

# EOPS/CARE & CalWORKs

## Newsletter

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### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **EOPS/CARE & CalWORKs students represent Saddleback College at the “CalWORKs & FACCC Policy Conference” at the State Capital in Sacramento**
- **Student Advocacy Conference: Engaging, Promoting, Mentoring**

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## EOPS/CARE & CalWORKs Students Represent Saddleback College at the “CalWORKs & FACCC Policy Conference” at the State Capital in Sacramento

In the mist of budget cuts ten EOPS/CARE and CalWORKs student took a trip to Sacramento California and visited the State Capital to advocate for their programs that were in danger of being cut and/or eliminated.

Along with the ten students, Program Coordinator, Dr. Georgina Guy and EOPS program Specialists Lori Parra and Maria Paniagua all attended the CalWORKs Association Partnership with the Faculty Association Advocacy and Policy Conference at the Sate Capitol in Sacramento on February 28<sup>th</sup>-March 2. On day one, students attended a presentation from Chancellor Jack Scott on the topic of

“Advocacy as the Key Survival.”

The day continued as they attended Workshops covering the topics of “Navigating the



Budget Crisis,” “From the Capitol to the Classroom: New Legislation” and “Survival Tools: Learn it today Apply it Tomorrow Advocacy.”

Day two was another busy day as our team listen to Hon-

oring Senate President pro Tem Darrell Steinberg speak on the issues and crisis our state is facing. Students then attended a Legislative Presentation in the Capitol. Students finished their day meeting as a team and gathered their thought before they addressed State Assemblyman Jeff Miller’s representative.

Efren Rangel

## Student Advocacy Conference: Engaging, Promoting, Mentoring



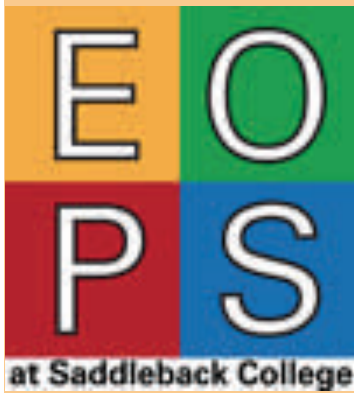
Seven EOPS/CARE students and four EOPS/CARE professionals participated the EOPS Region 8 Student Advocacy Conference on April 24 at the University of California,

Irvine. Michael Flores, Claudia Guillen, Karen Huerta, Coral Shaw, Serrena Huddleston, Christina Huddleston and Vivian Wang represented our campus on a day of learning, networking and growing together.

The conference started out with a motivational keynote and about how to be leaders, mentors and self advocates. speaker. Next, students par

ticipated in workshops where they learned about the history of EOPS programs in the state The day wasn’t just about business, though, students also had a chance to interact with and make friends with students from other community colleges and to become more familiar with the beautiful UCI campus. Our very own Serrena and Christina Huddleston served as panelists for the event.

Orly



facebook

twitter

## EOPS goes live with Facebook and Twitter

Today Facebook and Twitter are the top two social network website in America, “nine out of ten students have a Facebook profile or twitter accounts” as many of the Saddleback College Student Services programs do as well.

Developing a Facebook profile or Twitter account for the EOPS/CARE & CalWORKs will not only benefit the student but the programs as well. Prior to developing a facebook profile or Twitter account, EOPS com-

municated with their students through word of mouth, sending out mailers or handing out flyers, which cost the program hundreds of dollars. Now, because many students have Facebook profiles and/or Twitter accounts students can check their profiles daily, it is easier and more time and cost efficient to post our informational Flyers, dates, or reminders on the EOPS Facebook profile and Twitter account in where students are notified instantly.

Some of the most essential EOPS information that will be delivered to students are reminders such as the 3 counseling contact, priority registration, scholarship opportunities, upcoming events; turkey giveaway, toys-for-tots, end of the year EOPS reception and other information that the EOPS/CARE/ CalWORKs office deems beneficial for students.

Efren Rangel

## 10 TOP EOPS ways to succeed at Saddleback

1. Priority registration
2. Book vouchers
3. Parking permits/bus passes/gas cards
4. School survival kit
5. Textbook loan
6. Individual counseling
7. Academic planning & monitoring
8. Scholarship opportunities
9. Waived CSU/UC application fees
10. One-on-one tutoring

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Student Services Center • SSC 126

## Holiday Cheer Abounds in the EOPS/CARE and the CalWORKs Office

During the months of November and December, the EOPS/CARE/ CalWORKs office offered several uplifting outreach activities to provide holiday cheer to students.

