March 13, 2020

Dear Students,

In response to the recent Coronavirus pandemic, and in consultation with the Board of Trustees, **we will begin transitioning courses to an online format, effective Monday, March 16 through Saturday, April 4, 2020.** Many of our courses have already been moved to Canvas.

The purpose of this change is to limit exposure to COVID-19 by preventing large groups from assembling on campus. **The campus is not closing.** Rio Hondo College will continue to offer critical services to our students, staff, and the community. Furthermore, our academic calendar will continue to be observed, so campus will be closed for Spring Break (March 21 to March 27).

Students new to online classes can learn about Canvas (our online learning program) on this webpage. We encourage everyone to take a few minutes to click through the orientation. If you have questions, the Distance Education Office can help. They can be reached by email or phone at DEsupport@riohondo.edu or (562) 908-3403. We understand that not every student will be familiar or comfortable with the online format, and we want you to know that we are here to support you through this process.

This change is for lecture-based classes only. Labs and other course sections with specific requirements will still occur for on-campus, in-person instruction. Your instructors will be providing more detail, but please feel free to reach out directly to them should you have any questions. With the exception of the previously scheduled Spring Break (March 21-27), students will have access to campus facilities, computer labs, student services, internet access, the library, and more.

We hope that you will continue to follow health and safety precautions; please stay home if you are feeling ill. If you have a compromised or weakened immune system, we encourage you to work directly with faculty and student services staff to find appropriate accommodations. The campus will provide services outside the classroom for many of our students and community members. To that affect, the RioSource Room food pantry will still be accessible. We encourage you to use our local community-based agencies. A detailed list of partners can be found on our RioSource website at https://www.riohondo.edu/riosource/.
The College COVID-19 Taskforce will continue to regularly monitor guidance and alerts from the California Department of Public Health, the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, and the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office to respond to changes.

Please continue to monitor the College website at https://www.riohondo.edu/student-health-services/coronavirus/#resources for further updates.

Appreciatively,

Dr. Arturo Reyes,
Superintendent/President