

RIO  
HONDO  
COLLEGE



# BUILDING EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE TRANSFER AND CAREER PATHWAYS



REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY 2015



**Teresa Dreyfuss**  
Superintendent/President

**We are unequalled in our commitment to building educational excellence and transfer and career pathways for our diverse student body.**

Rio Hondo College is so much more than just a place to study or work. It's a college campus that brings together students, faculty, staff and residents and connects them to a community committed to the shared pursuit of knowledge and success.

In this annual report, we share with you the many dimensions of our educational mission and the strides we have made throughout 2015 to help even more students of diverse ages and backgrounds access Rio Hondo College's considerable resources and opportunities, including transferring to four-year universities.

Students who come to Rio Hondo College to begin their path toward a four-year degree can choose from 21 associate degrees that guarantee transfer to the California State University, as well as premier fire, police and nursing training programs. We are one of the top

community colleges in the state at transferring underrepresented minorities to the University of California. In fact, for 2014-15, more than 200 students transferred to UC campuses in Berkeley, Irvine, San Diego, Santa Cruz and Santa Barbara, as well as to Cal Poly Pomona, USC, University of Arizona, University of Illinois, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Stony Brook University and many more.

Rio Hondo College also offers the opportunity to achieve a four-year degree on campus, with our new B.S. degree in automotive technology starting in fall 2016. Meanwhile, our Pathway to Law School program, now in its second year, takes students from Rio Hondo College to top undergraduate universities and their partnering law schools.

Local students from elementary, middle and high schools are

discovering all that Rio Hondo College can offer them. The college hosted 1,159 high school seniors in February during its largest-ever Senior Preview Days, a program that highlights College programs, student life and academic options. Also this year, 500 elementary and middle school students attended the Discover Rio Day on campus as part of the College's Adopt-A-School initiative.

There's never been a more exciting time to attend Rio Hondo College. Our campus is a hive of activity as we continue to ensure our community receives the best and most innovative opportunities to acquire knowledge and hands-on skills to succeed in our highly technical and demanding 21<sup>st</sup> century economy. We are unequalled in our commitment to building educational excellence and transfer and career pathways for our diverse student body.

### **ASSOCIATE IN SCIENCE DEGREE FOR TRANSFER (AS-T)**

- Administration of Justice
- Business Administration
- Early Childhood Education
- Mathematics
- Physics

### **ASSOCIATE IN ARTS DEGREE FOR TRANSFER (AA-T)**

- Anthropology
- Art History
- Communication Studies
- Economics
- Elementary Teacher Education
- English
- History
- Journalism
- Kinesiology
- Philosophy
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Studio Arts
- Theatre Arts

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## VISION STATEMENT

Rio Hondo College strives to be an exemplary California community college, meeting the learning needs of its changing and growing population and developing a state-of-the-art campus to serve future generations.



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## MISSION STATEMENT

Rio Hondo College is committed to the success of its diverse students and communities by providing dynamic educational opportunities and resources that lead to degrees, certificates, transfer, career and technical pathways, basic skills proficiency, and lifelong learning.

# 2015 HIGHLIGHTS

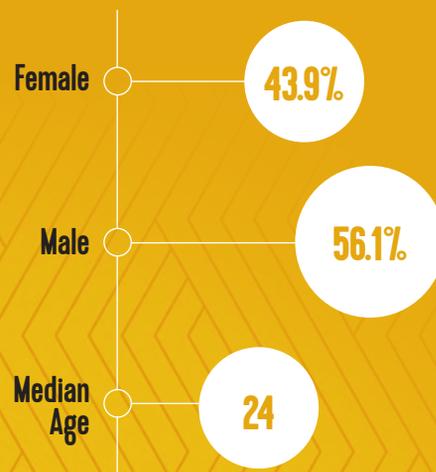
## A YEAR IN REVIEW



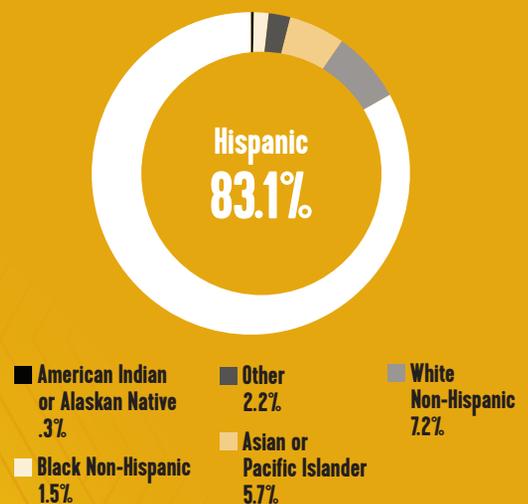
Rio Hondo College is a Hispanic-serving institution with more than 80 percent of students identified as Hispanic/Latino/a, and a total ethnic minority student population nearing 90 percent.

Rio Hondo College was named among the Top 25 Community Colleges for Hispanics in the U.S. by Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education Magazine, recognizing the College's popularity among Latino students and its success in helping them attain degrees. The list is based on data reported by community colleges to the National Center for Education Statistics. Rio Hondo College ranked 13<sup>th</sup> for its Latino student population, at 80.7 percent in 2014. The College ranked 24<sup>th</sup> for associate degrees completed by Latino students for data reported for the same year.

