Dear Río Hondo College community,

Summer has arrived, and we are all continuing to focus on providing a successful summer term after wrapping up another busy and successful academic year. We will miss our esteemed graduates and transfer students, but are excited to welcome a new class of scholars eager to face the challenges and rewards of higher education, and to continue to support our continuing students.

Every Río Hondo College student – new or returning – benefits from the extraordinary work of the Río Hondo College Foundation, whose members tirelessly advocate for our community by raising money for scholarships and direct student support.

The Foundation’s signature fundraising event, “A Taste of Río,” held on June 9, celebrated its 10th anniversary in grand fashion by raising more than $100,000 in donations for our students. More than 350 Río Hondo College patrons attended, enjoying fine cuisine and spirits prepared exclusively by local vendors.

“A Taste of Río” is just one way community members can assist in guiding our students toward a bright future. If you would like to donate or volunteer your services, please visit the Río Hondo College Foundation website. Your ongoing support and philanthropy help our student completion and success.

Have a wonderful summer!

Dr. Marilyn Flores
Superintendent/President
Río Hondo College Celebrates Class of 2023
Continued from page 1

Hondo College students received their B.S. in automotive technology.

“I have nothing but love and admiration for the class of 2023,” said Cecilia Rocha, this year’s Fellow of the College. “Your perseverance reminds me that we all have a fighting spirit that is relentless in the pursuit to improve ourselves, our families and our community’s well-being. Move forward with confidence, but remember to look back at your Río family because we wholeheartedly believe in you and your dreams.”

The day’s events also included remarks from Superintendent/President Dr. Marilyn Flores, Board of Trustees President Kristal Orozco, Associated Students President Matthew De Haro, Vice President of Student Services Dr. Earic Dixon-Peters, Vice President of Finance and Business Dr. Stephen Kibui, Vice President of Human Resources Tina Kuperman, Vice President of Academic Affairs Dr. Don Miller and a commencement address from the Honorable Jorge C. Hernandez, Superior Court Judge.

“Stand up for yourself, because no one else will. Don’t let fear control you,” Hernandez said. “We are the sum total of our past, but it is our actions that determine our future.”

The College honored Valedictorian Bianca Casillas, who will study family therapy at University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA), with a plaque and as the Pellissier Family Scholarship awardee.

“I want to thank ourselves for dreaming the dream, for waking up every day and keeping going, for turning bad situations into lessons, for not taking no for an answer,” Casillas said. “We all have our own story, no matter what we have gone through. Río Hondo College is our home. It’s our safe place to learn and thrive, to be ourselves.”

The College also honored four Student Success Profiles, which are special recognitions given to students who achieved above and beyond their goals. This year’s students were Jacob Estrada, an 18-year-old criminology and psychological major with seven degrees and three certificates who will attend UC Irvine; Roman Paez, Río Hondo College’s first Hope Scholar who will attend Cal State L.A. to study social work; Dontaylor Maxell, a kinesiology and sports medicine major who will attend her dream school, UCLA; and Ana Tavira, a sociology major and mother of two who will attend Cal State L.A.

“Graduates: the diplomas you are receiving today embody your potential and drive, your ability to effect change and your commitment towards excellence and completion,” Dr. Flores said. “Río Hondo College graduates, as you move forward towards your next goal, remember that you are now an alum of this institution, carrying its name and reputation everywhere you go. Continue to strive for greatness, lead with integrity and compassion and make a difference in this world.”

Río Hondo College Introduces New Summer Camp to Cultivate Young Innovators

Río Hondo College has partnered with Lemelson-MIT to guide local students in all disciplines to become a new generation of inventors and entrepreneurs through its Bridge to Invention Río summer program. The program runs from Monday, July 17 through Friday, July 28 and is available at no cost to Río Hondo College students and high school juniors and seniors. It will be held at Río Hondo College from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and will be led by College faculty members in the disciplines of business, engineering, physics and architecture. Students will learn how to form open-ended inquiries to explore solutions, develop interview techniques and communication skills, and generate business plans that cover pitching, prototyping and funding cycles.

Continue reading the story here.
“A Taste of Río” Dazzles Río Hondo College Patrons, Brings in More Than $100,000

The Río Hondo College Foundation’s signature fundraising gala, “A Taste of Río,” dazzled guests with an impressive array of artisan cuisine, craft beer and wines, exquisite gift baskets and lively entertainment on June 9. This year’s event brought in the highest amount in the history of the fundraiser, and raised $107,603 for scholarships and student support services.

On a cool and breezy spring evening, the Foundation hosted more than 350 Río Hondo College (RHC) patrons, who enjoyed freshly prepared culinary delights and curated spirits provided by nearly two dozen local vendors, including La Crosta Pizza, Tepeyac Sports Grill, The Crooked Gaff, JDO Mediterranean, Whittier Brewing Company, Mi Burrito, Clearman’s Steak & Stein, and the College’s own Roadrunner Brewing.

Among the esteemed dignitaries who attended “A Taste of Río” were Assemblymember Lisa Calderon, Whittier Mayor Joe Vinatieri, South El Monte Mayor Gloria Olmos, Pico Rivera City Councilmember Dr. Monica Sanchez, as well as a host of representatives and elected officials from the Río Hondo College Community College District and its K-12 partner districts.

