

FOCUS ON RÍO

May 2023

President's Message



Dr. Marilyn Flores
Superintendent/President

Dear Río Hondo College community,

I am delighted to extend my heartfelt [congratulations to the Class of 2023](#) for their outstanding achievements. As they graduate, earn degrees and certificates, transfer to esteemed four-year universities and flourish in their academic pursuits, I know they will continue to make us all proud. The spring semester has been a resounding success for our College, serving as a shining example of our unwavering commitment to excellence.

Throughout their educational journey, our students have exemplified unparalleled dedication, resilience and determination. Their accomplishments are a testament to the exceptional faculty, staff and administrators who have nurtured their growth.

This semester, Río Hondo College has celebrated remarkable success. We have achieved record-high transfer rates, earned many accolades and grants to boost our program offerings, fostered creativity through our various programs and continued to deliver world-class academics to all of our students.

As we have reached the end of the spring 2023 semester, I want to remind our community that this level of accomplishment is what makes Río Hondo College so special. Each day, we strive to create the best educational environment for our students and our steadfast support paves the way for success.

Thank you.



Río Hondo College Spring Dance Concert Promises Intimate, Expressive 'Emergence'

Río Hondo College's Dance Program students and staff captivated the community with a series of vibrant and breathtaking solo and ensemble dances during "Emergence" – the Spring 2023 Dance Concert.

The concert, co-directed by Kristina Urteaga and Carol McDowell, was held on May 11 and May 12 at the Kinesiology, Dance and Athletics Complex at Río Hondo College. The concert featured "Where I Left Off," an ensemble dance work created by guest choreographer and College alumna Rivka Villanueva.

"We are very proud of the work all of our dance students have been doing to create, rehearse and present the dances in this concert to our community," McDowell said. "Bringing Rivka Villanueva back as a guest choreographer to work with our current dance students has been inspiring for all of us. It is such a joy to see the evolution of her artistic process and the care with which she is mentoring young dance artists here at Río Hondo College."

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Río Hondo College Spring Dance Concert Promises Intimate, Expressive ‘Emergence’

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The intimate event also featured two dances performed at the 2023 American College Dance Association Baja Conference: “Insist” by student choreographer Rosita Rico and “Of Leaves and Trees” by faculty choreographer Rachel Lopez.

The event included solos by alumni Venus Fields and Luzely Lopez, new dances by student choreographers Nadine Gomez and Tori Lopez, dance solos by Andy Garcia, Destiny Mendoza, Rosita Rico and Victoria Rodriguez, two new dance ensemble works by faculty choreographers Lisa Jay and McDowell and dances from the College’s modern dance and jazz dance classes.



Río Hondo College to Boost Math Achievement in Local High Schools, Middle Schools with New Math Academy

Río Hondo College will guide local middle and high school students through the math sequence, pre-algebra through pre-calculus, to prepare them for advanced math levels such as AP calculus and AP statistics and higher education, with the new summer Río Hondo Math Academy.

The academy is made possible through a partnership with El Rancho and Pioneer high schools and Los Nietos, Whittier City and East Whittier City school districts. This year, the Math Academy was expanded to include middle schools after originally being only available to El Rancho and Pioneer high school students.

The Río Hondo Math Academy, led by Dean of Educational Centers Yolanda Emerson, will run for 24 instructional days throughout June and July. The Math Academy is free to all high school students and incoming seventh- and eighth-grade students at participating districts.

“Math is one of the disciplines that students are intimidated by or think they’re not good at – and we want to change their mindset and let them

know that math can be fun,” Emerson said. “When you understand math and how it works, it gives students an ‘ah-ha’ moment which helps them become interested. We want to make sure they finish algebra and have strong math foundations so that they can go to college.”

Each participant will be provided with special workbooks to develop their math skills and will learn directly from Río Hondo College math professors. Tutoring will also be available after each six-hour day, to provide additional in-depth assistance to students.