### Student Profile



### Ethnicity Profile



### Enrollment Status

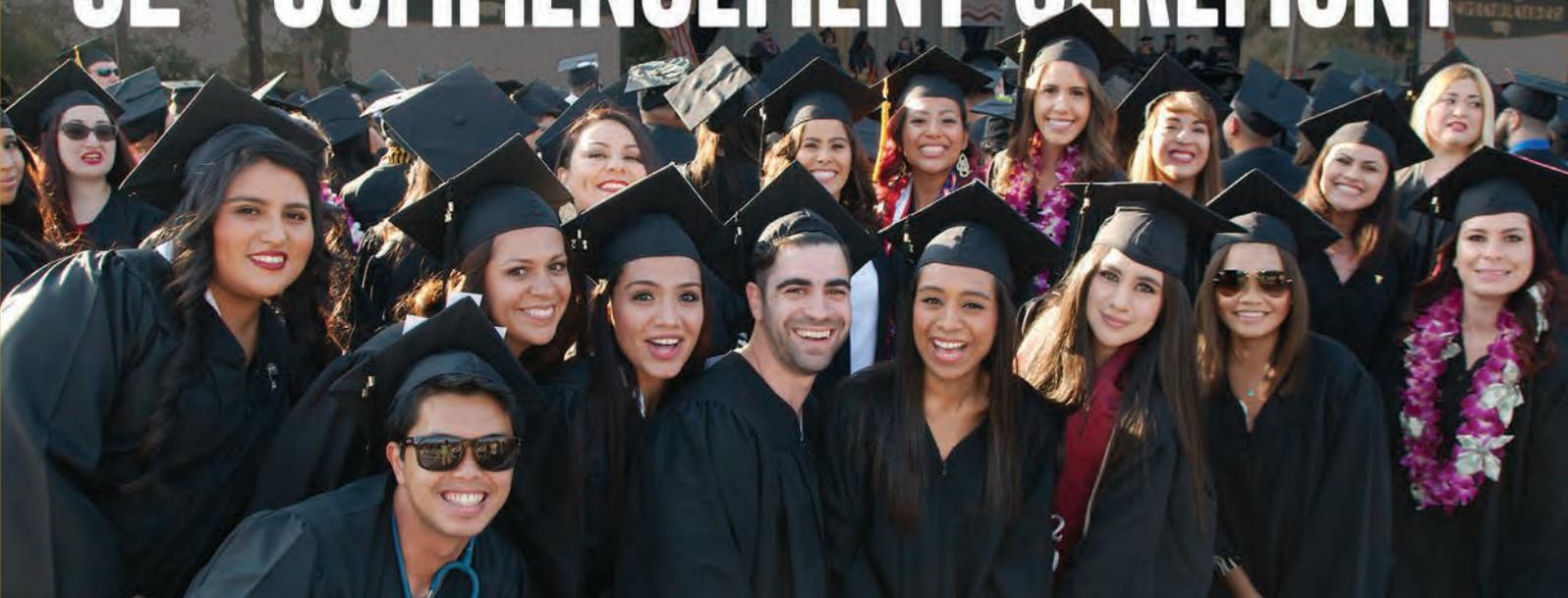


### Student Educational Goals



Sources: General, Rio Hondo College of Institutional Resource; Ethnicity profile, California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office Student Enrollment Status Summary Report; Student Educational Goals, Banner/Cognos except as noted.

# 52<sup>ND</sup> COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY



During Rio Hondo College's 52<sup>nd</sup> Commencement in May 2015, former Los Angeles County Supervisor Gloria Molina urged more than 600 graduates to follow her example and serve their communities as leaders, helping others who might struggle to achieve their dreams.

"I arrived to Rio Hondo College in 1966. As the oldest of 10, I had to set the example for my nine siblings," Molina said.

Molina said she initially struggled with college, but has since gone on to many notable achievements – including the first Latina to serve on the Board of Supervisors, the first Latina to serve on the Los Angeles City Council and the first Latina elected to the State Assembly.

"I hope as you celebrate your accomplishments, you think about how you will give back as a leader," she shared with the graduates. "You are going to find your hidden talents as you volunteer and serve your community."

During the ceremony, Academic Senate President Dr. Vann Priest presented the Marie I. Pelissier Award to valedictorian Ly Tran Nguyen.

In all, 1,163 students earned degrees and certificates of achievement in 225 academic areas from Rio Hondo College in 2014-15, including degrees for registered and licensed vocational nursing.

**1,163 students earned degrees and certificates of achievement**

## In 2015, the Rio Hondo College Library:



Recorded a gate count of **228,891** TOTAL LIBRARY VISITS

PROVIDED LIBRARY ORIENTATIONS TO

**215** class sections, reaching **6,237** students



Checked out **33,218** library books and materials



Added **1,449** books to the library collection

### Accreditation

Rio Hondo College received a six-year Reaffirmation of Accreditation in February 2015 from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, a division of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges.

### Department of Education Grant Awards

Rio Hondo College received a U.S. Dept. of Education Title V \$2.62 million grant award to strengthen its capacity to serve its Hispanic students. A \$1.1 million U.S Dept. of Education grant for TRiO/Student Support Services STEM was renewed to help low-income, first-generation and underrepresented students to pursue transfers to four-year universities in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) majors.

# BUILDING EDUCATIONAL ACHIEVEMENT



## Rio Hondo College Joins National Effort to Boost Community College Success Rates for Men of Color

Rio Hondo College joined a consortium dedicated to advancing success of men of color in community colleges. The Minority Male Community College Collaborative National Consortium on College Men of Color facilitates an exchange of ideas among community colleges across the nation to boost the success of historically underrepresented and underserved students.

Nearly seven in eight male students at Rio Hondo College identified themselves in 2014-15 as men of color. While Rio Hondo College's graduation rate for men of color exceeds national averages, college educators believe targeted support services can help students significantly improve their success rates. In spring, Rio Hondo College held its first-ever Men of Color Conference and is planning a Women of Color event.