Río Hondo College Superintendent/President Dr. Marilyn Flores presided over her first-ever “A Taste of Río” fundraiser, mingling with guests, and marveling over the extraordinary community support for RHC students.

“What makes ‘A Taste of Río’ such a special event is that all who attended gathered for the primary purpose of ensuring our students have the resources necessary to attend college and graduate,” Dr. Flores said. “This is our primary fundraiser to provide scholarships and support services for students. The enthusiasm shown by those who donated helped to propel us to our biggest year ever. We are extremely thankful for this heartfelt support.”

Celebrating its 10th anniversary, “A Taste of Río” continued its popular tradition of conducting a silent auction, which featured 54 items and raised more than $15,000 for the Foundation as guests vied for the chance to win Dodger tickets, see live performances at the Pantages Theater and Musical Theatre West, or take a weekend getaway to Palm Springs.

“Resources generated from this event will help continue increase graduation rates, close the achievement gaps and provide basic needs, food and housing, to our students,” Board of Trustees Clerk Oscar Valladares said.
Río Hondo College Students Explore Summer Research Opportunities

Seventy-two Río Hondo College (RHC) STEM students will be expanding their knowledge by participating in a host of summer research internships at respected institutions, including 12 RHC students who will participate in a NASA CA Space Grant program to study engineering.

**Institution/Program/Research Area**
- Northrup Grumman Corp./Internship (Aerospace)
- Cal Poly Pomona/SURE (Aerospace Engineering, Biological Sciences, Chemistry, Civil Engineering, Computer Science, Mechanical Engineering, Plant Science)
- University of Southern California/TRAINS (Biophysics, Biological Engineering)
- Boston University/REU (Chemistry)
- Harvey Mudd College/REU (Computer Science)
- Río Hondo College/NASA CA Space Grant (Engineering)
- Río Hondo College/MSE Summer Research Program (Molecular Biochemistry)
- Florida International University/REU (Natural Hazards)
- Carnegie Mellon University/REU (Software Engineering)
- Amazon.com Inc./Internship (Software Engineering)

Río Hondo College Dance Students Show the Right Moves at National ACDA Festival

Río Hondo College dance students received a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to display their creative talents at the American College Dance Association’s (ACDA) 50th annual National College Dance Festival, held in late May in Long Beach. Río Hondo was one of 34 colleges and universities from across the U.S. invited to perform an original dance. Students also received dance instruction and saw Gala performances at the Carpenter Performing Arts Center.
Río Hondo College Kinesiology Students Tour SoFi Stadium

Río Hondo College kinesiology students got an in-depth look at the inner workings of SoFi Stadium during a field trip on May 19. Students received insight regarding how sports management and facility operations work, toured the stadium, and participated in a punt, pass and kick drill. The field trip was supported by a Guided Pathways Student Success Teams grant.

Child Development Center Art Exhibit Shows Life “Through the Eyes of a Child”

Río Hondo College parents and the College community were invited to attend “Through the Eyes of a Child,” an art exhibit designed to show how our youngest learners make sense of the world through hands-on experiences, and track their learning process.

Río Hondo College Women’s Volleyball Celebrate 100% Transfer Rate

The Río Hondo College women’s volleyball team held its annual Rio Recognition on May 24, celebrating five scholar-athletes who have completed their degrees and are transferring to four-year colleges and universities. Four of the five transfers will continue to play volleyball at their new colleges and universities.

The 2022-23 transfers are:

• Nadine Oronoz – Whittier College – Business
• Faith Wada – The Master’s University – Kinesiology
• Denisse Sanchez – University of Saint Katherine’s – Exercise Science
• Jennifer Martinez – John Melvin University (Louisiana) – Exercise Science
• Faith Lee – University of California, Irvine – Chemistry/Pre-Med
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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.

Serving the communities of

El Monte
South El Monte
Pico Rivera
Santa Fe Springs
Whittier
Norwalk
Downey
La Mirada
City of Industry
Los Nietos
Avocado Heights
East Whittier
South Whittier
West Whittier

*Unincorporated communities within our District

Save the Date

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.

Fall 2023
REGISTRATION

NOW REGISTERING!
FALL SEMESTER starts AUGUST 19!

- Online and in-person courses (free or at low-cost).
- Tuition free noncredit classes and certificates.
- Transfer degrees/classes that meet both CSU and UC requirements.
- Career and workforce education programs can lead to high-paying jobs.
- More than 200 degrees and certificates to explore.

Discover your pathway to success at pathways.riohondo.edu

Save the Date

6 p.m., Wednesday, July 12:
Regular Board of Trustees Meeting
9 a.m. – 2 p.m., Monday, July 17 – Friday, July 28:
Bridge to Invention Río. Apply here:
Bridge to Invention Río | Río Hondo College – Business Division
6 p.m., Wednesday, Aug. 9
Regular Board of Trustees Meeting
6:30 p.m., Friday, July 21 – Sunday, July 23; Tuesday, July 25 – Wednesday, July 26:
Shakespeare on the Lawn: “The Tempest” – Lower Quad Lawn Area
12:55 p.m. – 3 p.m., Monday, August 21:
Fall 2023 Dance Concert and ACDA Placement Audition

Friday, Sept. 15:
Río Hondo College 60th Anniversary Celebration
8:30 a.m., Friday, Sept. 22:
Annual Golf Tournament.
Information: https://www.riohondo.edu/foundation/golf-tournament/