The University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College is pleased to welcome Catherine Clark-Eich, Ph.D., LPC as interim president. Clark comes to Rio after stellar careers in the public and private sectors. University of Rio Grande Board of Trustees Chair Kay Ervin said she is excited to work with Dr. Clark and bring her talents to Rio.

“Dr. Clark has the qualifications needed for an interim president,” Reed said. “We have several exciting projects and plans for Rio in the upcoming year and we are all confident Dr. Clark is ready to lead those efforts. We are excited to have Dr. Clark here at Rio and are working to make her transition into campus as smooth as possible.”

Clark grew up in the Rio Grande area, attending Rio Grande Elementary and graduating from Gallia Academy High School. She has been active in many personal and professional organizations including United Way, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Vaud-Villities Productions, a non-profit performance group, and said she is excited to return to Rio Grande.

“Rio and the community have always been special to me and I am eager to carry on all the wonderful and hard work that has been taking place here over the years. I am especially looking forward to joining forces with the Rio faculty and staff as we advance our commitment to a quality and affordable education in our community,” said Clark.
Alumni from the University of Rio Grande Men’s Soccer Team recently raised funds in support of the Soccer Turf Project. Not only did the group meet their goal, but they were able to collect enough funds to also contribute to Rainbow House, a charity house in Lancashire that offers services to people with disabilities. The fundraiser, hosted by Tom Whittaker ’03, was called the Rio Alumni Welsh Peaks Challenge. This group did not just ask for donations – they made it a challenge and took it upon themselves to embark on something physical. So, the group chose to hike in the Welsh Three Peaks Challenge – which is 17 miles of walking/hiking and 1.5 miles of ascent. The pictures show the group at the top of the peak, and with a donation to the Rainbow House.
Greek Life

- **AMB Foxtrot** – Register at amb5kfoxtrot.com / Event: 7 am Registration / 8 am Race
- **ADE/TKE** – Please RSVP to Carl Huntley, 740-418-5255

**Upcoming Greek Events**

- **Oct. 13** – AMB FOXTROT
- **Oct. 27** – ADE/TKE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

**ASIG & GREEK DONATION** – The Alpha Sigma Phi/Delta Epsilon Alumni recently collected and donated $2,000 for the Men & Women’s Golf Teams at Rio Grande. This was during their annual DCM Garage Rules Open Golf Tournament.

**SIGMA PI/PI SIGMA** – Alumni of Sigma Pi/Pi Sigma got together for the summer!

**ALPHA MU BETA** – Alpha Mu Beta Summer Retreat – 53 Years Strong

**ARCHON** – Mayday Weekend in Jackson, OH
Dr. Robert L. Lawson is an internationally renowned author and speaker in the field of self-development. He is the author of twelve books and has created numerous courses of study for Ohio University students in Chillicothe and Zanesville, Ohio.

His teaching career began at Gallia Academy High School, and from there he continued to teach English at Marshall University, Shawnee State University, Georgetown Junior/Senior High School, and just recently he retired from Chillicothe High School where he spent the past four years helping juniors and seniors transition from high school to college.

He is a 1973 graduate of the University of Rio Grande, and 1978 graduate of Marshall University. Dr. Lawson also holds a doctorate degree from Nova Southeastern University in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Lawson will be addressing students during Founders’ Day 2018.

Q&A with Dr. Lawson

1. What made you choose to pursue a college education at Rio Grande? I was offered a grant in aid and a partial track scholarship to attend Rio. Best decision I ever made.

2. What did Rio offer you besides an education? Fellowship with both students and instructors. I became highly confident in my abilities.

3. Who at Rio made an impact on your life? There were many that had a powerful impact – Arthur Lanham; Dr. Larry Spees; Dr. Ronald Tucceri; Coach Dean B. Rinehart; and Dr. Clyde Evans.

4. What did you learn about yourself during college? I learned you have the ability to accomplish just about anything you set your mind to.

5. Why are you proud to be a Rio Alumnus? I know for a fact that there is no substitute for a powerful education, and I got that at Rio and am incredibly proud of the fact.
I am in the midst of planning for our fall lineup of events including Founders’ Day. As you all now, this is truly a special day in which we honor our founders Nehemiah and Permelia Atwood, while also taking some time to speak to our students in the 100 and 200 level courses. This year, we are honored to have Dr. Robert Lawson ’73 as our speaker for the event on Tuesday, September 11.

I truly hope you consider joining us at the Berry Fine & Performing Arts Center from 10 to 11:15 am. If you can’t make it in person, tune into our Facebook page (University of Rio Grande/Rio Grande Community College) to watch LIVE!

Also that day, is our Annual Alumni Council Meeting & Luncheon, and at 3 pm we will again meet back at Fine Arts for a ceremony for our Class of 2018 Educators’ Hall of Fame and Alumni Award recipients. Those honorees include: Hall of Fame, T. Michael Rhodes and Linda Bauer; Chad Lambert, Distinguished Alumnus; Jessica Lawhon, Atwood Achievement; Ellen Brasel, URG Alumni Award; and Vicki Crabtree, URG Faculty Award. This ceremony will be followed by a reception.

So please join the Rio Grande Alumni Association for these events on September 11. RSVP by Sept. 1 to Delyssa Edwards, 740-245-7431 or dedwards@rio.edu

Founders Day Honorees

Linda Bauer
Mike Rhodes
Chad Lambert
Jessica Lawhon
Ellen Brasel
Vicki Crabtree
The Rio Grande Community College is proud to welcome Joshua Smith and Dr. Jill Neff as the newest members of its Board of Trustees. Vice Chair for the Rio Grande Community College Board of Trustees Bobbi Montgomery said she is excited to have new faces bring their ideas and experience to the team.

