

Putting Students First: *Expanding Access through Innovative Strategies*



Dr. Chris Bustamante, President

Rio Salado
College 

The State of Higher Education Today



Higher Ed Headlines



▶ Corinthian Closes for Good

Inside Higher Ed, April 27, 2015

▶ More Questions on Graduation Rates

Inside Higher Ed, July 8, 2015

▶ Why are so many college students failing to gain job skills before graduation?

Washington Post, Jan. 26, 2015

▶ Zeroed Out in Arizona

Inside Higher Ed, March 12, 2015

Higher Education Today

- Completion Goal
- Skills Gap
- Increasing Regulations & Accountability
- Student Debt
- Diminishing Resources
- Increasing Numbers of Adult Learners
- Staying Relevant

Sources: *Trustee Quarterly*, Spring 2014
Recovery, Georgetown Report, 2013
Aspen Institute, 2015
Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, 2013
Post-traditional Learners and the Transformation of Postsecondary Education, ACE, Jan. 2013



Alaska Snapshot

Postsecondary Environment

- Ranks 47th in nation for adults ages 25-34 with a bachelor's degree or higher
- 36% of Alaskans earn an academic degree after high school
- Only one in ten 9th graders will graduate from college
- Alaskan students enrolled in 2-year programs are less than half as likely to return for their second year when compared to similar students nationwide



Alaska Snapshot



Changing Demographics

- Aging Population
- Over the next 15 years, Alaska will experience a growth rate of 38% as compared to the national rate of 29%

Degree Attainment Gap

- By 2020, 66% of jobs in Alaska will require postsecondary education. Represents a 19% gap.
- Nearly 112,000 Alaskans age 25-64 have some college, no degree

Sources: *Alaska Postsecondary Access and Completion Program Inventory*, January 2015
National Center for Higher Education Management (NCHEMS)
American Community Survey, U.S. Census Bureau, 2008-2012
A Stronger Nation through Higher Education, Lumina, April 2015



Rio Salado College: *Established to serve non-traditional students*



Rio Salado College: A non-traditional college in a traditional system



Rio Salado College



College Profile

- 60,00 students served annually
- 30,000+ students online
- Largest public online community college in the U.S.

Student Profile

- 60% female
- Average age – 29
- More than 40% are age 30+

Major Programs

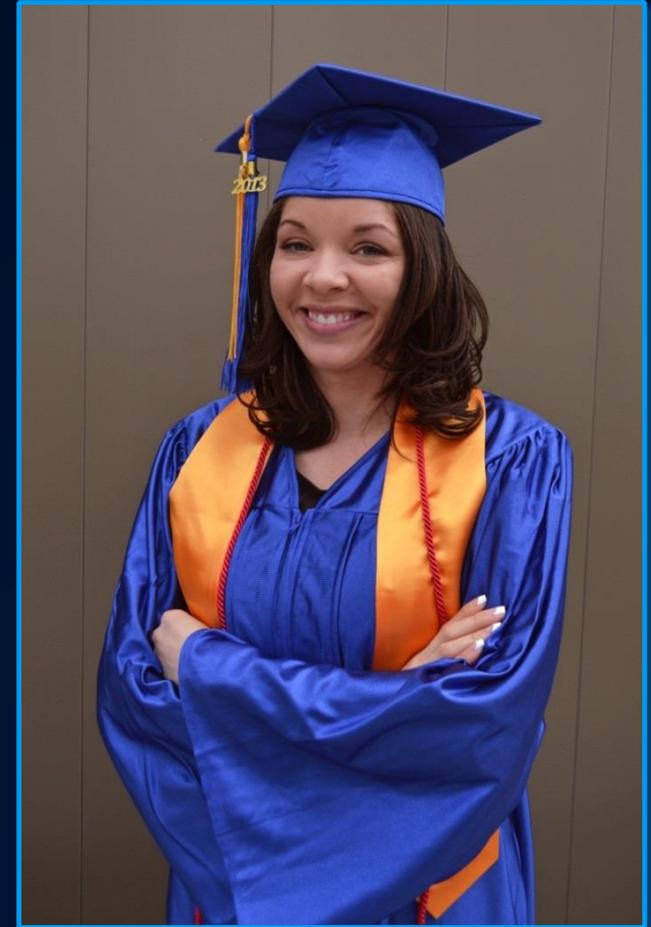
- ▶ Corporate & Business Partnerships
- ▶ Early College Initiatives
- ▶ Incarcerated Re-Entry
- ▶ Military & Veterans
- ▶ Adult Basic Education
- ▶ Teacher Education (Post-Bacc)
- ▶ Online



Online Students

“I thought that my late start would prove too great an obstacle. What I have earned is more than a degree – it is a milestone.”

