



PRESS ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RELEASE DATE: April 20, 2006

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THE RIO HONDO COLLEGE BOARD OF TRUSTEES DELVE INTO PARKING

*Whittier-*The Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees was provided with extensive parking studies at their April 19th meeting. There was a presentation given by the members of the Program Management Team, Mr. Karl Schrader, Program Manager, Dr. Steve Lohr, Director of Facilities Services, and Dr. Andy Howard Executive Director, Planning & Development including information about surface parking spaces, vacant parking spaces, and a supply and demand graph illustrating the parking outlook for the next 8 years.

The comprehensive presentation revealed that there is very little usage of the Terrace parking lots, even at peak hours. These lots are anywhere from 80 to 93 percent vacant during the day. Board members had the opportunity to ask questions and respond to the team's findings.

"I am concerned that the survey may not reflect specially designated spaces," said Gary Mendez, President of the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees. "I also want to make sure that we get an accurate estimate of the cost and timeline for building a parking structure."

Mr. Mendez' comments were echoed by other members of the Board. The presentation was well received and appreciated by the Board, however the Board will continue to review and evaluate the parking issue as they move toward the adoption of the Campus Master Plan.

"I am comforted that the Board is working so diligently to get their hands around the parking issue," said Dr. Rose Marie Joyce, President of Rio Hondo College. "Rio Hondo College definitely has parking concerns and we are working together to come to a solution that we can live with through constructive conversation and compromise."

An unexpected presentation on parking was given by Jim Newman, President of the Rio Hondo College Faculty Association. Mr. Newman spoke at length about the discussion among faculty surrounding parking. He said, "Parking structures are not a panacea, they do have implications for safety."

Newman reported that the faculty had done extensive brainstorming on the parking issue. From those discussions, they suggested that the College construct a plaza area near terrace parking that could have various services including: a registration kiosk, a community gathering area with coffee and other vendors, a satellite bookstore location, and an information booth. He also suggested that the College consider variable parking rates for lot specific parking.

The board was receptive to Mr. Newman's comments in the context of the Program Management Team's presentation. "There are a lot of variables to consider," said Gary Mendez. "I believe that we are processing the information more efficiently and receiving definitive research that will allow this Board to take decisive action to address parking at Rio Hondo College."

Located in Whittier, California, Rio Hondo College is a collaborative center of lifelong learning which provides innovative, challenging, and quality educational offering - including programs and courses leading to transfer and vocational degrees and certificates - for its diverse students and community. For information on the College or its programs, please call 562-692-0921 or visit www.riohondo.edu.

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