

# FOCUS ON RÍO

November 2022

## President's Message



**Dr. Marilyn Flores**  
Superintendent/President

Hello Río Hondo College community,

It is my great pleasure to be here as your Superintendent/President at the end of 2022 and to celebrate our College's many accomplishments.

This past year was magnificent for our College, full of events, programs and awards that showcased why Río Hondo College is the starting point for a lifetime of success.

In 2022, the College received millions of dollars to boost various programs aimed at uplifting Hispanic students, supporting students who want to change the world through science, technology, engineering and math, fostering creativity through performing arts and expanding our childcare services.

We were also honored to bring back one of our most popular traditions: A Taste of Río. This event brought the community together for a much-needed night out with fine foods, delicious wines, great entertainment and amazing people – all of which resulted in nearly \$70,000 in donations for scholarships and student support services.

The College was also lucky enough to be selected as a recipient of donations from renowned singer Alejandro

Fernández during his "Amor y Patria" tour. Fernández's donations will change the lives of five Río Hondo College Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students, providing them with scholarships to further their education.

Our campus culture is stronger than ever, as evidenced by the amazing turnouts at events like the "25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee" musical, the Undocumented Student Action Week, various Black Scholars events, College-wide celebrations, Roadrunner Family Night and more.

And finally, I would like to thank everyone who welcomed me to the community at my installation ceremony – where I met with so many wonderful professors, staff members, administrators, community members, elected officials and students.

The year 2022 was, without a doubt, one of the best years of my life. I am proud to serve Río Hondo College and I look forward to 2023, which is sure to be another year of accomplishments, perseverance, excellence and togetherness.

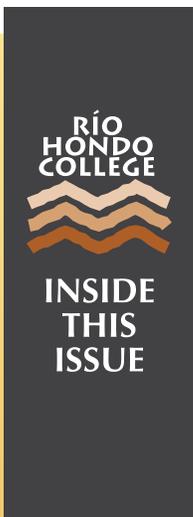
## Río Hondo College's New President Takes Oath of Office

Río Hondo College Board of Trustees, students, faculty, staff, business leaders and elected officials welcomed Superintendent/President Dr. Marilyn Flores to the College with an installation ceremony October 14.

Close to 200 guests attended the event, held in the upper quad breezeway of the L Tower, to see Flores take the oath of office. Guests were also introduced to Flores' goals for improving student success, boosting support programs and encouraging a College culture of inclusivity and anti-racism.

Associated Students of Río Hondo College President Matthew De Haro said he was

*Continued on page 2*



Río Hondo College's New President Takes Oath of Office.....	1
Students Learn About College and Career During Annual Conference.....	2
Río Hondo College Welcomes Middle School Students for CTE Pathway Program Tour.....	3
MESA Students Meet Tech Giants at STEM Conference.....	4

Río Hondo College STEM and TRAINS Students Visit Puerto Rico for STEM Diversity Conference.....	4
Dr. Flores Represents Río Hondo College at Principal for a Day.....	5
Pathway to Success: Honors Transfer Program at Río Hondo College.....	5
Río Hondo College Hosts NASA/JPL Education Department for Creative Thinking Lesson.....	6

Veterans Service Center Receives Thanksgiving Meals.....	6
High Schoolers Tour Río Hondo College's Fire Academy.....	7
Upcoming Events.....	8
Phishing Attempts: How to Protect Yourself and Others.....	9
Save the Date.....	9



**RÍO IN THE NEWS:** Read more from the [Norwalk Patriot](#).



## Río Hondo College's New President Takes Oath of Office

*Continued from page 1*

thrilled to start his presidency alongside Flores, citing their similar goals in building a strong relationship between College administrators and students while also advocating for underrepresented groups and individuals.

“Dr. Flores has already demonstrated her commitment to being a leader because she’s eager to help,” De Haro said. “She truly wants to enhance our College’s culture and boost morale and school spirit – which is one of my main goals as well. She’s also an advocate for student voices and input on subjects that affect the College.”

Flores was unanimously selected by the Board of Trustees and started her

leadership role on July 1. Her professional experience includes 25 years of educational work at institutions such as Santa Ana College, Santiago Canyon College, Las Positas College and Riverside City College.