Sylicia McPhea
RSC Graduate



Innovations to Support Online Learners

Proprietary LMS: Rio Learn

- One Course, Many Sections
- Monday Start Dates
- RioPACE
- RioCompass

24/7 Student Services



Instructional Model

- 23 Residential & 1,500 Adjunct Faculty
- Extensive Adjunct Onboarding & Orientation
- Master Course
 - One-Course, many-sections model
 - Monday starts throughout the year
 - Never cancel a class



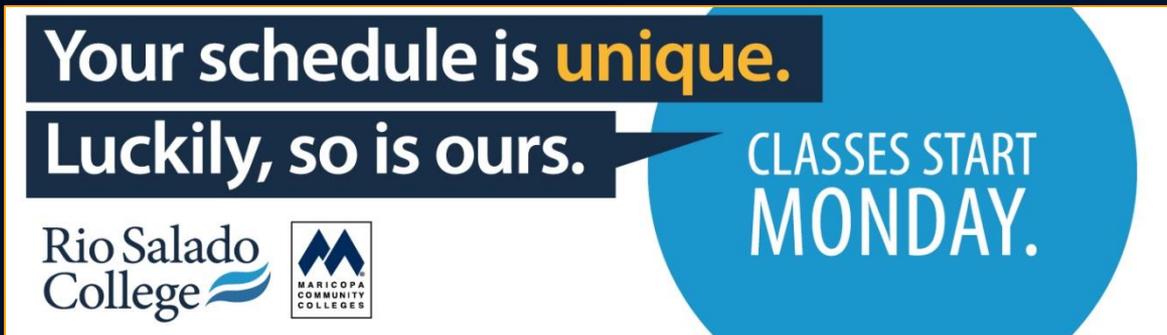
Marketing and Outreach



I'M DOING IT ~~FOR MYSELF~~ *my family*

Rio Salado College 

The advertisement shows a smiling male graduate in a blue cap and gown holding a young boy and a baby. Hand-drawn icons include a graduation cap, a Wi-Fi symbol, a heart, a mouse cursor, and a plus sign.



Your schedule is **unique.**
Luckily, so is ours.

CLASSES START MONDAY.

Rio Salado College 

The advertisement features a blue speech bubble containing the text 'CLASSES START MONDAY.' The Rio Salado College and Maricopa Community Colleges logos are at the bottom left.



~~COLLEGE IS EXPENSIVE~~ *\$84 per credit hr.*

Rio Salado College 

The advertisement shows a female graduate in a blue cap and gown. Hand-drawn icons include a graduation cap, a Wi-Fi symbol, a scroll, and dollar bills.

- Billboards
- Web Banners
- Radio
- Light Rail
- Print Ads
- Yahoo
- Spotify
- College Vehicles
- Events



Business Model

- Productivity
- Efficiency
- Scalability
- Quality



Higher Education's **Iron Triangle**



Source: *The Iron Triangle: College Presidents Talk about Costs, Access, and Quality*,
National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education and Public Agenda, 2008



Bill Gates Visits Rio



gatesnotes Blog

≡ gatesnotes THE BLOG OF BILL GATES



THE FUTURE OF HIGHER EDUCATION

Online, All Students Sit in the Front Row

BY BILL GATES ON NOVEMBER 18, 2014



SHARE

I went to Arizona earlier this month to see what the college of the future might look like. What I found taking shape is an exciting new era of higher education that will help more students get a great, personalized education at an affordable price.

This future may not always include the lecture halls, dormitories, football teams and other features of the traditional college experience. Instead, the colleges I visited are experimenting with ways for students to get their degrees online, allowing them to take courses anyplace and at any time.

These “colleges without walls,” as they are sometimes called, are at the forefront of the effort to

gatesnotes Video



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Other Recognitions



Top 10 in the World

Named a Top Ten Innovative
Company in Education in the World
Fast Company, 2013

Lumina Foundation

“College without walls uses high-tech
tools to open many more doors”
Focus Magazine, Summer 2011

Great College to Work For

Chronicle of Higher Ed
2012, 2013, 2014

McKinsey & Company

Named Rio as 1 of 8 highly-
productive institutions in the U.S.
Winning by Degrees, 2011

The Future of Higher Education



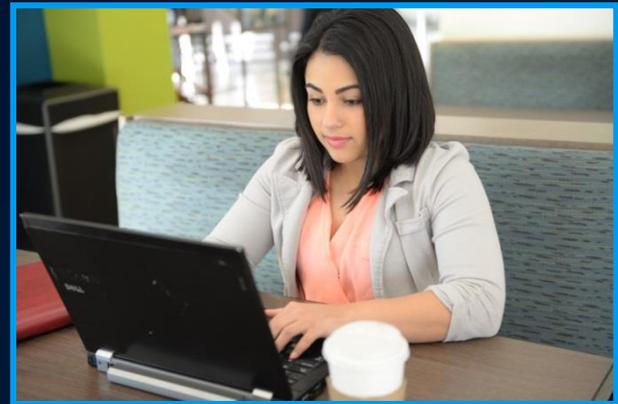
Online Learning

- More than 7 million students online
- One in three students taking at least one online class
- Online growth outpaces traditional enrollment growth



Future of Higher Education

- Leveraging Technology to Scale
- Next Generation Learning Models
- Learning Communities
- Entrepreneurial Initiatives
- Regionalization



Leveraging Partnerships

- Public & Private Higher Education Institutions
- Business & Industry
- Vendors



Credit for Prior Learning Students:

- 2.5 times more likely to persist
- 65% more likely to earn a degree
- Accelerate their time to completion



Key Strategies for Change

- Clear, coherent academic and career pathways
- Stackable credentials based on clearly defined competencies
- Alignment of learning across education sectors
- Transparency and accountability



Student-centric Solutions

“I wanted to be a role model for my children and to prove that as long as you persevere, are patient, and put in the work, you can succeed.”



Patrick Valenzuela, RSC Graduate



Are you prepared to meet the
higher education needs of Alaska
residents now and into the future?



Thank you!