## Renewal of \$1.1 million Federal Grant to Support STEM Education Effort

Rio Hondo College secured a five-year U.S. Dept. of Education grant to continue offering its TRIO/Student Support Services (SSS) program to students who face significant challenges in post-secondary education, including first-generation students, low-income students and students with disabilities. Rio Hondo College competed with 1,400 colleges for a share of nearly \$290 million in federal grants. The College will receive \$247,584 annually to help these students pursue transfers to four-year universities in STEM majors.

Rio Hondo College has been a leader in STEM skills advocacy since 2008, when it created its Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement (MESA) program, which provides SSS-eligible students with a supportive peer group and enrichment activities as they pursue STEM studies.

## Students Receive NASA Research Scholarships

Twenty-five Rio Hondo College students received \$750 scholarships through a NASA community college grant created to boost participation in and awareness of STEM fields.



## Alternative Fuels Grant

Rio Hondo College became the first hydrogen-fuel technology grant winner in the nation when it received \$200,000 from the National Science Foundation to create programs in alternative fuels automotive technology studies as a way of diversifying and strengthening the auto industry's workforce. The three-year grant specifies training students in high-performance electronics, computer management and advanced diagnostic skills within the College's fledgling Associate of Science degree in alternative fuels/second degree battery/electric hybrid/fuel cell technology.

## Summer Scholars Transfer Institute

Twenty-six students attended the 2015 Summer Scholars Transfer Institute at UC Irvine. The free 10-day program allows students to gain a taste of university life while completing a University of California-transferable course and living on the UC Irvine campus. UC Irvine's Summer Scholars Transfer Institute, which is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, is a collaboration between community colleges and UCI's Center for Educational Partnerships.



## Writers' Resource Center

The English Department instituted a campus-wide Writers' Resource Center to provide key assistance to students engaged in writing assignments across the curriculum as a student equity project. The center offers one-on-one help with writing assignments, researching, college personal statements and other work that needs pre-writing, crafting and revision.

## Common Core Summit

Rio Hondo College hosted a Common Core Summit in spring to review with partner school districts ways to improve students' college and career readiness within the context of the California Common Core State Standards. The new standards for K-12 schools call for rigorous shifts in math and English language arts curriculum and pedagogy, including emphasis on deeper conceptual understanding and real-life applications. The summit included counselors, faculty, curriculum coaches and administrators from Whittier Union High School, El Rancho Unified and El Monte Union High School districts.

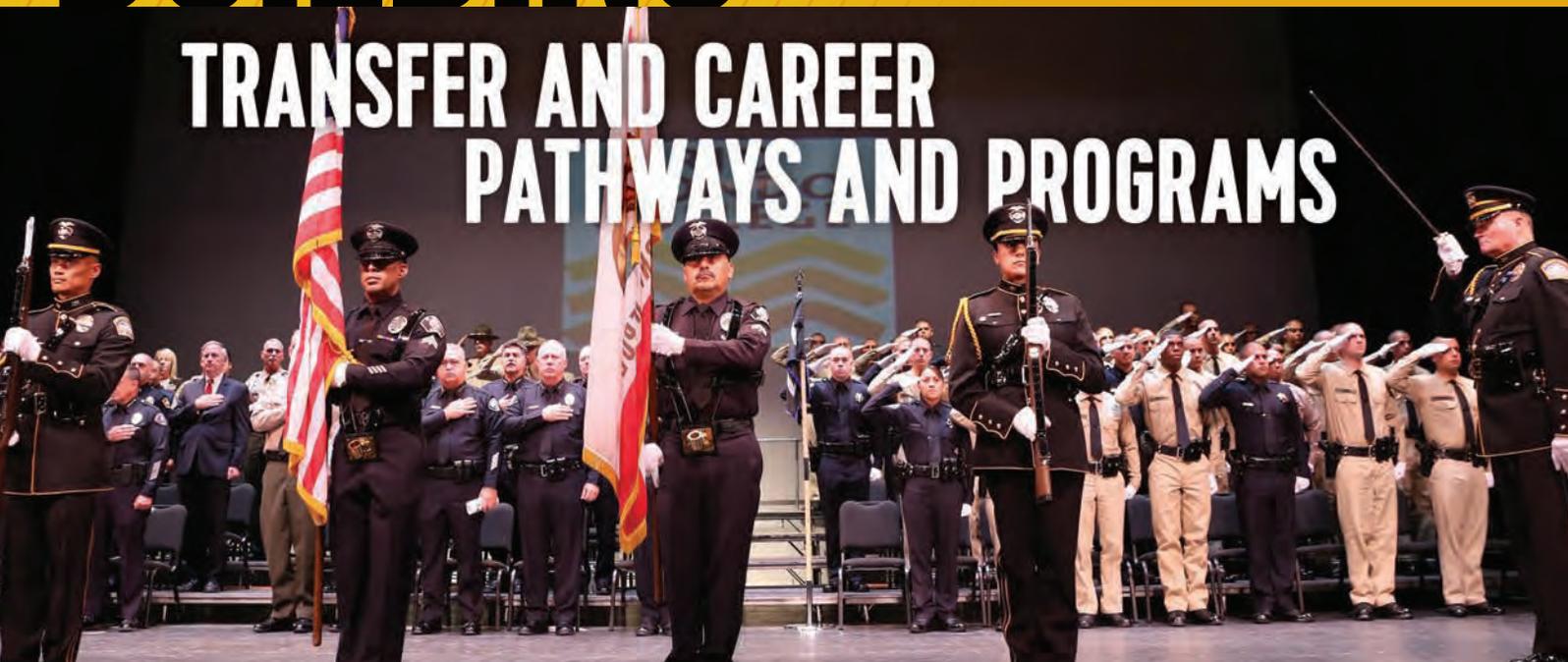
## Title V Grant Award

Rio Hondo College will use a five-year, \$2.62 million U.S. Dept. of Education Title V grant to establish and implement the *Avance* Project, an opt-in program designed to provide a continuum of academic and student service supports for first-year students. Elements include a Summer Math Academy, a prescribed and guaranteed first-year schedule that features a new discipline-based First-Year Seminar course and tutoring, counseling and success coaching via the College's First Year Success Center.

