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Rio Hondo College President Teresa Dreyfuss Honored as 2019 Distinguished Woman of the Year

WHITTIER – Rio Hondo College Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss has been named a 2019 Distinguished Woman of the Year for the 57th Assembly District in recognition of her contributions to the community.

“I am proud and humbled by this honor,” Dreyfuss said. “My goal has always been to serve Rio Hondo College and our communities with the utmost passion, to do my best to ensure the opportunity for higher education was available to everyone.”

Assembly Majority Leader Ian C. Calderon, who represents the 57th District, honored 10 distinguished women during a **March 28** event at The Clarke Estate in Santa Fe Springs.

“President Dreyfuss has dedicated many years of service to our community and to ensuring the success of countless students,” Calderon said. “I am proud to honor her for her leadership and many contributions to the 57th Assembly District.”

Dreyfuss was nominated by Pico Rivera Mayor Pro-Tem Gustavo Camacho and Huntington Park Public Works Director Daniel Hernandez for her role at Rio Hondo College and her commitment to supporting the community.

“I have worked with many great community leaders over the years, but Ms. Dreyfuss stands out for her leadership, experience, professionalism, integrity and her commitment to community,” Camacho wrote in his nomination form.

“I believe she exemplifies courage, strength and vision through her accomplishments working at the college and in the community she serves,” Hernandez wrote.

MORE

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.

Dreyfuss, who retires on June 30, has served Rio Hondo College for more than 30 years, starting in 1987. She started as a senior accountant and worked her way up to the leadership post. She was appointed permanently to the post in 2013 after a brief time as the college's interim leader.

During her service, she helmed a \$250 million construction program that remade the aging hilltop campus into a modern institution, as well as establishing three regional education centers to serve students close to their homes.

Dreyfuss, who holds an MBA from the University of La Verne, is an immigrant from Taiwan who has drawn on her experiences to inspire students to achieve their dreams. She has also served as an adjunct instructor at Rio Hondo College and other institutions.

She is a member of Soroptimist International of Whittier, Soroptimist International of South El Monte and El Monte, L.A. County Fourth District Consolidated Oversight Board, Los Angeles Orange Regional Consortia, the Whittier Historical Association, the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officers and the American Association of University Women. She serves as vice chair of the City of Whittier's Sister City Committee and senior advisor to the L.A. Positive Chinese Association.

Dreyfuss has been praised from many fronts for guarding Rio Hondo College's finances through the Great Recession, ensuring stability even when other institutions struggled, and increased student graduation, completion and transfer rates during her tenure as superintendent/president.

"We are immensely thankful to President Dreyfuss for her consistent, passionate and innovative work to strengthen and promote Rio Hondo College," Board of Trustees President Gary Mendez said. "I offer my heartfelt congratulations for this much-deserved honor."

PHOTO

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