The Rio Hondo Region Adult Education Consortium (RHRAEC) continues to be very grateful to the State Legislators, California Department of Education, the Community College Chancellor’s Office and CAEP, for the continued support of adult students and as career training and educational providers.

The RHRAEC, is a five-member consortium. The member agencies are: El Monte Rosemead Adult School (EMRAS), El Rancho Adult School (ERAS), Rio Hondo community College (RHCC), Tri-Cities Regional Occupational Programs (TCROP), and Whittier Union Adult School (WUSD). The consortium member agencies currently serve over 11,425 multicultural and diverse population of adult students. The member agencies continue to be dedicated and committed to serving the adult students in achieving their career and educational goals.

As the pandemic has changed the world we live in it also changed the daily part of the member agencies of the consortium. The member agencies have all gone above and beyond to ensure not only adult students continue to be served but have restructured education in a very non-traditional way. The member agencies have gone from completely online, to hybrid model, to in-person and hybrid. CTE (Career & Technical Education) proved to be an enormous challenge, hands-on face-to-face being one of the most challenging. Virtual classrooms and meetings are now part of how business is conducted. Vaccinating, non-vaccinated, mask, no masks, has created an organized chaos to meet all government and district guidelines. All while losing teachers, staff, administration and adult students. RHRAEC continues to meet each challenge to provide the best possible venue for education, transitioning to higher education and career training in high demand employment.

Each member agency provides two voting member agencies to representing the Consortium. The Consortium holds monthly public meetings. During those meetings member agencies participate in the needs of the consortium, timely reporting, upcoming events, shared information, strategies, and addressing issues. Over the past year, the consortium has attended webinars, gathered and held meetings to analyze data, and developed the 3-year plan. Member agencies have actively been involved sharing and gathering input from partners to be inclusive of community and employer needs.

The Consortium analyzed data and research identified adult student with barriers: ELL, Low Literacy, Low income, and long term unemployment. It also identified the need for tracking CTE adult students transitioning to postsecondary. A system to capture transitioning adult students will be developed looping through all member agencies. Adult students who earn a Postsecondary Credential will be captured through CASAS TE. First-time adult students participating in ESL, ABE, and/or ASE will be counted through the Adult Education Dashboard. The Adult Education Dashboard and TopsPro will be used to capture adult students who became employed in the 2nd Quarter after their exit. The data only provides information of those with Social Security numbers. It does not capture self-employed or those enlisted in the military. A system to track the self-employed and those enlisted in the military, will also be developed. Workshops, bi-lingual classes, supportive serves, life-skills workshops, and counselors are all part of the member agencies are plan for the next three years. Each member agency has agreed to increase percentages each year of adult students served. The goal is to achieve pre-pandemic numbers.

Through research, meetings, and needs assessment the member agencies have identified Low-Literacy as the over-reaching goal for the next three years. The member agencies are committed to providing career training, education, and support to the community and identified the underserved. All member agencies are continuing and/or adopting services to immigrants and the homeless. The member agencies are masters at thinking outside the box to help adult students to reach their goals.

The member agencies have agreed using the 2019-2020 data. The targets for 2022-2025 using 2019-2020 actuals to increase by the following percentage per year: 2022-2023 40%, 2023-2024 55% and 2024-2025 70%. Supporting activities will include annual job alike meetings, hiring and training highly qualified staff and teachers, in-depth data meetings to assist effectiveness and best practices in reaching goals. Member agencies will also share best practices and collaborate with other member agencies to reach the projected target goals.

Member agencies will analyze their budgets against data in assessing current programs. Member agencies will adjust and priorities needs for classes serving Low-Literacy. Reviewing current personnel and room locations. Member agencies will appropriate the most cost efficient marketing, reaching their target student population. As always, member agencies will use all resources to leverage funds to secure positive outcomes. Member agencies are frugal and prudent in use of their allocation. Through all of the challenges faced by this consortium, student success is paramount.