**Rio Hondo College will use a five-year, \$2.62 million U.S. Dept. of Education Title V grant to establish and implement the *Avance* Project.**

# BUILDING

## TRANSFER AND CAREER PATHWAYS AND PROGRAMS



### Police Academy Graduates 200<sup>th</sup> Class

January 2015 marked the graduation of the 200<sup>th</sup> class of cadets from the Rio Hondo College Police Academy. The cadets completed more than 1,000 hours of training over 26 weeks in 43 areas, including firearm use and physical fitness in a program that carries the motto “Only the Strong Survive” and which in some respects mirrors a military boot camp. The Police Academy graduated 63 cadets in 2015; about 35 graduates were hired by 19 police agencies throughout the state.

### Four-Year Automotive Degree

Rio Hondo College’s new four-year Bachelor of Science in automotive technology builds on its highly successful automotive technology and management programs, which draw 300 students annually for a series of certificate courses and two-year degree options. The new four-year degree will equip graduates for a variety of posts with auto manufacturers, car dealers or aftermarket companies that modify vehicles – companies that typically demand four-year college degrees when hiring but which often have to train new employees because of the lack of comprehensive technical degree programs.



**Rio Hondo College’s public safety and business programs contributed 30 percent of the College’s associate degrees awarded for 2015 with 182 for public safety programs and 167 for business.**



### Wildland Fire Academy

Rio Hondo College's Fire Crew 77 deployed twice in the summer to help the U.S. Forest Service combat brushfires across the state. The Roadrunners crew, constituted of graduates from Rio Hondo College's Wildland Fire Academy as well as a few recent graduates from its regular Fire Academy, provided relief to professional crews. The Fire Academy offers some of the most comprehensive training available to beginning and advanced firefighters across the nation. One hundred percent of cadets from the 2015 Wildland Fire Academy were hired by agencies throughout the Western and Central United States.

### Pathway to Law School Program

The Pathway to Law School program, launched in 2014-15 at Rio Hondo College and 23 other community college campuses, provides an innovative way for underrepresented and first-generation college students to attend one of the region's top undergraduate universities and their partner law schools. Students earn their two-year associate degrees at Rio Hondo College, bachelor degrees at four-year universities and three-year law degrees at one of six prestigious California law schools.

During the year, Rio Hondo College also launched a new course in law and democracy, and staged two forums on the legal profession. More than 65 students attended a law panel in spring that included Maria Ramirez, president of the Mexican American Bar Association, as well as three other prominent Los Angeles-area attorneys.



### Nursing

Rio Hondo College is home to one of the state's most successful community college nursing assistant certification programs. The College also offers advanced nursing training and a growing nursing assistant program. The programs offer for-credit training in the home health and acute care fields through a combination of classroom instruction and hands-on clinical experience structured so students can also take other classes toward earning their degrees.

The certificated nursing assistant program, launched in 2008 with 16 students, enrolls 90 students in its fall and spring courses, thanks in part to a grant provided by the Arthur Rupe Foundation.

The STAR program funded a two-week program of seminars and workshops for nursing students that included American Psychological Association writing, test-taking strategies, simulation, review of lab interpretation and arterial blood gases, pharmacology, EKG recognition and certification, and CPR certification. More than 200 students participated.

For the past six semesters, 97 percent of Registered Nursing students, 96 percent of Vocational Nursing students, and 100 percent of Certified Nursing Assistant students have passed their state certification tests.

### Emergency Medical Technician Program

In 2015, the Emergency Medical Technician Program completed seven academies, graduating 145 students. Of the 126 students that took the National Registry of Emergency Medical Technicians Exam, 96 passed on their first try. The 76 percent first-time pass rate exceeds the 70 percent state and national rates.

# BUILDING

# STUDENT SUCCESS



## Women's Soccer Team Best Performance Ever

The Rio Hondo College women's soccer team concluded its 2015 season as Foothill Conference champions, placed second in state and secured a ranking of No. 8 in the nation for Junior Colleges Division III.

The team was led by twins Janeth and Maritza Acuña, who secured a multitude of honors for their performances on the field and in the classroom. Both women are All-Foothill Conference honorees, 2015 State Scholar Athletes and Scholar Athlete All-Americans. Janeth was the 2014 Foothill Conference Player of the Year. Maritza is the National Soccer Coaches Association of America's 2015 Junior College Scholar National Player of the Year.

But the duo almost didn't come to Rio Hondo College.

The inseparable Downey teenagers were prepared to give up their dream of playing college soccer in exchange for attending a top-notch, four-year university, even though it meant carrying significant debt without help from sports scholarships.

"But something kept bothering us.

It just felt like the wrong decision," Maritza said. "We decided we should give soccer another shot and see if we could land a scholarship."

So the teens enrolled at Rio Hondo College: the soccer program had shown interest in them as athletes and as students. They also liked Rio Hondo College's top-notch nursing and general education programs.

**"We didn't really know much about college; we are the first ones in our family to go to college."**

"We didn't really know much about college; we are the first ones in our family to go to college," Janeth said. "But we quickly learned that coming to Rio Hondo College was the better choice for us."

