



Report to the Community 2016

Partnerships Progress Promise



President's Message



“Rio Hondo College is unequalled in its commitment to creating a culture of educational excellence that will propel our students along rich pathways to their future success.”

These are exciting and productive times for Rio Hondo College, where student success is the priority every day for all College leaders, faculty and staff. Our vision is for all our students to surpass their highest educational hopes and dreams. In our ever-changing world, the myriad benefits of higher education will inspire and empower these students for a lifetime.

In this annual report, we share with you a few of the many examples of the progress and promise in Rio Hondo College’s educational mission, as well as the partnerships we are building to expand student access, success and completion, including new pathways to four-year

universities. Our education and community partnerships and the forward progress of our programs unleashes the promise within students beyond our campus, at K-12 schools throughout our service area and within our surrounding communities.

These efforts are the foundation of Rio Hondo College’s mission. The stories and information in this report underscore the deep and abiding connections between our educational mission and our commitment to serve our many diverse communities.

Teresa Dreyfuss
Superintendent/President

21 associate degrees guaranteeing transfer to California State University campuses

50 associate degrees and **60 certificate programs**

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 | History | Sociology |
| Art History | Journalism | Spanish |
| Communications Studies | Kinesiology | Studio Arts |
| Economics | Philosophy | Theater Arts |
| Elementary Teacher Education | Political Science | |
| English | Psychology | |

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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.

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.

Accreditation

Rio Hondo College is fully accredited by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

Accreditation Team Praise

During a visit in October, accreditation team representatives who granted Rio Hondo College a six-year accreditation in 2015, praised the College for exhibiting a "collegial spirit, along with enthusiasm for student success, which shines through all endeavors, action and activities."

2016 Highlights

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. The College was named a Top 25 Community College for Hispanics by Hispanic Outlook in Higher Education Magazine, recognizing Rio Hondo's success at helping Latino students attain degrees. It ranks among the top community colleges in the state at transferring underrepresented minorities to University of California campuses.

In 2016, Rio Hondo College:

- ✓ Opened the Rio Hondo College Educational Center in Pico Rivera, its third regional campus to bring the promise of higher education into local neighborhoods.
- ✓ More than doubled the number of students who earned associate degrees for transfer, which guarantee admission to California State University campuses, from 298 in 2014-15 to 633 in 2015-16.
- ✓ Raised new enrollments from feeder high schools to 21.9 percent and enrollments from schools outside its service area by 40.9 percent.
- ✓ Ranked among the Best Online Colleges in California for 2016-17 by Affordable Colleges Online.
- ✓ Graduated the first cohort in its Pathway to Law School program.
- ✓ Launched a four-year Bachelor of Science degree in automotive technology as well as the state's first Associate of Science degree in hybrid/electric vehicle/fuel-cell technology.



Degrees & Certificates (2015-16)