“I am so excited and grateful to have Dr. Flores here to be our 11th superintendent/president,” Board of Trustees President Vicky Santana said. “There’s a lot of work that Dr. Flores is doing to make sure that Río Hondo College offers the classes our students need at the times that they need them. We are also doing outreach to our local K-12 partners and also in our community to boost enrollment once again. We need to remind our community that we are a wonderful asset and that we will help them change their life trajectory.”

**RÍO IN THE NEWS:** Read more in the [Mid Valley News](#)

## Students Learn About College and Career During Annual Conference

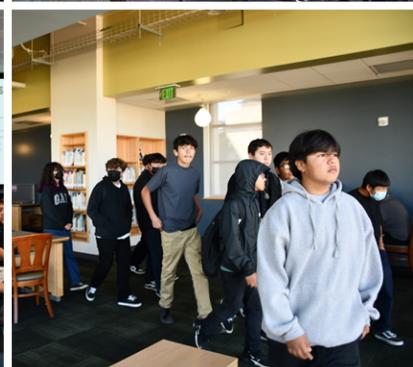
El Monte Union High School District students and families learned about how to succeed in high school, achieve their personal goals and prepare for college and careers during the annual College and Career Family Conference, held October 22 at the Pacific Palms Resort.

The event, hosted in partnership with the District, El Monte City School District, El Monte Promise Foundation, Río Hondo College and the University of California, Irvine, welcomed more than 500 El Monte-area middle and high school students and families who participated in several information workshops, enjoyed a complimentary breakfast and received swag bags.

“We are extremely grateful to host an event that promotes college

and career readiness to middle and high school students,” said Edith Echeverria, El Monte Union’s Director of Assessment, Accountability and Family Engagement. “This conference is an essential part of ensuring our students have an abundance of knowledge and resources to succeed in every endeavor they wish to pursue and so that their families also contain the necessary tools to support their children throughout their journey.”

The conference featured workshops in both English and Spanish and covered topics such as College Financial Literacy, Financial Aid, A-G Requirements, Tutoring Services, Support Resources for “Dreamers” and Fostered Youth, California State University system and more.



# Río Hondo College Welcomes Middle School Students for CTE Pathway Program Tour

Río Hondo College’s accounting, business, economics and computer technology student success teams partnered with its career technical education pathways program to host Graves Middle School for a day of career exploration on November 16.

Dean of Business Gita Runkle kicked off the event and welcomed students to the campus and business division while Business Secretary Jan Duncan conducted a quiz with prizes to warm up the crowd. Business Division Faculty – Gene Blackmun, Eric Caesar, Brenda Harlow, Rudy Rios and Marissa Young – provided engaging presentations in the areas

of accounting, business management, social entrepreneurship and computer information technology to all guest students.

Students also participated in a business exercise by operating a fictitious candy factory, putting their math skills to the test to calculate inventory costs and profits gained from sales. The students then toured various points of interest on campus – including the learning resource center, automotive department, student services building and bookstore – while learning about the many resources available at the College.

## MESA Students Meet Tech Giants at STEM Conference

Ten Río Hondo College math, engineering, science and achievement (MESA) students attended the Great Minds in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) Conference in Pasadena from October 6 to 8, testing their skills against other college students in competitions such as research posters, hacking, data analytics and solving real-world problems with engineering.

More than 130 colleges and universities with MESA programs attended the event, where more than \$230,000 in merit-based scholarships were awarded. Guests were also given the chance to speak with representatives from major companies such as Boeing, NASA, Lockheed Martin and Chevron.

During the conference, five Río Hondo College students received summer 2023 internships in computer science and engineering.



## Río Hondo College STEM and TRAINS Students Visit Puerto Rico for STEM Diversity Conference

Fourteen Río Hondo College math, engineering, science and achievement (MESA) and Transitions and Research Across Interfaces (TRAINS) students visited San Juan, Puerto Rico for the National Diversity in STEM Conference from October 27 to 29.

The conference was the largest multidisciplinary and multicultural STEM diversity event in the country, allowing people of color in STEM to attend

professional development sessions, hear keynote speakers, discover opportunities for graduate school and celebrate their heritage.