Indeed, the 19-year-olds describe a program of support services that engaged them from the moment they arrived on campus, a soccer coach who urged them to excel on and off the field, and a network that has encouraged them continually to seek higher goals.

Now, after two years as Roadrunners, the Acuña sisters are known across the nation for helping their soccer team shine in the 2015 California state playoffs, an accomplishment on par with their stellar GPAs.

The icing on the cake? UC Irvine, where they were accepted out of high school, has offered scholarships that will pick up where grant aid leaves off, allowing them to continue their studies in the medical field and play the sport they love.

Women's Soccer Coach Jennifer Tanaka-Hoshijo was named Foothill Conference Coach of the Year.

The Rio Hondo College women's soccer team includes: Rhosie Cenicerros, Nicole Contreras, Cassie Duran, Destiny Garcia, Jenny Garcia, Melissa Gonzales, Cortney Gonzalez, Sabrina Gonzalez, Christina Holguin, Marissa Lara, Erika Lizarraga, Alexis Marinero, Crystal Mendoza, Liz Miramontes, Genesis Patino, Kelly Richardson, Andrea Sanchez, Krystal Vega, team manager Angelica Holguin, and assistant coaches Nancy Gandarilla, Erika Garay, Armando Gutierrez, Amanda Krukow, Marco Lopez and Will Lopez.

## Cal Poly to Music Department

Music student Alfred Moreno earned entry into a highly popular Music Industry Studies program at Cal Poly Pomona. Moreno rocked Cal Poly recruiters during his audition for the impacted program, demonstrating deep knowledge and skill in piano, musical theory, musicianship and music history – an incredible accomplishment for a student who never played an instrument or took a music class before arriving at Rio Hondo College.

Moreno came to Rio Hondo College in 2011 from Mountain View High School, where he learned that the community college could be his path to a four-year college degree. Associate Professor of Music Jannine Livingston and Professor of Music Steve Moshier guided him on his journey, with Livingston helping him prepare for his important Cal Poly audition.

**“Their help was critical to my success,” Moreno said. “I am so grateful for all of the guidance I received from Rio Hondo College. It confirms what I knew when I started here – Rio Hondo College was the right place to start my higher education journey.”**



## Center for Career and Re-Entry Services

Rio Hondo College’s Career Development Center was renamed the Center for Career and Re-Entry Services to reflect its new role in providing comprehensive support for students 25 years and older who are returning to college or just beginning their higher education journeys. Rio Hondo College enrollment includes nearly 1,000 such adult re-entry students who have been in the workforce for at least five years. The College also hired new staff to work with adult students, with plans to expand their ranks as the re-entry student population continues to grow.

*“Our center is uniquely equipped to help our re-entry students succeed as they pursue their educational goals through a combination of services and support based on our deep understanding of their specific challenges.”* CCRS Coordinator Belen Torres-Gil



## Veterans Center One-Stop Shop

In July, the Veterans Service Center began offering a one-stop shop for counseling services, Veterans Administration benefits help, financial aid, tutoring, a computer lab and even a graduation cap and gown loan program.

## Student Named 2015 Veteran of the Year

Rio Hondo College student Marina Armendariz was named 2015 Veteran of the Year for the 49<sup>th</sup> Assembly District by Assemblyman Ed Chau. Armendariz was recognized in June at the eighth annual California State Assembly Veteran of the Year event in Sacramento.



## Men’s Soccer Makes State Playoffs

Men’s soccer made the state playoffs as well and had two players named to the 2015 NSCAA Junior College Men’s Scholar All-America Team. Samuel Semanda (4.0 GPA psychology major) was named to the first team, and Joshua Cuevas (3.7 GPA Spanish major) was named to the second team.

## First Year Success Center

The center is home to a network of student support services designed to ensure all students begin their college journey with a clear understanding of what they need to do to succeed. Services include educational counseling, assistance with registration and financial aid, and freshman seminar workshops.

In 2015, the center held a variety of workshops that included time and finance management and navigating AccessRio, the college’s online portal. In all, the First Year Success Center served about 8,300 students.

# CELEBRATING RIO ALUMS



## Joel Nakamura

In Joel Nakamura's new children's picture book, "Go West!" a campfire's brilliant orange glow illuminates a congregation of Western critters gathered to share tall tales and even taller tails. Nakamura's whimsical imagery and folklore of the American West also features barking dogs in cowboy hats, a cowgirl with rocket-powered boots and a racing roadrunner and tortoise in a yellow and brown desert.

Nakamura, a Rio Hondo College alum and son of former faculty member and administrator Yosh Nakamura, said of his work, "The West has always been a place of dreams. It's a journey into the frontier of the imagination."

The Santa Fe-based artist attended California High while concurrently taking art classes at Rio Hondo College. He continued at Rio Hondo College before attending the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena. In Nakamura's career as a commercial and fine artist, his vision has touched a variety of public and private projects.

## Julio Flores

In his position as interim counselor at the Rio Hondo College First Year Success Center, Julio Flores understands the issues and struggles new college students face because he confronted them all himself.

A graduate of Downey's Warren High School, Flores, a first-generation college student, floundered when he first attended community college. He tested poorly and missed so many classes he was put on academic probation. A college counselor told him he was not cut out for higher education and suggested he become an auto mechanic.

Discouraged but not beaten, Flores left that community college and found his way to Rio Hondo College. During his three years here, aided by dedicated mentors and strong support resources, Flores blossomed in academics and campus engagement. He helped to organize Students without Borders, a support group for undocumented students. Although Flores was born in the United States in 1989, his parents came without documents from Nicaragua.

His academic success led him to graduate and enter Cal Poly Pomona. After receiving his B.A. from Cal Poly, Flores enrolled in a master's program in education counseling at USC.

