Monday, July 11 – Friday, August 12:
Second half of Summer 2022 Semester

Monday, June 20 – Friday, July 29:
Summer evening dates

Monday, June 20 – Friday, August 12:
Summer 8-week dates

6 p.m. Wednesday, July 13:
Regular Board of Trustees Meeting

6 p.m., Wednesday, August 10:
Regular Board of Trustees Meeting

Friday, August 19:
FLEX Day

Saturday, August 20:
First day of the Fall 2022 semester

6 p.m., Wednesday, September 14:
Regular Board of Trustees Meeting