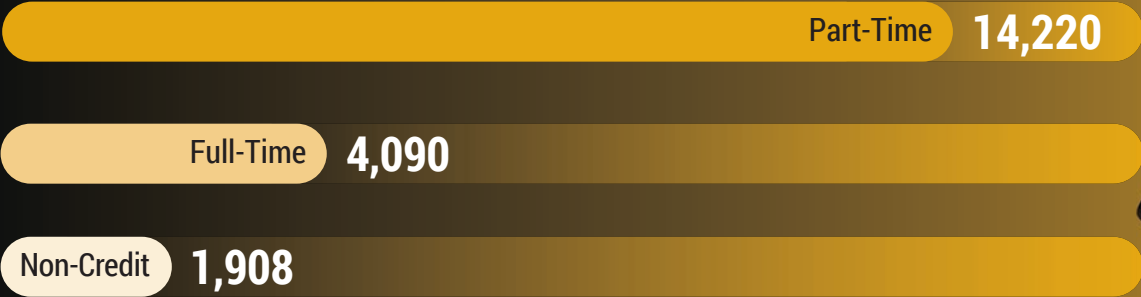
Associate Degrees
1,294

**Total
Program
Awards**
1,699

Certificates
405

Enrollment Status

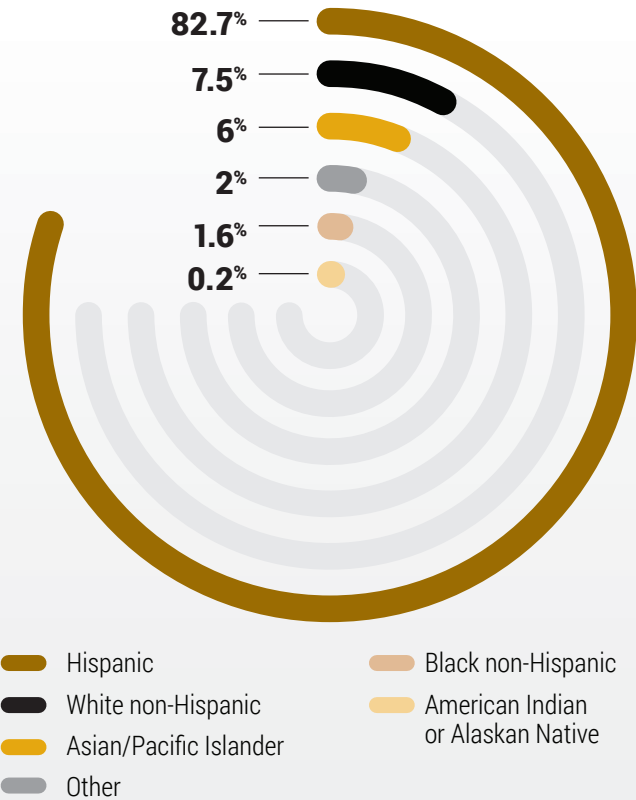
Total Enrollment **20,218**



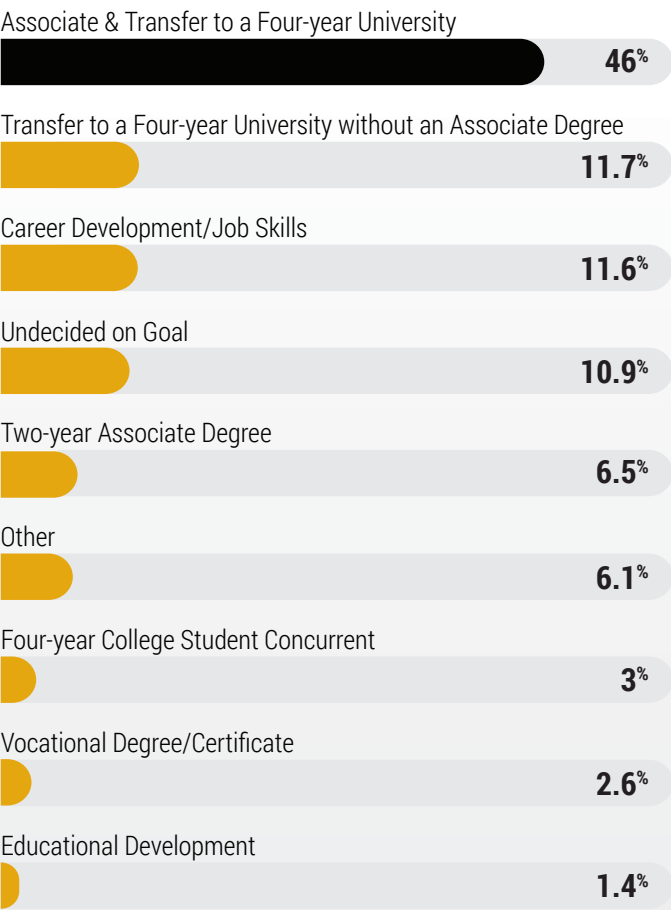
Gender



Ethnicity



Educational Goals



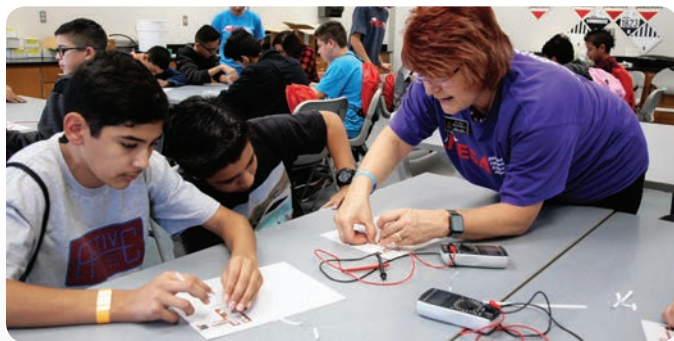
PARTNERSHIPS

College Outreach Effort Connects with Area Schools

College administrators engaged nine local middle schools and two elementary schools through an Adopt-a-School program designed to expose young students to higher education opportunities. Rio administrators visited back-to-school nights and PTA retreats, engaged with all the principals and invited all schools in the program to Discover Rio Day.



Discover Rio Day



Rio Hondo College hosted about 260 students from nine middle schools and one elementary school in November for its second annual Discover Rio Day, an event that sparks early interest in college and careers. The students attended an opening session in the Wray Theater, met and took pictures with College mascot Rex the Roadrunner, toured the campus and attended workshops on college programs, such as renewable energy and graphic information systems.

Senior Preview Days

Rio Hondo College welcomed 1,125 high school seniors in February for its annual Senior Preview Days, expanded to include a second day to allow more students to explore the College's academic options and engage in Club Rush activities. Students came from high schools in communities that include Baldwin Park, Bell Gardens, Downey, El Monte, La Puente, Los Angeles, Montebello, Pico Rivera, San Gabriel and Whittier.

High School Counselors Breakfast

Rio Hondo College hosted about 100 counselors from 28 area high schools in January for its third annual Regional High School Counselors Breakfast. Counselors learned about the College's academic programs and its assessment practices; they also toured the College's Career and Technical Education facilities and Automotive Technology Department.

School Administrators

Rio Hondo College hosted the annual Whittier Area School Administrators Breakfast in September, bringing together dozens of leaders from area public schools to learn about such offerings as the new bachelor's degree in automotive technology, the planned expansion to 24 associate degrees that guarantee transfer to California State University campuses and a trio of grants designed to improve basic skills instruction.

Bus Pass Program

Over the past 10 years, the award-winning GO RIO bus pass program has served more than 20,000 students from 62 cities while eliminating more than seven tons of vehicular emissions. In 2016, GO RIO received grants from Pico Rivera and Santa Fe Springs, participated in a pilot program in which students used the new U-PASS sticker, and made passes available for the first time to Guardian Scholars and part-time students.

Rio Hondo College Summer Camp

Thirty students from the Boys & Girls Club of Whittier attended a four-day pilot summer camp program in June at Rio Hondo College, where they took hip-hop dance lessons, learned about statistics and math through gaming, practiced soccer tricks on the newly renovated soccer field and toured the police academy shooting range. Students were introduced to the College's sciences and health programs and public safety careers.



