



## PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
RELEASE DATE: October 7, 2011

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### SURVEY REVEALS OVERALL STUDENT AND EMPLOYEE SATISFACTION

## RIO HONDO COLLEGE BOARD ADOPTS 'NO CUTS' BUDGET

**Whittier** – A recent Rio Hondo College Climate Survey, which shows overall student and employee satisfaction, corresponds positively with a remarkable 'no cuts' budget adopted by the Board of Trustees for the 2011-2012 fiscal year. Both results illustrate the College's commitment to fiscal stability and to the well-being of students and employees.

The Climate Survey, intended to gauge the overall perceptions of students and employees, was conducted over a two-week period last year by the Institutional Research and Planning (IRP) Office. Students and employees were asked to rate campus life and relationships, physical environment and safety, diversity, student academic needs, and employee job satisfaction, among other categories. To obtain student responses, the IRP administered the survey in eighteen randomly selected courses on campus, while randomly selected employees were asked to complete and anonymously return the survey to the IRP.

Key findings included the fact that "students reported being satisfied with their academic experiences and the quality of instruction and teaching on campus. High majorities of students would recommend Rio Hondo College to a friend (80.7%), and recognize the value of the coursework in helping them achieve their educational goals (87.8%)." Similarly, employees were generally satisfied with their work, "liking their work in general, and deriving a sense of personal satisfaction from their work." Students expressed some dissatisfaction with parking, one of the most prominent issues mentioned.

"We are very pleased with the overall positive results of the survey, from both the student and employee perspective," said President of the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees, Maria Elena Martinez. "The survey, together with our recently adopted 'no

cuts' budget, illustrates that our College is serious about providing a quality education and stable environment our students and employees.”

Given the severe impact of the State of California's budget cuts across the board, Rio Hondo College is unique in maintaining a stable curriculum to offer to students, without detrimental class reductions or faculty furloughs. By comparison, other regional colleges have reduced course offerings, some by as much as 20 percent or more, as well as cancelling entire summer sessions while Rio Hondo College served 15,000 students during each of the past two summer sessions.

Moreover, while other colleges have seen employee layoffs and furloughs, even reductions in benefits, Rio Hondo College has been able to replenish faculty vacancies as they occur.

Fiscal stability has been a collective effort. Not only has the Board overseen prudent fiscal management practices, but administrators across the spectrum have doubled up on duties and have adapted to lean staffing configurations in many cases. Operational units are asked to keep the use of overtime and substitutes at a minimum, and to conserve in every way possible.

“Our unique position is the result of our institutional commitment to providing a continuing and stable selection of course and program offerings,” said Superintendent/President Ted Martinez, Jr., Ph.D. “While we are not able to expand the curriculum as we might wish in order to meet increased demand, we are indeed fortunate to be able to continue to serve students at the level to which our community has been accustomed. We look forward to a time when the economic climate is improved and we can once again add important classes and services, and serve even more students.”

Located in Whittier, California, Rio Hondo College is a collaborative center of lifelong learning which provides innovative, challenging, and quality educational offerings for its diverse students and community. For information on the College or its programs, please call 562-692-0921 or visit [www.riohondo.edu](http://www.riohondo.edu) .

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