During the event, Río Hondo College student Stephanie Ramirez presented a poster about optimizing the synthesis of lipid-based nanoparticles while student Roman Leyvas presented a poster detailing the expression and purification of synapsin in *Escherichia coli*.



## Dr. Flores Represents Río Hondo College at Principal for a Day

Río Hondo College Superintendent/President Dr. Marilyn Flores was one of some 20 guests at Whittier City School District’s inaugural Principal for a Day event on November 1. Dr. Flores and others met with the District’s board of education, superintendent, and various administrators to strengthen the bond between Río Hondo College and WCSD.



**RÍO IN THE NEWS:** Hear more from [California School News Radio](#).

## Pathway to Success: Honors Transfer Program at Río Hondo College

Río Hondo College Sociology Professor Melissa Rifino-Juarez, Counselor David Tieu, student Ileen Dominguez and alumna Nicole Contreras-Garcia discuss the success of the school’s Honors Transfer Program, which provides a pathway for students to transfer to four-year universities, with high admission rates to University of California and Cal State University campuses.

To listen to the episode, [click here](#).

**RÍO HONDO COLLEGE HONORS TRANSFER PROGRAM**

 <p><b>ILEEN DOMINGUEZ</b> Río Hondo College Student Río Hondo College</p>	 <p><b>NICOLE CONTRERAS-GARCIA</b> Río Hondo College Alumna Río Hondo College</p>	 <p><b>MELISSA RIFINO-JUAREZ</b> Sociology Professor/Honors Transfer Program Coordinator Río Hondo College</p>	 <p><b>DAVID TIEU</b> Honors Transfer Program Counselor Río Hondo College</p>
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CALIFORNIA SCHOOL NEWS RADIO



# Río Hondo College Hosts NASA/JPL Education Department for Creative Thinking Lesson

Río Hondo College's [Community Partnership for Teacher Pipeline \(CPTP\)](#) hosted a hybrid event in collaboration with the NASA/JPL Education Department on November 1.

The CPTP program is an initiative funded by the US Department of Education's Supporting Effective Educator Development (SEED) grant to build a community-based teacher pipeline that strengthens the teaching profession by increasing the number of Teachers of Color.

The event was created thanks to NASA/JPL, Río Hondo College and the Center for Collaborative Education, which is a non-profit organization that promotes innovative models of schools and increases justice and opportunity for all learners.

CPTP students, mentors and community members were provided

with a lesson by Dr. Brandon Rodriguez from the NASA/JPL Education Department to explore activities on how to promote creative thinking in the classroom. Participants explored how art guides scientific exploration and they also designed the next generation of Mars Rovers out of cardboard and other household materials.

The hybrid event allowed guests to participate online and in-person at the College's [iTeach Resource Center](#). Attendees were fully engaged as Dr. Rodriguez provided strategies on how to utilize science into common core areas such as art, language arts, math and technology.



## Veterans Service Center Receives Thanksgiving Meals

Río Hondo College's Veterans Service Center received a donation of 18 Thanksgiving meals from alumnus Mark Tavera and his family.

Each meal consisted of a full turkey, beans, rice, mashed potatoes, butter, stuffing mix, macaroni and cheese, gravy, canned corn and a pack of tortillas. The meal donations were available to veterans on November 18, before the Thanksgiving holiday.



## High Schoolers Tour Río Hondo College's Fire Academy

Santa Fe High School students visited Río Hondo College's Fire Academy on November 9 to see first-hand how firefighters and emergency medical technicians (EMT) are being trained to protect the community through paramedic, wildland fire and search and rescue occupations.

The field trip gave over 30 students a chance to learn directly from emergency medical services and fire instructors, as well as program graduates, about the different educational programs available at Río Hondo College. Guests were given a tour of the Academy's training grounds, fire engines, ambulances, equipment and classrooms.

# RIO HONDO COLLEGE



## CAREERS FOR A CAUSE

### Social Services Pre-Apprenticeship Training

Careers For A Cause (C4C) is an 8-week pre-employment training program offered by Rio Hondo College to prepare area residents to compete for careers in social services. Participants will receive a stipend and case management to support their participation in the training.