CTE Academy



In July, about 120 seventh-grade students assembled car engines, built radios, launched rockets and explored computer coding through video games during Rio Hondo College's annual CTE Academy. The sixth annual program allowed students from five area school districts to explore science and technology career fields under the supervision of instructors and students in the College's Career and Technical Education (CTE) program's Teacher Education Access & Career Highway.

K-12 District Leaders

In November, superintendents and representatives from K-12 school districts within Rio Hondo College's service area joined Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss and other College leaders to share their recent accomplishments, challenges and initiatives. College leaders discussed the implementation of multiple measures of data for placing students in classes, the expansion of course offerings at regional education centers, efforts to promote student equity and plans for a K-16 College and Career Readiness Summit.

Nutcracker Community Performance



Rio Hondo Dance Collective presented its sixth annual holiday program in December, staging a contemporary version of "The Nutcracker" in the Wray Theater with 27 dancers from the College and 70 dancers from five area schools and the Rio Hondo College Child Development Center. This was the Collective's second year of engaging area students in the holiday show.

Rose Hills Holiday Program

In December, Rio Hondo College students helped Rose Hills Memorial Park present "Juan Diego and the Beautiful Lady," a free, bilingual outdoor theater performance. The play was staged by students enrolled in the College's Theatre Rehearsal and Performance class, along with students from St. Marianne de Paredes Elementary School in Pico Rivera. The play was performed on several stages within Mission Hills and its surrounding hillside. A replica image of Our Lady of Guadalupe bestowed upon Rose Hills by the Archbishop of Mexico City, along with a stone from the original Basilica de Guadalupe built between 1531 and 1709, were incorporated into the production.

PROGRESS

Rio Hondo College Awarded \$3.5 million in Basic Skills Transformation Grants

Rio Hondo College was awarded \$2 million to partner with area high schools, adult schools and California State University, Los Angeles, to improve college success for students with challenges in English and math. The College also received a three-year, \$1.5 million grant from the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office to transform delivery of basic skills instruction in English and math, and align its curriculum with courses taught at K-12 schools.

Rio Hondo College is the only community college in the state to receive both grants.

Multiple Measures Assessment Pilot

Because research increasingly questions the effectiveness of standardized assessments as the only measure to understanding student capacity, Rio Hondo College in 2016 implemented a Multiple Measures Assessment Pilot, becoming a statewide leader in this approach for assessing and placing students in English and math courses. College leaders believe that evaluating and accessing academic performance via multiple measures provides greater equity among students and can help them to graduate at a faster pace.

College Planning

Rio Hondo College was chosen as the 2016-17 fiscal agent for the Los Angeles California Student Opportunity and Access Program (Cal-SOAP) Consortium, which provides resources to help first-generation, low-income, underrepresented and underserved students pursue their higher education dreams. Los Angeles Cal-SOAP serves students from Los Angeles Unified, Bassett Unified, Montebello Unified, Alhambra Unified, Paramount Unified, El Monte Union High and Garvey school districts. The College oversees approximately \$692,500 in annual funding.

College Transition Assistance Program

Avance – advance in Spanish – is an integrated success program for first-year students created in 2016 to expand the College's capacity to foster success for Hispanic and low-income students. Funded by a \$2.62 million, five-year federal grant, components include a summer Math Academy, a guaranteed first-year schedule, an enhanced college and life success course, a seminar course that explores discipline-based career paths, and directed counseling, coaching and tutoring.



Transfer and Career Pathways

With three new transfer options – biology, chemistry and social justice – in the planning stages, Rio Hondo College will soon increase the number of two-year associate degrees for transfer to 24. These degrees guarantee admission to California State University campuses. The College will also add its 51st associate degree, in dance, in 2017.

Associate of Science in Hybrid, Electric Vehicle and Fuel-Cell Technology



The Rio Hondo College Automotive Technology program received approval in April to offer California's first Associate of Science degree in hybrid, electric vehicle and fuel-cell technology, a high-demand career field. Students will be trained to safely handle high-voltage vehicles. They will study electrical systems, chemistry, physics and applied mathematics, a mix of skills demanded by the complex alternative-fuels vehicles.

Pathway to Law School



In 2016, 14 students graduated from the College's first Pathway to Law School cohort, ready to begin the second stage of their journeys to law school by attaining bachelor's degrees. The State Bar Council on Access and Fairness sponsors the program at 28 community colleges to help underrepresented minorities and first-time college students study law at six top California law schools. Forty-one new participants joined Rio Hondo College's program in 2016.

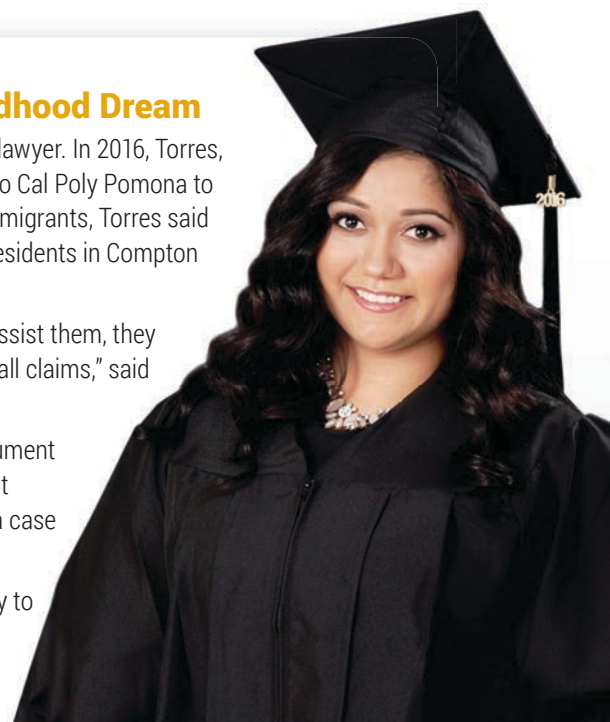
Pathway to Law School Graduate Moves Closer to Childhood Dream

