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Rio Hondo College Foundation's 'A Taste of Rio' Expected to Draw Over 350 Guests for Student Support Event

WHITTIER – Rio Hondo College Foundation's wildly popular "A Taste of Rio" evening of wine, beer and food tasting – set for **6 p.m. Friday, April 28** – is expected to draw more than 350 guests to sample cuisine from local restaurants as well as select libations, entertainment and scores of prize drawings.

The Rio Hondo College Foundation is an independent nonprofit that raises funds to promote student success at Rio Hondo College, which is gaining a reputation for its innovative and proactive approach to providing students with support as they pursue college and career goals.

" 'A Taste of Rio' has become a signature event for Rio Hondo College and the Foundation – it celebrates our community and provides an amazing backdrop for our supporters to gather and have a lot of fun," Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss said. "And it all happens while giving to a great cause – our students!"

The event began in 2012, but was replaced by the College's 50th anniversary gala in 2013 before resuming in 2014. Since then, each succeeding year has brought a significant leap in participation and in funds raised for students.

"It's incredibly rewarding to be able to contribute so significantly to Rio Hondo College's community-driven mission," Foundation Executive Director Howard Kummerman said. "Our growing participation from across the community as well as from faculty and staff speaks volumes about the support Rio Hondo College receives."

Each year, the event grows. In 2016, organizers expanded the number of restaurants, added new tastings of wine, craft beer and spirits and included 60 compelling drawing prizes.

Registration and information can be found at www.riohondo.edu/a-taste-of-rio/ or (562) 908-3476.

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.

This year, the event will feature about 20 local restaurants, including Portsmouth Oyster Bar, Fiesta Adobo, Clearman's Steak and Stein, Simply Southern Cuisine, Setá Dine-Lounge, Herach and Ara Catering, California Grill, Doubletree by Hilton Whittier, Tepeyac Restaurant and Tequila Sports Bar, Forkin' Good Café, Frantone's Pizza and Spaghetti Villa, Auntie's Bakery and Café, Lift Coffee Roasters, Juan Great Fiesta, Zapien's Salsa Grill and Taqueria, Sodexo, La Costa Fine Mexican and The Green Leaf Thai Cuisine.

Live music by Trio Nacimiento will add to the atmosphere.

Guests will vie for more than 120 opportunity drawing prizes – doubling those offered in 2016.

“You can actually sense the excitement across the campus as the event nears,” Board of Trustees President Norma Edith Garcia said. “It’s become more than a scholarship event – it’s become a way for supporters of the College to gather and reconnect each year, and to celebrate our shared vision for what we can accomplish together.”

Garcia commended foundation members for creating the event, and expressed appreciation to all those participating for their commitment to Rio Hondo College.

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