### On Campus (in person) Classes

1/30/2023 - 3/24/2023  
Mon-Fri (10:30 am - 3:00 pm)

Please Click the Link or Scan the QR Code to Apply  
<https://bit.ly/RIOC4CApplication>



### Application Deadline

January 4, 2023

Program Contact: [cperez@amityfdn.org](mailto:cperez@amityfdn.org)



## Careers for a Cause (C4C)

Care First, Community Investment & Jails Last Initiatives

### BACKGROUND

C4C American Recovery Plan (ARP) is a collaboration between Los Angeles County Departments of Economic Opportunity (DEO), Human Resources (DHR), and Mental Health (DMH), Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority (LAHSA), Community Colleges, and Community Based Organizations to geographically expand the program from one LA County Supervisorial District to all five Districts and to enhance training outcomes by adding new supportive and employment services. The program goals are to ensure that persons facing marginalization are workforce ready and able to become economically self-sufficient, thus reducing homelessness and recidivism.



### Program Description

Careers for a Cause (C4C) is an eight-week employment training program that supports individuals, with lived experience in homelessness and/or the justice system, build skills and connect to career pathways in the homeless services and social services field. Program participants must be 18+ years old and have a passion for helping underserved communities.

### Program Components

- Engagement with Multiple Homeless Services Employers
- Connected to Current Homeless Services Job Opportunities
- Supplied with Personal Computer for Training and Job Search
- Mental Health First Aid Certificate of Completion
- Homeless Management Information System (HMIS) Certificate of Completion
- First Aid/CPR Training and Card
- Paid Internship Availability
- Dedicated C4C Support Staff:
  - o Occupational Therapist
  - o Case Manager
  - o Job Developer/Retention Specialist

### Community Based Organization (CBO) Partners

The program will be delivered through Los Angeles County homeless services CBOs, Amity Foundation, Fathers & Mothers Who Care, and St. Joseph Center. These agencies provide C4C program coordination, HMIS software training, career counseling, case management, supportive services, housing assistance, job development services, mentorship, paid internships, and job placement/retention services.

### Community College Partners

The C4C social services curriculum is administered by community colleges that are located within each LA County Supervisorial District. Those colleges include Compton College, East Los Angeles College, Los Angeles Southwest College, Pierce College, and Rio Hondo College. These educational partners collaborate with LA County and homeless services CBOs to ensure that C4C participants receive comprehensive supportive services and an optimal training experience.



510 S. Vermont Ave, Los Angeles CA • 90020 • (888) 226-6300 • [opportunity@lacounty.gov](mailto:opportunity@lacounty.gov)



## Connect with Us on Social Media



## 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.

## Phishing Attempts: How to Protect Yourself and Others

During the holiday season, phishing attempts and spam emails are always on the rise. Here are some helpful tips to protect yourself and family members from online scams:

- Verify the sender's email address. Scammers may pretend to be your bank, a colleague or even a family member. Check any previous conversations with the sender or your address book to verify the email address.
- Look for spelling errors. Various spelling or grammatical errors within an email can indicate fraudulent activity.
- Never give out sensitive information. Most legitimate companies will avoid asking for personal information via email.
- Be wary of urgent messages. People are more likely to give up sensitive information when pressured by a sense of urgency.
- Call to verify requests – do not assume! If you are skeptical of any request made in an email, call the source directly to verify.
- Avoid opening unsolicited attachments. Attachments can be embedded with malware - if opened, malware can steal sensitive information by gaining access to your computer or the company.
- Verify hyperlinks. Before opening a hyperlink, hover over the link text to verify the link web address. If you do not know where the link goes - do not click on it!
- Contact IT. If you are unsure of an email's validity, contact your IT department so they can help check and verify.



## Save the Date

Friday, December 23 –  
Monday, January 2:  
Winter Break

Monday, January 30 – Friday, March 24:  
Careers for a Cause pre-apprenticeship training.  
Application deadline is January 4, 2023. [More information here](#)

**Winter Term Classes**

**January 3-26, 2023**

**RÍO HONDO COLLEGE**

- Complete a CSU/UC General Education transferable course in 4 weeks
- Catch up or move ahead to graduate earlier
- Complete a prerequisite for Spring
- Retake a class

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