When Katherine Torres was 10, a visit to a courthouse sparked a dream to become a lawyer. In 2016, Torres, 24, graduated with the College's first Pathway to Law School cohort and transferred to Cal Poly Pomona to study psychology and criminology. The eldest of five children and the daughter of immigrants, Torres said she was inspired to study or specialize in immigration law after helping low-income residents in Compton during an internship.

"I was helping these people who were people like me – if we weren't there to legally assist them, they wouldn't be able to go any further when it came to family law, expungements and small claims," said Torres, who is fluent in Spanish.

Torres praised two courses that are at the center of the program – a speech and argument class and a law and democracy class taught by a lawyer. Together, the courses taught students how the legal system functions, how to write legal briefs and how to argue a case before a judge.

"Being a first-generation college student has been difficult," Torres said. "The Pathway to Law School program helped me focus my efforts because its classes are so rich with information and we are all so motivated."



Assemblymember Visit

Assemblymember Ed Chau, D-Monterey Park, visited Rio Hondo College in March, learning about the College's 21 associate degrees for transfer, the honors program, new bachelor's degree in automotive technology, Pathway to Law School initiative and emergency medical responder training. Impressed by the far-reaching impact these programs promise, Chau vowed to use his office to "get the word out about the College's programs" among the communities he serves.

Local, state and national **agencies** hire nearly every nurse, EMT, firefighter and police officer trained by Rio Hondo College immediately after graduation.

Fire Academy



In just under 50 years, the Rio Hondo College Fire Academy has certified more than 2,500 firefighters. The academy is a one-stop fire training and education service facility that conducts much of its training on six-acre training grounds in Santa Fe Springs. In 2016, the College purchased three additional acres and renamed the site the Rio Hondo College Homeland Security Training Center. This site is one of six FEMA approved regional homeland locations in Southern California.

In 2016, 32 cadets graduated from the Academy's wildland fire program. One hundred percent of these graduates found employment, with 14 hired by agencies throughout California and the Pacific Northwest. As with past classes, cadets served on Rio Hondo College Fire Crew 77 – the Roadrunners. The crew was called up over the summer to aid U.S. Forest Service crews as they battled fires across the state.

Firefighting Expert Highlighted

Fire, Emergency Medical Technician & Wildland Fire Coordinator Tracy Rickman's firefighting expertise was broadcast to the world when Rio Hondo College Fire Academy was featured in the second episode of the 2016 season of the popular "The Bachelorette." The episode included scenes filmed at the Fire Academy in Santa Fe Springs and featured Rickman as trainer and spokesman.

Rio Hondo Police Academy



In 2016, 60 cadets graduated from the Rio Hondo Police Academy; of these 44 were immediately hired by law enforcement agencies throughout the Southland. The academy also provided seven Arrest and Control courses of

instruction in 2016, including two conducted solely for the Los Angeles County Probation Department, which now sends all probation officer recruit classes to the Rio Hondo Police Academy.



Emergency Medical Technicians

Rio Hondo College consistently ranks as one of the top EMT producers in Los Angeles County, each year offering at least five courses and sending more than 100 students to take the national registry test for certification. After hiring a full-time EMT professor, the College is expanding the program to eight courses starting in 2018, including blended online and campus courses and weekend and evening classes.



Nursing Program



In 2016, 75 students graduated from the Rio Hondo College Vocational Nursing program, ranked among the top 15 programs of 127 state-approved and accredited programs due mainly to a high pass rate of 94 percent on the national examination. Rio Hondo College is also home to one of California's most successful community college nursing assistant certification programs, with a 100 percent pass rate on the Certified Nursing Assistant state exams for the last four years.

Health Field Opportunities



More than 80 students and their families, teachers and advisers came to Rio Hondo College in October to learn about career opportunities in health fields. Eleven community colleges across the Los Angeles region presented information on programs that included nursing, dental assisting, dental hygiene, dental technician, medical assisting, health informatics, respiratory therapy and diagnostic medical imaging. Rio Hondo College faculty and counselors shared information about the College's orthopedic technician program.

Soccer Teams

In 2016, the women's soccer team won the South Coast South Conference Championship and both the men and women's teams advanced to the Regional Semi-Finals of the state playoffs.



El Monte Pledge Program

The El Monte Pledge grew out of a partnership among Rio Hondo College, El Monte Union High School District and UC Irvine to create a pathway to higher education success that starts even before students begin elementary school. Students who participate sign the El Monte Pledge.

Services include a dedicated counselor, priority for El Monte Pledge students who wish to attend the annual Summer Scholars Transfer Institute at UC Irvine and priority registration for classes. The College also eases student transfers to UC Irvine.

Cohorts of El Monte Pledge students entering Rio Hondo College in 2011 and 2012 received degree and certificate awards at a rate of 50 percent higher than similar community college cohorts across the nation; in addition, the cohorts transferred to four-year institutions at a rate 21 to 23 percent higher than their peers.