Flores did so well at USC he was the recipient in fall 2014 of the National Association of Student Personnel Administrators' Graduate Rising Star Award. He is the first USC Rossier student to receive that honor. He was also selected as the student speaker at the Rossier School of Education 2015 commencement ceremony.

Upon deciding to become a college counselor, Flores says his mission was clear: "I wanted to give students the kind of help I needed at that time."

That's exactly what Flores does at the First Year Success Center, where he meets with students learning to balance the various challenges of college.

Because he is only 26, Flores says he can relate to the students. He also understands their fears and concerns, and encourages them to reach their goals, no matter their life circumstances.

For instance, Flores understands how discouraged students feel when they test into remedial classes.

"They want to walk away because they might think they are not smart enough," he said. "But I tell them, 'I didn't test into college level; I got low test scores, too and look at me now. I know with hard work and with the help of mentors, you can do it, too.' "

**"I wanted to give students the kind of help I needed at that time."**



# EXTRAORDINARY STUDENTS

These students, nominated by Rio Hondo College faculty and staff, were recognized during the College's 52<sup>nd</sup> Commencement exercises for their exemplary commitment.



## Louie Arredondo

Louie Arredondo, a first-generation student from Huntington Park, received limited opportunities for success as a youth. Raised in biting poverty by his grandparents, he veered down a challenging path as a teen that deterred him from his educational goals.

But, with sheer grit and dedication, he redirected his life toward academic achievement and enrolled in Rio Hondo College.

He joined the College's MESA/TRiO program, which provides support for low-income and first-generation students who are pursuing degrees in science, technology, engineering and math fields.

Arredondo quickly excelled, becoming an extremely active member noted for his dedication to the program and his knack for helping peers grasp challenging concepts.

He plans to study electrical engineering at a four-year university.



## Diana Escamilla

Diana Escamilla is an undocumented student who benefited from California's Dream Act during her time at Rio Hondo College. She has been an active member of Student Ambassadors and Students Without Borders. She also has volunteered at local high schools, helping area families to complete Dream Act applications for financial aid.

Escamilla is a leader and role model who draws on her undocumented status as motivation to continue her education and promote change for others in similar situations. After being accepted to all of the universities she applied to – including two with Dream centers – Escamilla chose Cal Poly Pomona because it is still assembling its resources for Dreamers. She is hoping to become part of efforts to create Cal Poly's Dream Center, helping to shape the services as effectively as possible.



## Susana Galvez

U.S. Marine Corps Sgt. Susana Galvez joined the Marines because it offered her a chance to become something greater, an opportunity to find her strengths and excel. She brought those opportunities to fruition, rising up the ranks as a leader. But the strength of her bonds with her fellow Marines also deepened the horror of her time on the front lines during the U.S. deployment to Iraq. Galvez will never forget the fear and the constant threat from enemies who robbed her of friends and comrades.

Galvez is marked equally by the desperate struggles of many veterans upon their return to the U.S., the challenges faced in rejoining society – especially those who lose their fight to re-assimilate and take their own lives. Remarkably, Galvez has taken the pain of both experiences and turned them into a driving passion to help her fellow veterans. To that end, she pursued an Associate of Arts degree in sociology, and plans to pursue her education through to a Ph.D. in sociology with the goal of easing the struggles of her brothers and sisters in arms as they transition from war to civilian life.

# BUILDING

## Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program

Student and faculty volunteers from the VITA program processed over 248 tax returns for community members in need and generated more than \$430,834 in tax refunds and \$240,839 in education credits. Based on the average cost of \$273 for a professionally prepared tax return, the service generated an estimated savings of more than \$67,700 in fees to the community. The VITA program's 30 student volunteers, all of whom learned valuable skills while providing a much-needed free public service, received certificates of recognition from the Internal Revenue Service and the Board of Equalization, as well as a gold presidential volunteer award for collectively contributing over 1,000 volunteer hours.



Hundreds of students and community members crowded into Wray Theater during the annual Writes of Spring, a celebration of art, literature and film.

## Writes of Spring

Hundreds of students and community members crowded into Wray Theater during the annual Writes of Spring, a celebration of art, literature and film, for talks by syndicated cartoonist Lalo Alcaraz (pictured above taking a photo of his work displayed in the library), renowned sculptor Mario Chiodo, LGBT rights scholar and activist Dr. Ronnie Sanlo and other influential Southern California artists and authors.

During the year, the Chicano Studies Department partnered with the Associated Students of Rio Hondo College to bring filmmaker John Valdez to screen his new documentary, "The Head of Joaquin Murrieta," in the Wray Theater. Students had the opportunity to hear firsthand from the filmmaker during the event.

# STAFF

## EOP&S Counselors Recognized

Five counselors from Rio Hondo College's Extended Opportunity Program and Services were recognized for their more than 100 years of service during the 46<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the California Community Colleges EOP&S Association in San Diego. Recognized were Dennyse Clark, Jose Rodriguez, Katie O'Brien, Dianna Reyes and Yvette Barber Garcia.



## Distinguished Professor Beverly Reilly

English Professor Beverly Reilly received the 2015 Distinguished Faculty Award. Reilly came to Rio Hondo College in 1983 and went on to help run the Learning Resource Center's writing center and to manage the River's Voice student literary journal. She had previously spent 25 years as a nurse, switching careers after taking community college classes in literature.

# BUILDING

## 21ST CENTURY FACILITIES



### Pico Rivera Educational Center

Rio Hondo College partnered with El Rancho Unified School District to open a Rio Hondo College Educational Center in Pico Rivera, bringing the promise of higher education closer to home for thousands of residents. When completed in fall 2016, the \$1.3 million center will be the third satellite site established by the College since 2010, joining the El Monte and South Whittier educational centers.

