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## MEDIA RELEASE

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### ***Rio Hondo College Trustees Santana, Mendez to Take Oaths***

**WHITTIER** – Newly re-elected trustees Vicky Santana and Gary Mendez will be sworn into office at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9 at the Rio Hondo College Board Room, followed by a festive reception at 6 p.m.

“I look forward to continuing to work together with our Board of Trustees, who are committed and dedicated to the success of our diverse students and communities,” Superintendent-President Teresa Dreyfuss said.

Santana, the Board’s current Vice President, was re-elected to her second term in November. She represents Trustee Area 2, which serves Pico Rivera and parts of Whittier.

Santana is a manager for the Los Angeles County Probation Department. She previously worked as a senior justice deputy for then-L.A. County Supervisor Gloria Molina. Santana earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology from Whittier College and a master’s degree in public policy from Harvard University.

Santana is an ardent champion of equity programs designed to ensure all students have equal opportunity to succeed at Rio Hondo College.

“Our role at Rio Hondo is critical to helping the children of this community to find their paths to their future,” Santana said. “We provide an avenue for achievement that can propel them to realize their dreams, and it’s a task I’m proud to help lead.”

Mendez, who was first elected to the Board in 1999, ran unopposed in the November election. This is his fourth re-election. He represents Trustee Area 4, which includes Los Nietos and Santa Fe Springs, South Whittier and north Norwalk.

Mendez is president and CEO of Urban Strategies West, a governmental, public and political affairs firm. He is a former assistant to U.S. Rep. Grace Napolitano. He earned an associate’s degree in political science and paralegal studies from Rio Hondo College and a bachelor’s degree in government from California State University, Sacramento.

Mendez is passionate about supporting the community’s veterans and led an effort to create a veterans memorial at Rio Hondo College.

“I’m proud to be returning to the Rio Hondo College Board of Trustees,” Mendez said. “Rio Hondo provided me with the support I needed during my educational journey and I consider it my greatest privilege to ensure it continues to play an important role for students across our community.”

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*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 associate 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).*