In 2016, the College further strengthened its El Monte Promise by achieving Cradle to College Pathway Agreements, K-College Completion Milestones and continued growth, expansion and persistence of the Scholars Savings Program. The program was also awarded \$500,000 over two years from the California Community Foundation.

Writes of Spring Literary and Arts Festival



Mexican-American author Victor Villaseñor, acclaimed author of "Rain of Gold" and other non-fiction works that explore cultural heritage, spoke on the connections between language and culture and offered guidance to creative writing students during a visit to Rio Hondo College for the annual Writes of Spring literary and arts festival. The event featured student films at the River Deep Student Film Festival and student readings from the Rio Hondo College annual literary anthology "River's Voice."

Adult Re-entry Students

Students who start college after age 25 or who return to school after a five-year absence constitute about a quarter of all Rio Hondo College students. To better serve them, the College has created a customized suite of services. These range from individualized counseling to longer service hours to accommodate students with full-time jobs and families. A year after launching the program, Rio Hondo College recorded a 51 percent enrollment increase in re-entry students. Program organizers are now working to create a one-stop shop for support services, extending service hours and support groups.

Recognizing Faculty

Distinguished Faculty: Marie Eckstrom

English Professor Marie Eckstrom was honored with the College's 2016 Distinguished Faculty Award for her more than 15 years of contributions as a teacher and faculty leader. The award recognizes faculty members who consistently demonstrate excellence in and outstanding dedication to teaching, their discipline and to the College. Eckstrom teaches English courses, helps coordinate the Writes of Spring arts and literature festival and the "River's Voice" literary anthology, and leads study abroad programs. She has also served as secretary, vice president and president of the Academic Senate.

Fellow of the College



Maurice Meysenburg, emeritus professor of sociology and economics, was named the 2016 Fellow of the College. An ambassador of good will for Rio Hondo College and its students, Meysenburg is dedicated to supporting the College as president of its Emeriti Association, as a long-time donor to its Foundation and a board member of the Rio Hondo Symphony Orchestra.

Professor Mariano Zaro



Mariano Zaro, a poet and arts advocate, showcases the Los Angeles region's literary talents through Poetry L.A., a collaborative video interview series he has hosted for more than five years. In just over three years, Zaro has hosted 25 video interviews showcasing the work of local writers, including one with Los Angeles poet laureate, Luis J. Rodriguez. Zaro, who joined Rio Hondo College as a professor 10 years ago, is known for poems that mirror the meaningful moments of life.

Automotive Technology Professor John Frala



The South Coast Air Quality Management District honored Automotive Technology Professor John Frala with its 2016 Award for Clean Air Education and Outreach in recognition of his role in designing the College's groundbreaking Associate of

Science in hybrid/electric vehicle/fuel-cell technology. Frala is a leader in a statewide effort to create a Hydrogen Highway to support expanded use of alternative-fuel vehicles.

Rio Hondo College was also honored with the clean-air agency's award, which recognized a handful of businesses, individuals and public agencies for contributing to cleaner air in the region.

French Legion of Honor Medal



Former Rio Hondo College vice president and long-time artist Yoshio C. Nakamura was honored for his World War II service with the French Legion of Honor Medal during a November ceremony at the Residence de France in Beverly Hills. Nakamura was deployed to southern France in March 1945 as part of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a unit of Japanese-Americans. He saw combat in the Rhineland Campaign and later, in Italy, achieving rank of staff sergeant. He received the Bronze Star, two Presidential Unit Citations, the Combat Infantryman Badge and the EAME Campaign Medal with three battle stars. In 2011, he and other members of his unit received the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest U.S. civilian honor.

Watoto Children's Choir

In February, a Ugandan children's choir performed in the Wray Theater during the California leg of its 2015-16 "Oh, What Love" world tour to raise awareness about orphaned African children as well as those who face significant health challenges. The Watoto Children's Choir was founded in 1994 and includes four adults and 18 children, all of whom have lost one or both parents. It is part of the Watoto Church, which creates villages to care for orphaned children, providing them with stable homes and access to education and health care.



PROMISE

First-ever Student Equity Summit Highlights Student Support Needs

Rio Hondo College hosted approximately 200 students, staff and faculty for its first-ever Student Equity Summit in December. The event included a series of discussions as well as a keynote address by Cal State University, Long Beach assistant professor Lindsay Perez Huber, an expert on racial inequalities in education. Huber gave an overview of the growing gap in education, drawing from her co-authored policy brief, "Still Falling Through the Cracks: Revisiting the Latina/o Educational Pipeline."

In 2016, the College's Student Equity program sponsored 34 activities and programs with the support of Student Equity funds that include:

- Textbook Assistance Program
- Tutoring in the Writers Resource Center, MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, Science Achievement) Center and the Learning Assistance Center
- Math and science support expanded to non-MESA students
- Professional development for faculty, staff and administrators
- Field trips for students to visit colleges and universities in Central and Northern California
- Summer Scholars Transfer Institute
- "Grab and Go" free food stations during finals weeks

Soroptimist Scholarships



Soroptimist International of Whittier recognized five Rio Hondo College students with 2016 Live Your Dream awards for overcoming challenges ranging from domestic violence to homelessness. Students Oralia Lopez Alcorta, Lorraine Montano, Reylene Priego, Ruth Noemi Rodriguez and Natasha Rubalcava were honored at a February luncheon. All are single mothers who participate in the College's Extended Opportunity Program & Services (EOPS) and

Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education program (CARE), and all have big dreams of giving back to the community. The Live Your Dream award, established in 1972, has awarded \$30 million in scholarships.