Emerson said the program is an excellent way for students to boost their math skills, prepare for their future, save time by completing high school credits early and save money by earning college credit by completing college level math courses before they finish high school.

Interested students can learn more about the Río Hondo College Math Academy [here](#).



Speech and Debate Celebrates Major Wins at Last Tournament of the Season

Río Hondo College’s Forensics Speech and Debate team earned a plethora of honors at the Pacific Southwest Collegiate Forensics Association Cool-Off, held at Los Angeles City College on April 29 and April 30. The team concluded the semester with a remarkable achievement, securing second place overall at the event.

Top Speaker in NPDA

Tristan Steele – 1st place
Alexis Hernandez – 3rd place

Silver in NPDA

Tristan Steele
Alexis Hernandez

Gold in IPDA

Ryan Sandoval
Ashley Garcia

Finalist in IMPROMPTU

Ashley Garcia

Board of Trustees Recognitions

During the May 10 Río Hondo College Board of Trustees meeting, the following commendations were given to the following individuals and programs:

The Forensics Speech and Debate team for their placement during state and national competitions.

- **Students:** Dulce Santana, Ethan Sepulveda, Jose Lara, Emely Bobadilla, Katelyn Ayala, Matthew Montero, Miguel Castro, Dylan Rodriguez, Evan Andrade, Michael Servin, Cassandra Molina and Brandon Torres
- **Coaches:** Patricia Hughes, Alexander Cadena and Edward Minasyan
- **Coordinator:** Grant Tovmasian



The Journalism program for earning 17 awards at the Journalism Association of California Community College competition.

- **Honorable Mention, Editorial Cartoon:** Christopher Araujo
- **Third Place, Editorial Cartoon:** Marilyn Campos
- **Second Place, Front Page Layout:** Jasmine Soria

- **Honorable Mention, Photo Story Essay:** Raymond Luna
- **Fourth Place, Sports Photo:** Mia Alvarez
- **Honorable Mention, Magazine Photo Story Essay:** Fernando Ramos
- **Honorable Mention, Feature Writing:** Matthew E. Medina
- **Fourth Place, Social Media:** Matthew E. Medina and Marilyn Campos
- **First Place, Video Story:** Matthew E. Medina, Christopher Villaseñor and Marilyn Campos
- **First Place, Team Feature:** Mia Alvarez and Luis Martinez
- **General Excellence Online Edition:** El Paisano Staff
- **Leadership Excellence:** El Paisano Media Advisor Wendy Carrera
- **Leadership Excellence:** El Paisano Media Co-Advisor Aaron Martinez

The following faculty members were recognized for their advancement in academic rank.

- **Professor:** James Ameen (communications & languages), Sean Hughes (career & technical education), Sandra Low (arts & cultural programs), Amelia Ortiz (health science & nursing) and Ralph Velasquez (communications & languages).
- **Associate Professor:** Fatima Garcia (communications & languages), Garima Garg (mathematics, sciences & engineering), Anil Muhammed (business) and Elizabeth Ramirez (counseling).
- **Assistant Professor:** Mark Henderson (arts & cultural programs), Haruka Ito (mathematics, sciences & engineering), Jasmine Rodriguez (communications & languages) and Vicky Tryon (business).



Instructional Assistant Julie Breihan was honored as she retired after more than 22 years of service to the College.



Professor Sheila Lynch was named the Distinguished Faculty Award recipient for 2023.



The Río Hondo College Leadership Academy program cohort was honored for completing their one-year program.

- Michaela Brehm (grants), Erwin Figueroa (printing services), Edward Haggerty (admissions & records), Manuel Halim (career & technical education), Griselda Hernandez (government & community relations and marketing & communications), Stephen Kibui (finance & business), Wendy Lai (communications & languages), Lisa Lewenberg (career & technical education), Lea Martinez (career & technical education/teacher pipeline grant), Jose Millan (career & technical education/drafting), Farrah Nakatani (career & technical education/drafting), Claudia Romo (counseling), Marisela Saenz (counseling), Matthew Schleicher (arts & cultural programs) and Ana Xulu (government & community relations).