The Pico Rivera Educational Center will sit on 2.4 acres at El Rancho Unified's former adult school. The

College will upgrade seven buildings spanning 6,720 square feet to create a collegiate identity and integrate 21<sup>st</sup> century learning tools into six classrooms and an office. The site will include a shaded campus quad and 1.3 acres of parking.

"Through our partnership with Rio Hondo College, we will continue to expand post-secondary opportunities for our students and school community, which will lead to more students being college and career ready," said El Rancho Unified Superintendent Martin Galindo.



**"Our mission at Rio Hondo College is to support our community by providing access to college education opportunities. These centers are bringing that mission closer to home across our service area."**

**— Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss**



### Veterans Memorial Unveiled

Rio Hondo College celebrated the completion of its long-awaited Veterans Memorial in May 2015 at a special ribbon-cutting and flag-raising ceremony attended by College leaders, members of the Board of Trustees and about 200 veterans, students and community supporters. Members of the El Monte Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10218 presented and posted the colors; veterans from the College's staff and student body raised the U.S., California and Rio Hondo College flags.

The memorial, which sits at the center of the campus, consists of a concrete monument that stretches eight feet long and rises three feet high, topped with a brass plaque. It bears emblems along one side for each of the five branches of the U.S. military. A bench provides a quiet place for reflection.



### Soccer Field Renovation

The new 72,000-square-foot NCAA-regulation artificial turf soccer field features a six-lane synthetic track, bleachers with 132 ADA-accessibility seats, state-of-the-art scoreboard, stadium lighting and new restroom facilities.



### Rio Hondo College Doubles Footprint for Santa Fe Springs Firefighting, Homeland Security Training Facility

Rio Hondo College doubled the size of its Santa Fe Springs training facility for firefighters and homeland security programs, acquiring three acres previously leased. The expanded 6.1-acre footprint gives the College greater flexibility in its development of the area's top center for teaching firefighter cadets and training first responders in advanced techniques for natural disasters, hazardous material spills and terrorist attacks. The center includes a rail car and a tanker truck used to simulate hazardous material spills, a replica of a home and garage, and other tools for training firefighters, emergency medical technicians and SWAT teams.

# BUILDING COMMUNITY

## Discover Rio Day

Five hundred elementary and middle school students attended Discover Rio Day as part of Rio Hondo College's Adopt-A-School initiative. Visiting students explored real life classroom and laboratory settings from the disciplines of Health Science & Nursing, Public Safety, Career & Technical Education, STEM, Communications & Languages, as well as our Pathway to Law School program. They participated in a campus tour led by Rio Hondo College students, staff and administrators.

For many students, Discover Rio Day marked the first time they stepped on a college campus. Participating schools included: Burke Middle School STEAM Academy; Columbia School; Dean Shively Middle School; Graves Middle School; Hillview Middle School; Kranz Middle School; Los Nietos Middle School; North Park Academy of the Arts; Scott Avenue Elementary School and Walter Dexter Middle School.

For many students,  
Discover Rio Day marked  
the first time they stepped  
on a college campus.



## Senior Preview Days Largest Ever

Rio Hondo College hosted 1,159 area high school seniors in February during its largest-ever Senior Preview Days, a program highlighting College programs, student life and academic options. Students came from 27 high schools in Whittier, Pico Rivera, El Monte, La Puente, Montebello, Bell Gardens, Baldwin Park, Downey, San Gabriel and Los Angeles. This annual tradition has typically focused on schools within the College's immediate service area, drawing about 750 students for a one-day event. In 2014, the College expanded the program to two days to include students from a wider range of schools.



### Coding Camps

STEM-learning “Coding Camps” led by the Rio Hondo College Computer Science Department and Club guided more than 300 elementary students from the East Whittier City School District in recreating the magic of a “Frozen” wonderland. Club members and faculty helped students design snowflakes and patterns for a winter scene based on the Disney movie. The game-based approach encouraged students to tackle what might otherwise appear to be too complicated tasks.

### Community Educational Forums

Rio Hondo College held five community educational forums during the year, providing a chance for the College to share information about the outstanding educational and career pathways, honors and transfer programs, and student services; and to gather feedback from the community. The forums drew several hundred community members to meet with trustees, administrators, faculty and staff.



### Nutcracker Performance

During the winter holidays, more than 500 community members enjoyed the Dance Collective’s rendition of the “Nutcracker,” which was performed with 40 students from Pioneer High School, Hadley School, Dean Shively Middle School and Rio Hondo College’s Child Development Center.



### Adult Education Consortium

More than 150 community partners gathered in fall for an engaging update on adult education hosted by the Rio Hondo College Region Adult Education Consortium at a local hotel. Themed “Inform, Engage and Connect,” the conference included an address by Chris Nelson, head administrator of adult education for the California Department of Education.

### Aerodynamics Workshops

Automotive Technology professors used paper airplanes to teach aerodynamics to elementary students during four aerodynamics workshops in December at East Whittier City School District’s Scott Avenue Elementary School. Professor John Frala and the automotive team guided 120 fourth-graders and 90 fifth-graders in the art and science of paper airplane creation, using four color-coded designs so students could explore how different configurations generated different flight patterns.

“From here, these young student can take advantage of our summer STEM programs, enroll in our STEM classes at Rio Hondo College and, we hope, see STEM fields as a possible career choice for themselves,” Frala said.