Transfer Day

Representatives from more than 40 universities and colleges joined Rio Hondo College for its annual University Transfer Day in September, providing hundreds of students with information on admission requirements, campus life, housing and financial aid. University of California and California State University representatives staffed an admissions panel that gave students an opportunity to learn more about programs and admission requirements.



Financial Aid Workshop



Rio Hondo College's inaugural Cash for College financial aid workshop and application lab in February gave students an overview of the financial aid process as well as hands-on help in completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid and California Dream Act aid application. California Student Opportunity and Access Program and Assembly Member Ian C. Calderon, D-Whittier, co-sponsored the public event.

Foster Youth Education Summit

Three students in Rio Hondo College's Guardian Scholars program visited the state Capitol to lobby legislators on behalf of foster youths as part of the annual Foster Youth Education Summit. Students Jhaylin Asturia, Paola Mejia-Paz and Amber Whittemore networked with other foster youths and learned about issues related to higher educational success through scholarships funded by the national Foster Club.



National Student Advocacy Conference

In March, members of the Associated Students of Rio Hondo College joined more than 250 community college students nationwide to discuss higher-education legislation at the American Student Association of Community College's National Student Advocacy Conference in Washington, D.C. The conference examined the federal Higher Education Act, America's College Promise, Pell Grant, DREAM Act and veteran benefits. Participants explored other issues college students face, such as the high cost of textbooks. Students also met politicians and their representatives.

Women's History Conference

In celebration of Women's History Month, about 280 female students from seven high schools of the Whittier Union High School District packed Wray Theater for the 21st annual Women's Conference, a collaboration between Whittier Union, Rio Hondo College and Soroptimist International of Whittier. Themed "Courage to Dream," the March event inspired participants through a series of workshops. ABC7 Eyewitness News traffic reporter and Rio Hondo College alumna Alysha Del Valle gave the keynote address, sharing her experience as a Latina in the broadcast journalism industry.

Guardian Scholars



Rio Hondo College's Guardian Scholars program kicked off the fall semester with a student conference during the week before classes and a weekend retreat for new and continuing members. The program provides services and support that meet the personal and academic needs of students who are or were in foster care.

Final Week Food Breaks

More than 120 Rio Hondo College administrators, faculty, staff and student volunteers served hundreds of meals during Finals Week Food Breaks, held in December. Volunteers served 3,400 hot meals, 3,500 pieces of fruit and 110 gallons of coffee, and distributed more than 200 bags of groceries to students. The newly formed Food Access Taskforce organized the effort. The level of student need was discovered when Rio Hondo's Financial Aid and Student Equity offices implemented a 2016 Student Financial Wellness Survey. The survey found that 47 percent of 1,844 respondents said they did not have enough money for food.

Dear Rio Hondo College,

As a fairly new college student, I have discovered that finals week is stressful, exhausting and challenging. I wanted to personally thank you for the burritos and coffee available to us each morning. The food is piping hot and delicious, and the coffee is fresh. The staff is cheerful, attentive and supportive as they greet and serve us, and wish us luck with our studies. I can rave about so much more, such as the way my professors excel at educating, guiding and molding my younger classmates. Instead I will say that I chose the best school to embark on my journey to higher education.

Sincerely,
Luisa Mesones

53rd Commencement Ceremony

Nearly 1,400 students received degrees during Rio Hondo College's 53rd Commencement Ceremony on May 26, representing a graduating class whose impressive numbers of degrees for transfer broke College achievement records. The ceremony featured a keynote address from Telemundo anchor Dunia Elvir, who was named as an outstanding Latino in the U.S. by the National Association of Latino Leaders.

Elvir urged students to vigorously chase their dreams until they become reality. That level of determination brought her to America from Honduras, from cleaning bathrooms in Watts to becoming a television news anchor.



In 2016, **633 students** earned associate degrees for transfer. The degrees, which guarantee admission to California State University campuses, more than **doubled in 2015-16 from 298 in 2014-15**. They have grown to represent **40 percent of the 1,646 degrees** earned by **1,372 Rio Hondo College students**.



Extraordinary Students



Thanh Luong

Thanh Luong arrived in the United States six years ago. Inspired by her grandmother's use of herbal remedies in her Vietnamese village, she decided to become a doctor, even though she knew little of the sciences involved and spoke no English. Starting at Rio Hondo College in 2013, Luong joined the MESA (mathematics, engineering, science achievement) and TRiO Student Support Services STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) programs, spending more than 200 hours in peer-facilitated supplementary instruction programs. She also volunteered at the UCLA Medical Center Care Extenders Internship Program. Along the way, she learned English and achieved a 4.0 GPA. Accepted at multiple UC campuses, Luong transferred to UC San Diego.



Daniel Bresenden

Daniel Bresenden's general contracting business took a big hit in the 2008 Great Recession. Two years later, his brother died from a brain tumor. Exhausted, frustrated and intellectually unfulfilled, Bresenden, a Russian immigrant, returned to education to launch a new career in medical research so that he could help people facing similar challenges. He first completed genomics research through a UC Irvine summer program. He then came to Rio Hondo College and dedicated himself to earning a trio of associate degrees in mathematics and science, biology and physics. He successfully transferred to UC Berkeley.