“The breadth of experience these two bring will expand the knowledge of our Boards of Trustees. The boards are made up of community members with a variety of educational and career backgrounds, which allows us to connect the main campus and the Centers with our communities,” Montgomery said. “It is an honor to welcome Dr. Neff and Mr. Smith to the Rio family. I am confident their skills and experience will be a great asset to the Boards of Trustees.”

Neff, a community physician with Nationwide Children’s Hospital in Columbus, is returning to Rio after having previously served on the community college board of trustees. She also runs a private practice, sees patients at Hometown Pediatric care in Jackson and serves as the Team Physician for Oak Hill High School Athletics. She completed her undergraduate degree at Berea College in Kentucky and completed her medical education at Ohio University’s College of Osteopathic Medicine where she is now a member of the Core Faculty. Neff is certified in her field through the American Osteopathic Board of Pediatrics and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Smith is the Human Resources Leader at ElectroCraft, Inc. in Gallipolis where he executes the company’s global and local facility HR functions. Originally from Northeastern Ohio, he graduated from the University of Akron with a Bachelor of Science in Human Resources Management and began his career serving multiple roles including customer service lead and safety inspector for Wolff Bros. Supply in Medina, Ohio. Smith has lived in Gallia County since 2010 and is actively involved with community organizations including the Buckeye Hills Stakeholder’s Committee, the Southern Ohio Safety Council, the Gallia County Outreach Center and the Gallia County Snack Pack.

Both Neff and Smith were appointed to the board by Governor John Kasich this spring.

The area around Rio Grande is rich with Welsh history from the thousands of immigrants who settled here beginning in 1818. To celebrate the bicentenary of that first settlement, Cymru Ohio 2018 was held in and around Aberaeron, Wales from June 23-30, 2018. Many Welsh-Americans went over to participate, and the Madog Center for Welsh Studies at Rio was represented by Director Jeanne Jones Jindra and Davis Intern Dan Rowbotham, who is from Llangeitho.

Others from the area that attended the event included Rio Women’s Basketball Coach David Smalley and his wife’s extended family, led by Clyde Evans. The celebration was about connections and keeping communication strong between Wales and Ohio. The organizers collected family stories and published To Ohio and Beyond, which will soon be available for sale in the Madog Center. Contact us at 740-245-7186 for more information.
The University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College has been reaffirmed for accreditation through the Higher Learning Commission with no interim monitoring reports required and no additional reviews or visits outside of the regular cycle.

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Rio Grande, Ohio –The University of Rio Grande and Rio Grande Community College is proud to announce the institution has been reaffirmed for accreditation through the Higher Learning Commission (HLC), which accredits institutions in the North-Central region of the country. Accreditation confirms that the institution is meeting national standards across all academic and support areas such as tutoring, advising, business affairs, finance, etc., to meet the needs of students. Rio President Dr. Michelle Johnston said she is proud of the efforts that have gone into meeting and exceeding HLC criteria.

“We are all so excited to be reaffirmed for accreditation by the HLC. This confirms that we are offering high-quality programs and services to our students and community,” Johnston said. “Everyone worked to make the review a success, and I’m confident we will continue to exceed the HLC’s standards and criteria in the years to come.”

Rio has been accredited through the HLC since 1969 and has been on the organization’s Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP) Pathway since 2004. As part of the process for reaffirmation, an HLC review team visited Rio this past semester to meet with faculty, staff and students and see the campus first-hand. Rio has been approved for full reaffirmation with no interim monitoring reports required and no additional reviews or visits outside of the regular cycle. Associate Provost for Institutional Effectiveness David Lawrence said he is proud of the hard work the faculty and staff have put into meeting the organization’s standards.

“Earning our reaffirmation is exciting because accreditation is a requirement to be able to offer students federal funding through the Pell Grant, student loans and other forms of federal financial aid. Being an accredited institution gives us more opportunities to make earning a degree more affordable for students,” Lawrence said. “Preparing for this visit was a team effort from the entire institution. The requirements span every aspect of higher education, so it was terrific to have everyone dedicating so much time and effort to provide evidence that Rio meets every component of the HLC’s criteria for accreditation.”

The HLC requires institutions who earn full reaffirmation to be reviewed again every ten years. Rio will be required to reapply for reaffirmation again in the 2027-2028 academic year.

Class years ending in an ‘8’ or ‘3’ - You are celebrating a milestone this year, and we want you to come back to Homecoming to commemorate your anniversary!

Here are the class years we would love involvement from! Of course, EVERYONE IS INVITED back - we just plan to do add a little something for these alums!

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<th>Class Year</th>
<th>Reunion Year</th>
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<td>2008 - 10 years</td>
<td>2018 - 30 years</td>
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<td>1993 - 45 years</td>
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If this is your year, make sure your address and contact info is updated so we can send you more details!
RIO REUNION RSVP

Please send in the following form if you plan to join us for Homecoming 2018 and represent your class!

Name: ________________________________  Grad Year: ____________________
Address: ________________________________________________________________
Phone: ________________________________  Email: _____________________________
Birthdate: ______________________________
Spouse Name: __________________________  Rio Graduate?  ☐ Yes  ☐ No  Grad Year: ________________________
☐ I will be attending the Rio Reunion/Homecoming 2018  ☐ I no longer wish to receive the Quarterly Newsletter
☐ I will not be attending the Rio Reunion/Homecoming 2018
☐ I would like to receive the monthly e-newsletter / Email: ________________________________

CLASS NOTES
What news do you wish to share with us? ______________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________
___________________________________________________________________________

SUPPORT
Gifts to Rio are tax-deductible! If you are interested in giving, you can make a check payable to the University of Rio Grande, or make a gift online: www.rio.edu/donate

Website: www.rio.edu/alumni  Facebook: www.facebook.com/RioAlum