



November 12, 2024

Dear Río Hondo College Community:

Last week, many teenagers and college students of color reported being among those who received racist text messages. I want to reassure our Río Hondo College students and community that we are aware of the racist and hostile texts that are being sent to students nationwide. These remarks are unacceptable, and collectively as an institution, we rebuke this offensive and threatening rhetoric. Let me be clear: hate speech, harassment, and discrimination in any form are unacceptable, and we condemn them in the strongest terms. As an institution committed to anti-racism, we reaffirm our mission to build a diverse and welcoming campus where all individuals can learn and grow without fear. Our campus is and will remain a safe and inclusive space for everyone – that is the core of our mission.

Local and federal authorities, including the FBI, are investigating this matter and urge anyone who received these messages to contact the authorities.

At Río Hondo College, together, we stand with you and provide various services to help you succeed. If you have been a victim of a hate incident, the following are some steps to take:

- If you are in immediate danger or a crime is being committed, please call 911. Questions can be directed to our Police and Campus Safety Department at (562) 908-3490.
- For support, students can access free virtual health and well-being services via TimelyCare by calling (833) 4-Timely or downloading the app.
- Staff can access support by contacting Telus Health at www.lifeworks.com or (877) 234-5151.

Río Hondo College is a safe space for our valued students, and we are collectively committed to ensuring that it remains a sanctuary of learning and growth.

Sincerely,

Dr. Marilyn Flores

Superintendent/President

Río Hondo College Mission Statement:

Río Hondo College is an educational and community partner committed to advancing social justice and equity as an anti-racist institution that collectively invest in all students' academic and career pathways that lead to attainment of degree, certificate, transfer and lifelong-learning goals.