Stephanie Lopez

When Stephanie Lopez was told that her battles with depression and anxiety would prevent her from earning a college degree, she worked even harder to prove that mental health challenges need not keep someone from achieving his or her ambitions. Lopez chose Rio Hondo College as the first step in her higher education journey. Though sometimes beset by self-doubts that made her question her ability to stay in school long term, she found herself shaped by teachers and relationships that opened her horizons to new career possibilities and taught her to cope with her challenges. Lopez pursued communications, becoming a leader in campus clubs and winning awards for videography and for speech and debate. She earned three associate degrees, in behavioral studies, communications and journalism. She transferred to UC Berkeley.



Sgt. Tron Bosse

Marine Staff Sgt. Tron Bosse, who endured tremendous battlefield challenges during two tours of combat duty, he demonstrated real leadership in posts in Africa and Japan. Today, Bosse is battling third-stage colon cancer with the same intensity, refusing to let his health challenge prevent him from earning associate degrees in history and political science. Bosse transferred to Hofstra University in New York, where he plans to study political science, Latin American/Caribbean studies and history.

Campus Life



EMT Student Rescues Choking Woman

A Rio Hondo College emergency medical technician (EMT) student put his classroom training into practice when he saved a choking woman's life. Mark King Jr. of Lynwood, was celebrating a friend's birthday at a Downey restaurant in September when a woman at the party went into distress and indicated she was choking.

"I got into position to give the Heimlich maneuver. I gave three to five abdominal thrusts, and the food that was lodged in her airway came out," he said.

King chose Rio Hondo College for its highly regarded and affordable EMT program. He said his experience at the restaurant affirmed his career decision.

"It reassured me that I'm able to act under pressure, to execute the procedures in a safe and effective manner, to help someone," he said.

Alumni Campus Play



In spring, College alumni Michael Garcia and Julianna Stephanie Ojeda directed male and female versions of Neil Simon's "The Odd Couple," exploring the play's contemporary relevance through both perspectives.

The directors came to Rio Hondo College after considering other college and career options, and enrolled in theatre arts as an elective without intending to pursue careers in the field. Each fell in love with various aspects of the program – Garcia with directing and the technical side, Ojeda with acting, directing and producing. Garcia and Ojeda have since enrolled as transfer students in UC Irvine's theater program.

"I am so glad I found Rio Hondo, said Ojeda. "I found something that I'm passionate about that excites me every day."

"It's a thrill to be part of Rio Hondo College's rich history of theater," Garcia said. "The department has truly fostered our growth in this industry."

Forensic Speech and Debate Team



For the second year, Rio Hondo College's Forensics Speech and Debate Team attended the highly competitive Mile High Swing Tournament at the University of Utah, where students took home prizes in competition against some of the highest-ranked college debaters in the nation; they also reconnected with five former teammates who had transferred to the University of Utah.

Socially Relevant Theater



In November, the Theatre Arts Department staged a production of "The Laramie Project," a play that chronicles life in Laramie, Wyoming, the year after Matthew Shepard, a gay man who attended the University of Wyoming, was beaten, tortured and left for dead. The 1988 murder drew national attention to hate crimes and led to the 2009 Shepard Act, which makes crimes motivated by actual or perceived sexual orientation a federally recognized hate crime. Designed to awaken its audience to the damaging power of intolerance, the staging was especially relevant after a June attack in Orlando, Florida, in which a security guard killed 49 people and wounded 53 others at Pulse, a gay nightclub.



Hydration Station

The College marked Earth Day with a ribbon cutting for the new Associated Students of Rio Hondo College Hydration Station. Located in the Student Union, the station offers pure, refrigerated water for refilling reusable water bottles, a sustainable and environmentally friendly addition to the campus. The \$5,000 Hydration Station was a gift from the student government, which will fund annual maintenance costs.

Collaborative Crisis Scenario



Dozens of Rio Hondo College students in training to become nurses, emergency medical technicians, firefighters and journalists responded to an active-shooter and car crash drill in May as part of the fourth annual Collaborative Crisis Scenario.

Students worked with members of the Huntington Park Police Department and College instructors to extract "injured" people from a van, which crashed after the staged shooting, performed emergency treatment to their injuries, and transported them to a makeshift hospital, where nurses took over.

The scenario engaged 19 emergency medical technician students, 10 fire academy cadets, about 18 nursing students, three student journalists, four professional EMTs from Care Ambulance Service and 14 representatives of the Huntington Park Police Department. In addition, seven students from the College's performing arts program played parts, including the injured individuals.

Volunteer Income Tax Assistance



From February through April, students helped 323 community members save an estimated \$84,303 in tax preparation fees while recovering \$295,415 in refunds through the College's VITA program. In total, volunteers contributed more than 1,000 community service hours, earning the group a gold Presidential Service Award. All volunteers received letters from President Obama thanking them for their volunteer services along with gold eagle pins. In addition, the volunteers received certificates of appreciation from the IRS and Board of Equalization.

Case of Hope Drive

Students, faculty and staff donated close to 250 backpacks and suitcases for foster children and youths in December as part of the College's third annual Case of Hope Drive. The donations far exceeded the 150 bags donated in 2015, and came with an added surprise: a donation of 200 toys by a College alumna. The event was sponsored by the Rio Hondo College Guardian Scholars Program, which partnered with the Rio Hondo College Foster/Kinship Care Education Program and the Associated Students of Rio Hondo College.

Standing by Students

Rio Hondo College stands in solidarity with its diverse and undocumented students, passing a resolution in 2016 stating that the College would do everything within the law to protect undocumented, Muslim and LGBTQI students along with all its most vulnerable students.



Rio Hondo College Foundation



Adhering to the adage, "Success and support go hand in hand," the nonprofit Rio Hondo College Foundation secures philanthropic support to promote academic success. The Foundation awarded more than \$100,000 in scholarships during 2015-2016, enabling students to purchase textbooks, uniforms, equipment and school supplies.

