



# START RIO...GO ANYWHERE

## MEDIA ADVISORY

**3600 Workman Mill Road / Whittier, CA 90601**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **Rio Hondo College Celebrates Graduation of Third Cohort of Tesla START Technician Students**

**WHAT:** Rio Hondo College will celebrate the graduation of 11 new Tesla START technicians, the third cohort to graduate since the Whittier-based College became the globally recognized innovative car company's second training partner in 2018. The new START program graduates, who have already been placed at Tesla service centers in Buena Park, Burbank, Costa Mesa, Pomona and San Diego, join 26 graduates of cohorts one and two.

**WHEN:** Noon Wednesday, April 24

**WHERE:** Rio Hondo College, 3600 Workman Mill Road, Whittier

**DETAILS:** The event will begin with a lunch, followed by certificate ceremony that will be attended by Tesla Field Services Director Michael Ojaghian, Tesla Technical Training Director Nana Danso, Tesla Vocational & Trade Program Manager Tony Sciarra, Rio Hondo College START Instructor Timothy Olesijuk, Tesla NAMR Center Service Supervisor Jeff Dickman, START & Service Programs Recruiter Sarah Budriunas and Rio Hondo College Professor John Frala, who also serves as an assistant START instructor.

**STUDENT PLACEMENTS:** Darren Kusmoto, Buena Park; Eli Romero, Buena Park; Erik Verdayes, Costa Mesa; Grant Byers, Costa Mesa, Jain Yu Mai, Pomona; Jorge Padilla, Burbank, Josh Alcantar, Pomona; Julio Amaya, Burbank, Octavio Ortiz, Pomona; Phil Timm, San Diego-Miramar, and Trong Dang, Pomona.

**PHOTOS:** Students in Rio Hondo College's third Tesla cohort conduct diagnostics.

*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](http://www.riohondo.edu).*