



START RIO...GO ANYWHERE

MEDIA RELEASE

3600 Workman Mill Road / Whittier, CA 90601

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
RELEASE DATE: **July 13, 2018**

CONTACT: Ruthie Retana
(562) 463-3145

Summer Bridge Program Guides Hundreds of Incoming Rio Hondo College Students

WHITTIER – A group of incoming students seated around a long table in the Rio Hondo College’s Campus Inn called out advice they have received during their two-week Summer Bridge orientation:

“Don’t be afraid to try new things,” said one student.

“It’s up to you – if you like something, just keep doing it,” shared another.

“Even classes you don’t like teach you something,” another added.

The discussion, led by two student mentors, was one of several designed to help the 150 incoming students attending the first of three Rio Hondo College Summer Bridge sessions focus on how to get the most from their college experience.

The gatherings are a key element of the eight-day Summer Bridge program, which includes presentations from panels of students, faculty and deans, math and English workshops, a campus tour, scavenger hunt and other activities.

Summer Bridge sessions are highly popular – by the end of May, more than 1,000 students applied for the 450 slots available at the three sessions.

Katherine Christopherson, a 2018 La Serna High School graduate, said she chose Rio Hondo College because she wanted to be prepared before starting a four-year university. Summer Bridge has helped her start that journey.

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.

“I feel like I’ve learned to open my window and to branch out and get out of my comfort zone, because I came with a very strict mindset for what I wanted to do. I’ve learned it’s more important to follow your journey,” said Christopherson, who plans to study child development. “It’s not just getting through the program, but actually fulfilling what you want to do.”

Mountain View High School graduate Hadasa Silva said she is the first in her family to attend college. A counselor suggested she take Summer Bridge to get a head start on registration for classes.

“I got a really broad understanding of how this College in particular works. You don’t know. You’re just a freshman. Nothing really makes sense because high school is a lot more different than college,” said Silva, who wants to study 3-D animation. “I think I got an understanding of what it’s actually supposed to be like.”

Abraham Garcia, a Sierra Vista High School graduate, said he chose Rio Hondo College because college is an uncharted area for his family.

“I’m kind of scared of college so I wanted an easy transition from high school to college. I’m the first generation, so I don’t really know where to start. And Rio Hondo has been helping me a lot,” said Garcia, who wants to be an electrical engineer.

Through Summer Bridge, he also joined Rio Hondo College’s *Avance* program, which guides students throughout their first year, offering a dedicated faculty/staff support network and enhanced Counseling and First-Year Seminar courses to help with study and college success skills in addition to exploration and field experiences in a broad academic discipline area in order to decide their specific chosen majors.

Rio Hondo College student Alex Lopez said this is her second year as one of the program’s 10 mentors – a task she chose after going through the program herself.

“I love helping the students and I love giving them the information they needed,” said Lopez, who is studying sociology and anthropology with plans to transfer to a four-year college. “I think this really gives me an idea of what I want for my future, because I feel like I would want to work with students.”

The second Summer Bridge session runs from Monday, July 16 through Thursday, July 26. The third session runs from Monday, July 30 through Thursday, Aug. 9. Rio Hondo College’s fall classes commence Saturday, Aug. 18. Fall registration began Monday, July 9.

PHOTOS

RHC_Bridge_1: Incoming first-year Rio Hondo College students make friends, learn about support services, improve basic skills placement and receive priority registration during Summer Bridge orientation.

RHC_Bridge_2: Panelists outline expectations for 150 incoming first-year students during the first of three Rio Hondo College Summer Bridge orientation sessions.