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## MEDIA RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### ***Rio Hondo Educational Center at Pico Rivera Provides Community with Convenient Access to College Courses***

**PICO RIVERA** – Rio Hondo College will provide Pico Rivera residents with convenient access to 27 course offerings this fall through the College’s newest regional educational center, a cluster of recently renovated buildings that feature state-of-the-art classroom technology.

Local, state and national representatives will help College leaders celebrate the opening of the Rio Hondo Educational Center at Pico Rivera, created in partnership with El Rancho Unified School District, during a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 4 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 11.

“We are thrilled to be able to provide this campus of convenience for the Pico Rivera community,” Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss said. “This new center reflects our deep and unwavering commitment to ensuring the dream of higher education is fully accessible to all those who desire it.”

The new center – the third regional campus created by Rio Hondo College since 2010 – will provide 27 courses starting in the fall 2016 semester, which runs from Aug. 20 to Dec. 10.

Available classes include Elementary Algebra, Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, College Composition and Research, Career Exploration and Life Planning, Public Speaking, Creative Writing, History of Rock and Roll, Introduction to Sociology, Spanish 1 and Computers Unlimited.

College officials selected the courses, which include evening classes, after El Rancho Unified School District conducted a survey of community members about their needs.

Surging interest has already filled an Intermediate Algebra course and a section of the College Composition and Research course.

Rio Hondo College and El Rancho Unified launched efforts to create the center in summer 2015. They agreed to locate the center at 9426 Marjorie St., in buildings formerly used by the school district’s adult school. The site is across the street from El Rancho High School.

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

Preparation for the opening included a \$2.5 million remodeling of the 27,750-square-foot educational center to add state-of-the-art technology to six classrooms, create a computer lab and student study room. The center also offers assessment and counseling offices and an administration building, allowing students to meet with counselors and sign up for classes on site. Students may also review class schedules at [www.riohondo.edu/picorivera/](http://www.riohondo.edu/picorivera/).

The site includes 1.3 acres of parking and shaded outdoor gathering areas.

The ribbon-cutting ceremony will feature remarks from Rio Hondo College Superintendent/President Teresa Dreyfuss, Board of Trustees President Mary Ann Pacheco, Trustee Vicky Santana and Student Trustee Brandon Pablo Leon; El Rancho Unified School District Superintendent Martin Galindo and Board of Education President Aurora Villon; U.S. Rep. Linda Sanchez, state Sen. Tony Mendoza, L.A. County Supervisor Hilda Solis and Pico Rivera Mayor David Armenta.

“Our goal is to ensure that all members of the Rio Hondo College community have local access to a rich variety of college courses, so they can pursue the educational path and career goals that drive their passion,” Pacheco said.

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