Fire Academy and CTE Offer Career Guidance to Students

Río Hondo College Fire Academy and Career Technical Education (CTE) Career Pathways partnered to host Tri-Cities ROP and Pioneer High School students for a day of career exploration in the emergency medical services (EMS) and fire safety services fields on April 24.

Students discovered career pathways and potential occupations in public safety, learning directly from Río Hondo College Fire Academy and EMS

cadets, who are being trained in areas such as paramedic, wildland fire and search and rescue operations.

Forty-two students attended the event and were also given a tour of the Fire Academy's training grounds and a first-hand look at fire engines, ambulances and equipment.





WASA Hosts Administrative Professionals Luncheon

Río Hondo College joined other local area schools to celebrate the hard work put forth by its administrative professionals, during the Whittier Area School Administrators (WASA) Administrative Professionals Luncheon on April 26.

This annual luncheon, held at the Doubletree Hotel in Uptown Whittier, celebrated the theme “Lights, Camera and Action” as the ballroom was adorned with movie memorabilia and wearable items such as fancy boas and sunglasses.

Río Hondo College Hosts MESA Banquet

Río Hondo College honored 81 mathematics, engineering and science achievement (MESA) TRIO students with a special end-of-the-year banquet on April 30 for completing the College’s most challenging science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) courses.

Superintendent/President Dr. Marilyn Flores and Board of Trustees Vice President Anais Medina Diaz spoke at the event and congratulated the grads on gaining admittance to such institutions as California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California State University, Fullerton, University of California, Los Angeles and University of California, Berkeley.



Community Partnerships for Teacher Pipeline Hosts Dinner Celebration

Río Hondo College’s Community Partnerships for Teacher Pipeline (CPTP) celebrated the program’s graduating students on May 12 at Quiet Cannon in Montebello.

Highlights included students receiving medallions, “Future Teacher” sashes and certificates of participation in the program. Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Don Miller, CPTP Director Yvonne Ribas and Board of Trustees members Rosaelva Lomeli and Oscar Valladares gave special congratulations to program graduates.



Child Development Center Updates

Río Hondo College's Child Development Center (CDC) hosted a variety of family-friendly events in April, bringing joy to children and their families with celebrations for Week of the Young Child, Earth Day and a family picnic.

The CDC also hosted the Department of Social Services for a childcare and development contract overview and training meeting on April 21.

CDC staff also attended the California Association for the Education of Young Children conference, where they learned about providing exemplary educational services, focusing on diversity, equity, inclusion, curriculum, school readiness, engagement and exploring developmentally informed practices to support families.



College Updates



Soroptimist International of Whittier
presents

Our Signature Awards Celebration Luncheon

Tuesday, April 18, 2023
12 NOON

DoubleTree Hotel Whittier
7320 Greenleaf Ave.
Whittier, CA 90602



On April 18, Superintendent/President Dr. Marilyn Flores and Río Hondo College support staff attended the Soroptimist International of Whittier Signature Awards Celebration Luncheon to cheer on 12 current Río Hondo College students, transfer students and alumni as they received scholarships from the organization.



Congratulations to Río Hondo College's women's beach volleyball team for concluding a fantastic 15-4 season. The team finished third at the South Coast Conference and was ranked seventh in the Southern California Regional Playoffs.

This summer, 16 Río Hondo College faculty members from STEM, communications and languages and behavioral and social sciences will begin a 35-hour course to boost their teaching strategies to benefit Latinx students.

Congratulations to Program Specialist Deborah Lopez, who was honored for her work in supporting the success of foster youth in higher education through the Foster/Kinship Care Education Program. The award was given to Lopez by State Senator Anthony J. Portantino.

Río Hondo College was recently selected to receive a California Education Learning Lab award for the Programs for Institution Pathway Engagement-accelerating Infrastructure and Education (PIPE-LINE) project, which is a partnership between the College, California State University, Fullerton, Riverside City College and University of California, Irvine. The grant will provide the cohort of institutions with up to \$1,275,000 in funds.

