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Rio Hondo College Anthropology Professor Receives Community Colleges' Hayward Award

WHITTIER – Rio Hondo College anthropology Professor Adam Wetsman has received a 2018 Hayward Award from the California Community Colleges in recognition of his excellence in teaching, professional activities and commitment to students.

The Board of Governors award, which is sponsored by the Foundation for California Community Colleges, goes annually to four faculty members who are nominated by their peers across the 114-campus system.

“Winning the Hayward Award is a great honor, one that would not have been possible without Rio Hondo’s great students, supportive staff and administration, and dedicated teaching colleagues,” Wetsman said.

The award is named for former California Community College Chancellor Gerald C. Hayward. Winners are presented with the award at the California Community College’s Board of Governors meeting in March, with the system’s president, chancellor and Academic Senate president.

“We at Rio Hondo College are exceptionally privileged to work alongside a professor who is as dedicated to his students as Adam Wetsman,” Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss said. “He goes beyond all expectations in his service to students, his colleagues and our community. This is a well-deserved honor.”

Wetsman has served as president of Rio Hondo College’s Faculty Association and Academic Senate, as well as serving in other roles with both groups. He is currently the negotiation chair for the faculty association.

He has promoted study abroad opportunities, assisted part-time faculty become full-time professors and promoted understanding of LGBTQ+ issues. He currently serves as president of the Board of Governors of the Faculty Association of California Community Colleges.

Rio Hondo College, located in Whittier, California, 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. For information on the College or its programs, please call 562-692-0921 or visit www.riohondo.edu.

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As a teacher, he has dedicated himself to ensuring his students have all the materials they need to succeed, even writing low-cost textbooks, securing \$50,000 in funding for a student anthropology lab and creating hours of audio-video lectures that mirror class presentations to facilitate student learning.

“I am continually in awe of Adam Wetsman’s impeccable reputation with students,” Rio Hondo College Academic Senate President Michelle Bean said. “I am honored to work with him.”

Wetsman also led development of Rio Hondo College’s anthropology transfer degree and assisted in developing general education courses as part of the College’s new Bachelor of Science in automotive technology.

He is also a frequent volunteer at campus events, helping to provide food to students during finals week, participating in Rio Hondo Foundation events and even establishing a scholarship for anthropology students.

“Adam Wetsman’s dedication is representative of the incredible team of educators who help to make Rio Hondo College the extraordinary institution that it is, one dedicated to service to our students and community,” Board of Trustees President Madeline Shapiro said. “I join my colleagues in congratulating him on this recognition of his many accomplishments.”

PHOTOS

RHC_WETSMAN: Rio Hondo College anthropology Professor Adam Wetsman has received a 2018 Hayward Award from the California Community College in recognition of his excellence in teaching, professional activities and commitment to students.