# RIO HONDO COLLEGE FOUNDATION



## A Taste of Rio

About 300 community members, College and elected officials raised funds for student scholarships and support services during the Rio Hondo College Foundation's A Taste of Rio wine and restaurant food tasting event. During the annual event held on campus, President Dreyfuss encouraged attendees to read the "Faces of Rio" displays highlighting exceptional students and their stories of struggle, persistence, commitment and determination to achieve the "American Dream."

## 2015 SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

**\$168,000 TOTAL**

**305 scholarships**

**awarded to 211 students**





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**IN ADDITION, 243 INDIVIDUALS  
ALSO GAVE DONATIONS OF  
LESS THAN \$500.**

# LOOKING AHEAD



## Five-year Construction Plan

Renovation of the Library Tower, the relocation of the campus Bookstore/Copy Center and plans for a Rio Plaza form the current focus of Rio Hondo College's ongoing efforts to improve and update the hilltop campus.



## Fuel-Cell Vehicle

Students in Rio Hondo College's groundbreaking alternative fuels program will get a chance in 2016 to explore a Toyota Mirai, one of the first hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles to be sold commercially. On loan to Rio Hondo College by Toyota, the car, which retails at \$57,500, can travel about 300 miles on a full charge of hydrogen, a fuel technology that is just beginning to come into its own as an alternative to petroleum, electric and hybrid technologies.

## Associate of Arts degrees in Dance, Economics and Social Work

Rio Hondo College will begin offering three new two-year associate degree programs in fall semester 2016, including one that brings a guarantee of admission to California State University (CSU) campuses.

The new courses of study are Associate of Arts in social work, an Associate of Arts in dance and an Associate in Arts for Transfer in economics. The economics degree is part of the growing system of two-year degrees for transfer, which guarantee students CSU admission to pursue further studies.

## Rio Hondo College Fiscal Solvency

Rio Hondo College will act responsibly, ethically, efficiently and in an accountable manner, including actively seeking outside sources of funding, to preserve fiscal solvency.

With the state economy continuing to improve, the state budget has been more favorable toward Rio Hondo College as Gov. Jerry Brown's 2015-16 budget paid off the community college deferrals of \$94 million. Even though the cash deferral does not affect the state apportionment, it provides the cash to smooth the College's operational needs.

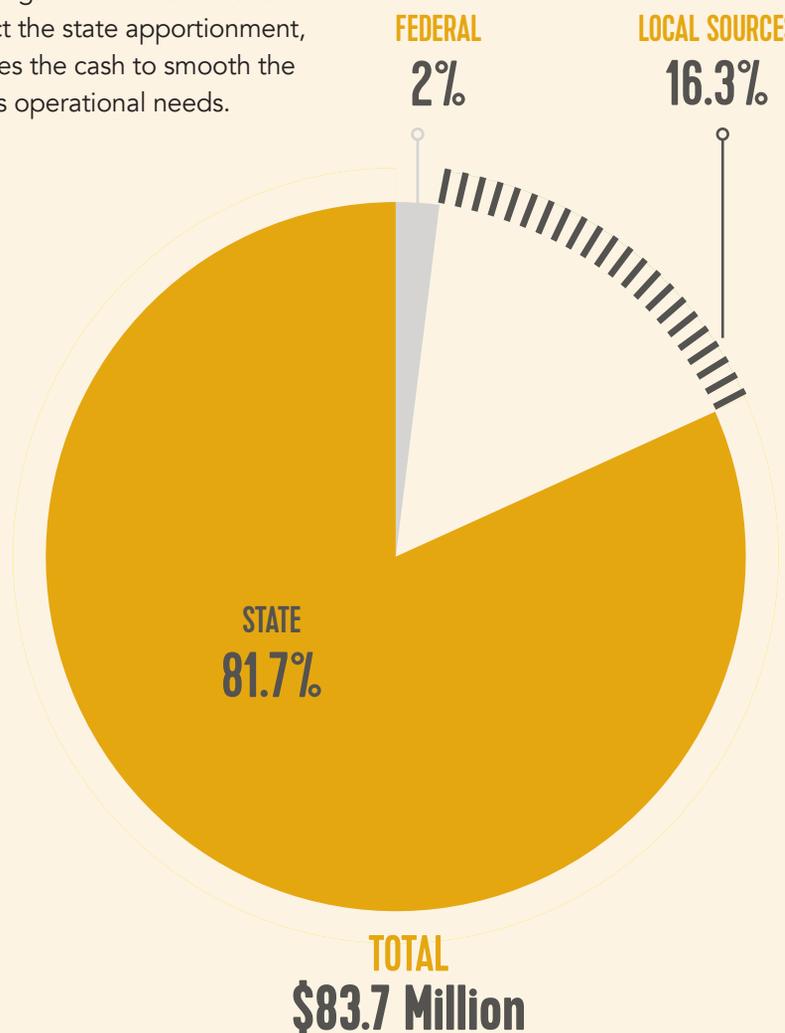
The economic position of Rio Hondo College is closely tied to the State of California, with 81.7 percent of the total District general fund revenue coming from the state apportionment, state categorical programs and grants. Total revenue during the year was approximately \$83.7 million, including about \$2 million from federal sources, \$68.4 million from the state and \$13.3 million from local sources.



## Measure A Bond Funds

To ensure Measure A Bond funds have been spent properly and effectively according to the project list approved by the voters of the College building program, Rio Hondo College completed an independent financial and performance audit executed by accounting firm Vasquez and Company LLP.

The external audit showed all funds were properly accounted for with no deficiencies in the internal control and no instances of noncompliance. Total bond expenditures at fiscal year-end were \$3.1 million. Bond year-to-date expenditure since inception is \$161 million as of June 30, 2015.





**RIO HONDO COLLEGE**  
3600 Workman Mill Road  
Whittier, CA 90601  
562.692.0921

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