In addition, the Foundation directed philanthropic funding to strengthen athletic programs, student support programs, theater arts, and to replace equipment used for student activities all year long.

Biology experiments became more vivid due to three electronic spectrophotometers made possible by the Foundation. A new refrigerator for the Veterans Services Center helps keep food fresh and healthy. Bookstore vouchers enabled some new students to purchase their very first college textbooks.

'A Taste of Rio' 2016

About 300 community members, College and elected officials attended the Rio Hondo College Foundation's "A Taste of Rio" in May. The wine and food tasting event raised more than \$85,000 for student scholarships and grants.

"A Taste of Rio" Sponsors

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Due to space limitations, not all donors are acknowledged.



Measure A Funds Campus Projects

As Rio Hondo College enters the final phase of a \$245 million facilities bond construction program, the College is equipped and prepared to better serve students in contemporary and technologically advanced learning environments. 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 \$9.9 million. Bond year-to-date expenditure since inception is \$171 million as of June 30, 2016.

Soccer Complex



Rio Hondo College's new \$3.8 million soccer complex offers a world-class venue for nationally ranked student-athletes as well as providing a facility that will serve the campus community in a variety of ways. The complex includes an NCAA-regulation, artificial turf pitch, a six-lane synthetic track, three-stage lighting system, pedestrian walkway, ADA-accessible bleachers, scoreboard, landscaping and restroom facility.

Rio Hondo College Educational Center at Pico Rivera



The new Rio Hondo College Educational Center at Pico Rivera opened its doors in 2016 as an invaluable community resource, providing residents with a convenient venue for pursuing higher education goals.

The center is the third regional campus developed by Rio Hondo College since 2010. It was developed through a partnership with El Rancho Unified School District.

The 27,750-square-foot educational center features six classrooms, a computer lab, student study room, teacher/staff lounge, counseling and assessment offices, a shaded quad, new restrooms and 1.3 acres of parking.

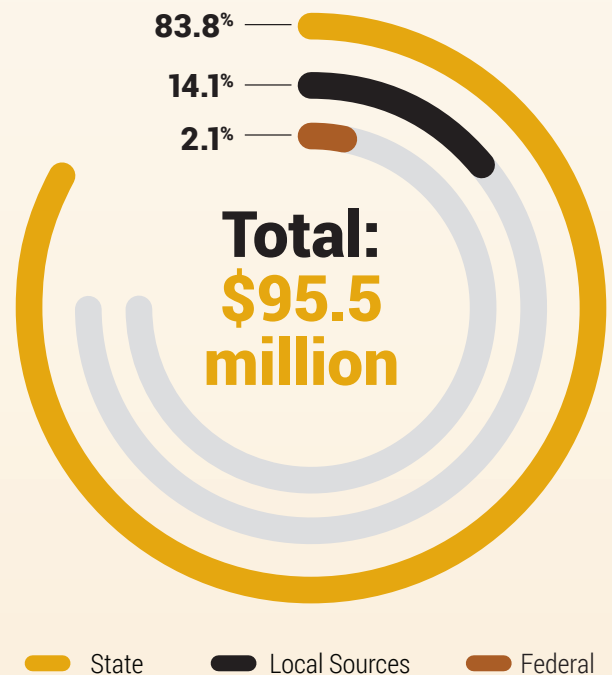


Rio Hondo College Fiscal Solvency

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

The state budget has been more favorable toward Rio Hondo College with Gov. Jerry Brown's 2016-17 budget including a 1.29 percent increase in base funding, 2 percent for growth, \$31.7 million for 2015-16 property tax backfill, \$200 million for the Strong Workforce program, \$48 million for the CTE Pathways program, \$30 million for the Basic Skills program and \$184.6 million for deferred maintenance and instructional equipment.

The economic position of Rio Hondo College is closely tied to the State of California, with 83.8 percent of District general fund revenue coming from the state apportionment, state categorical programs and grants. Total revenue during the year was approximately \$95.5 million, including about \$2 million from federal sources, \$80 million from the state and \$13.5 million from local sources.



Apply...Start Rio...Go Anywhere!

Registration for Fall 2017 begins Aug. 9

Registration for Spring 2018 begins Dec. 11

To begin your journey at Rio Hondo College visit www.riohondo.edu and click "Apply Now" to start an application.



Looking Ahead

Bookstore and Print Shop

Rio Hondo College is expanding its bookstore and print shop. The bookstore will expand from 4,109 square feet to 6,682 square feet, while the print shop will grow from 937 square feet to 1,760 square feet.

L Tower

Thanks to state funding of more than \$40 million, the College's L Tower will undergo a seismic renovation in 2017.



Rio Plaza

In September, Rio Hondo College leaders discussed developments on the Rio Plaza transportation project with representatives of three transit partners and the office of Los Angeles County Supervisor Don Knabe. The project will be a transit hub at the base of the hilltop campus that provides a convenient place for students to access public and private transit options. The plan has drawn the support of both Knabe and Supervisor Hilda Solis, who represent the College's service area.

Knabe directed \$175,000 in county funding to construct a sidewalk along Workman Mill Road that connects Rose Hills Road with College Drive. This sidewalk, which provides seamless access between Rose Hills Memorial Park and the College, will lead directly into the Rio Plaza area. Supervisor Solis initiated a feasibility study for a new Metrolink station that would be located directly across the street from the Rio Plaza.



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