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## MEDIA ADVISORY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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### **More than 1,000 Attend Rio Hondo College Fire Academy Graduation Ceremonies**

*Close to 70 Firefighters receive certificates with more than half being hired*

WHITTIER, CA – The Rio Hondo College Fire Academy graduated 67 cadets in uniform at the fire academy's headquarters in Santa Fe Springs during back-to-back weekend ceremonies on May 3 and April 26.

The Wildland Fire Academy, Class 16 graduated 46 firefighters on May 3, with one of the cadets being female. The Basic Fire Academy, Class 82 graduated 21 firefighters on April 26, with two of the cadets being female. Sixteen of the Wildland firefighters have already reported for jobs in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, Lake Tahoe and Wyoming. The other thirty are being hired for duty this week with Crew 77 Roadrunners, assigned to the US Forest and the Angeles National Forest.

“We are proud of our cadets for not only successfully graduating and completing the fire academy curriculum and training, but for also securing positions as firefighters,” said Wildland and Fire Coordinator Tracy Rickman. “Many of them being hired and reporting to duty before and shortly after graduation.”



**Photo Caption:** Basic Fire Academy, Class 82 Ceremony on April 26. Standing from left to right: Peter Le holding the painting; Joshua Guerrero at the podium, and Alfonso Maldonado, Engineer from the Long Beach Fire Department and Instructor at Rio Hondo College. Sitting behind the podium from left to right: Rio Hondo College Dean of Public Safety Dr. Ygnacio “Nash” Flores and Wildland and Fire Coordinator Tracy Rickman.

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).