



Meet Rio's New Interim President!

Q: WHAT IS RIO'S VISION FOR STUDENT SUCCESS?

Rio Salado believes every student deserves access to an affordable, high-quality college education. The Rio difference is how we transform the student learning experience. We know today's students are busy! To help meet their needs, we offer certificate and degree programs both online and in-person because we ultimately want our students to be successful.

Q: WHAT DO PEOPLE FIND MOST SURPRISING ABOUT RIO SALADO COLLEGE?

I think people are amazed when they find out how many students we have! Last year, Rio served more than 64,000 credit and non-credit students, including 7,000 high school students earning college credits through dual enrollment.

Q: WHAT DO YOU CONSIDER TO BE POINTS OF PRIDE FOR RIO SALADO?

I'm proud of our entire team of Rio Salado employees who are dedicated to student success. Rio has 1,200 adjunct and 25 residential faculty members who are exceptional. Likewise, our team of academic advisors is highly-trained and always ready to provide support. Our helpdesks operate on a 24/7 basis to provide our students with round-the-clock support.

Q: WHAT DYNAMIC INITIATIVES DOES RIO SALADO HAVE IN STORE FOR 2010?

Rio Salado is reaching out to a new generation of students through innovative models of higher education that meet their specialized needs, such as the Communiversities @ Surprise. In addition to a second Communiversities in the Town of Queen Creek (see page 18), we are partnering to build the nation's first green learning campus; a Veterans Outreach Center in the East Valley; and several other regional centers that will provide a continuum of educational pathways and services to specialized student populations. Programs and partnerships like these ensure that we will continue to prepare our students for 21st century careers.

Name: Chris Bustamante, Ed.D.

Title: Interim President, Rio Salado College

Education: Doctorate and master's degrees in Educational Leadership from Northern Arizona University. Bustamante also attended Pima Community College and Harvard University. He earned a bachelor's degree in Business Administration/ Finance from the University of Arizona in 1983.