

\$1.3 million Rio Hondo College satellite campus coming to Pico Rivera

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The conceptual design of the Rio Hondo College Educational Center in Pico Rivera, shown from the west, specifically plans for a shaded quad area for students and upgraded buildings. (Courtesy of Rio Hondo College)

By [Sandra Molina](#)

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PICO RIVERA >> Rio Hondo College has partnered with El Rancho Unified School District to bring an education center to Pico Rivera in time for fall 2016. District and college officials agreed that the center will bring higher education closer to home for thousands.

“Our mission at Rio Hondo is to support our community by providing access to college education opportunities,” said Rio Hondo President Teresa Dreyfuss. “These centers are bringing that mission closer to home across our service area.”

The planned \$1.3 million education center will be the third satellite campus established by Rio Hondo in the past five years. They circle the college, with Pico Rivera to the southwest, El Monte to the north, and South Whittier to the east.

The Pico Rivera site will inhabit a dormant space in the district — its former adult school at 9426 Marjorie St. — ideally situated across the street from El Rancho High School.



A conceptual design gives a street view of the proposed Rio Hondo College Educational Center in Pico Rivera. The site will offer 21st century classroom technology in six classrooms. (Courtesy of Rio Hondo College)

The college will upgrade seven buildings, spanning 6,720 square feet, to create a “collegiate identity” and integrate 21st century learning tools into six classrooms and an office, officials said. There also will be a shaded campus quad and 1.3 acres of parking.

ERUSD Board President Aurora Villon called the district’s affiliation with the college another step in making El Rancho “a district second to none,” and ensuring its students define what it is to be 21st century students.

“The satellite campus will increase the accessibility our students and the community have to a higher education and professional development,” she said. “We look forward to a robust course offering that will complement our curriculum and give students the opportunity to earn college credit.”

Rio Hondo began planning its satellite expansion in 2004, when voters passed Measure A, a facilities bond for upgrading college facilities. The South Whittier Education Center opened in 2010, and the El Monte Education Center opened in 2013.

“It’s highly rewarding to know that by creating campuses of convenience, we’re also delivering the promise of a higher education to a larger share of our community,” said Rio Hondo Board of Trustees President Madeline Shapiro. Board Vice President Vicky Santana, whose district includes Pico Rivera, also lauded the center’s convenience. “We will transform a closed facility into a thriving educational facility, (while making it) convenient for students who are juggling multiple responsibilities to maintain their educational goals despite challenges with time or transportation,” she said.