The funding was designed as an opportunity to promote the buildout of Data Science pathways that will modernize majors, attract historically underrepresented students into science, technology, engineering and math (STEM), deepen civic and interdisciplinary learning and make California the leader in data science undergraduate education.



RHC Fall 2023 Dance Concert & ACDA

Placement Audition



Enroll now for Production classes:

DANC 162 - Dance Production (3 units) CRN 75608

DANC 180 - Performance (1 unit) CRN 73735



Scan for more Info

Monday, August 21st
12:55pm - 3:00pm, Room PE 141

Located in the Kinesiology, Dance, and Athletics Complex
*Enrollment in both courses is mandatory.

Must be available on Mondays, 12:55 pm - 2:00 pm. Other rehearsal time slots (TBD)

Any questions?

Email: ljay@riohondo.edu (DANC 162) and

Email: rlopez@riohondo.edu (DANC 180)



Scan for more choreographic
opportunity

Fall 2023 Dance Concert and ACDA Placement Audition

Río Hondo College will host its fall 2023 Dance Concert from 12:55 p.m. to 3 p.m. on Monday, August 21 at the kinesiology, dance and athletics complex in room PE 141.

The event will also serve as a placement audition for those who would like to join the American College Dance Association. Anyone who would like to join, must enroll for DANCE 162 and DANCE 180. Please email ljay@riohondo.edu and rlopez@riohondo.edu for more information.

A Taste of Río Returns

The Río Hondo College Foundation will host A Taste of Río, the College's most popular fundraising event on Friday, June 9, 2023.

This popular and festive event will bring together approximately 600 guests for an evening of delicious foods, fine wine and craft beer, delightful entertainment, exciting musical entertainment and a silent auction.

A Taste of Río raises funds to support scholarships and student programs that promote student success at Río Hondo College.

To purchase a ticket, click here:

<https://www.riohondo.edu/a-taste-of-rio/>



A TASTE OF
RÍO

RÍO HONDO COLLEGE FOUNDATION

RÍO HONDO COLLEGE
FRIDAY | JUNE 9 | 2023

VIP Preview 5:00 p.m.
General 6:00 p.m.

Pre-sale Tickets Only
\$125 VIP / \$75 General

No tickets will be available at the door.

TICKETS AVAILABLE THROUGH JUNE 8
[gorio.page/atasteofrio](https://www.riohondo.edu/a-taste-of-rio/)

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RHCRoadrunners



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Serving the communities of

El Monte
South El Monte
Pico Rivera

Santa Fe Springs
Whittier

and portions of:

Norwalk
Downey
La Mirada
City of Industry
Los Nietos*

East Whittier*
South Whittier*
West Whittier*
Avocado Heights*

*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.



SUMMER & FALL 2023 REGISTRATION

Don't miss out on **SUMMER** classes.
NOW REGISTERING!

FALL Semester starts **AUGUST 19!**
Open registration begins **MAY 19.**

- Complete a CSU/UC General Education transferable course
- Catch up or move ahead to graduate earlier
- Complete a prerequisite for Fall
- Retake a class
- Start your career or academic goals



Scan QR code
to get started.

Discover your pathway to success at
pathways.rio.hondo.edu



Save the Date

6 p.m., Friday, June 9:
A Taste of Río (tickets available [here](#))

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

9 a.m., Saturday, June 17:
Special Board of Trustees Meeting/Board Retreat

9 a.m. – 2 p.m., Monday, July 17 – Friday, July 28:
Bridge to Invention Río (Apply at [Bridge to Invention Río | Rio Hondo College – Business Division](#))

12:55 p.m. – 3 p.m., Monday, August 21:
Fall 2023 Dance Concert and ACDA Placement Audition

Friday, September 15:
All-Day 60th Anniversary Celebration (details forthcoming)

8:30 a.m., Friday, Sept. 22:
Annual Golf Tournament (Click [here](#) for more information)