During Thanksgiving week, EOPS collaborated with the Associated Student Government to provide turkey dinners to 27 EOPS student families. These dinners, which included turkeys, canned goods, and grocery store gift certificates were very much appreciated by our students.

On, November 25, 2009,

the EOPS/CARE/ CalWORKs staff offered a Winter Workshop entitled, “Don’t Let the Jingle Bells Turn into Jingle Bills.” This holiday luncheon provided valuable information about budgeting and financial planning to EOPS/ CARE students.

During the week of finals, scantrons and snacks were available for EOPS/CARE/ CalWORKs students to help ease the stress of the end of the semester crunch. A special Day with Santa was held on December 16, 2009, where children of EOPS

students were invited to take a picture with Santa and receive a Toys for Tots toy and a good bag.

The final holiday activity to help students celebrate the upcoming holidays was the Adopt-A-Family program. In conjunction with the Associated Student Government, the EOPS office helped 20 families be adopted by various on-campus groups. These families made wish lists of things they hoped for, and were very grateful to be given these items by the generosity of others.

Kathy Lenney

## EOPS Program Empowers Students to Achieve Academic Success

Amidst shrinking budgets and fewer resources, the EOPS program is still offering strong, supportive counseling services to students. When students first begin with EOPS, they are assisted with identifying goals and developing an academic plan towards their academic endeavor. Students complete three counseling contacts each semester which keeps them on track and moving towards their goals. Students are held accountable to their academic goals, and with support, accomplish the dreams they create for themselves.

This spring, twenty-seven students were on Saddleback College's Dean's list. Over twenty students graduated from Saddleback College, and transferred to many prestigious four year universities including: UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, UCLA, UC San Diego, Biola University and San Diego State.

Many EOPS students feel that the EOPS program has been very

beneficial to them. One such student, Kamran Forghani, graduated from Saddleback College in May, 2009 and transferred to UC Berkeley. He states, "Saddleback College's EOPS program benefited me in many different ways. The guidance and support that the counselors provided me with was



priceless. Yes, the book vouchers and parking pass were extremely helpful, but their willingness to help me in any situation was, in my opinion, the most beneficial to me."

Kamran is majoring in Business Administration at the Haas School of Business. When he graduates

from Berkeley, he would like to give back to society. He plans to go to law school and help support student veterans and their families.

Lawrence Liao is another former EOPS student who feels the EOPS program helped him to reach his personal and academic goals. He states, "the most helpful aspect of the EOPS counseling was that they showed me what I needed to do to accomplish my goals." This fall, he is attending San Diego State as a finance major. Lawrence states, "one of the most beneficial parts of the EOPS program was definitely the counseling. It helped me to stay on course throughout my schooling at Saddleback College."

Kathy Lenny

## Scarce in EOPS book vouchers bring EOPS Students to form long lines.

The 2009-2010 academic year will leave more EOPS students without book vouchers. Many of our students depend on the assistance of the EOPS book vouchers to attend school, "if I can't buy the books then I can't pass my classes." Due to a budget reduction the EOPS program was forced to reduce the book voucher amount and limit the number of book vouchers offered to students.

In Pervious years all EOPS stu-



dent who meet the requirements of the EOPS program received book voucher. This year more than 20% of EOPS student were left without book vouchers in the

fall 2009 semester and an estimated 50% of EOPS student will be left without book vouchers for the spring 2010 semester. Due to the reductions the EOPS office was forced to distribute the book vouchers on a first come first serve manner. EOPS students were left with no other option but to stand in line for their EOPS book voucher.

Efren Rangel

## EOPS/CARE/CalWORKs Leaders



Name: **Kimberly N.**

Area of Study: **Psychology**

Expected Degree Completion: **2010**

Kimberly N. was recognized in the Portraits of Success 2008

### **On the Barriers or Challenges Faced:**

“ I started to rebuild my life in 2004, when my husband moved out, taking everything with him when I was away from the home one afternoon... My husband ahs refused to pay child support or provide any financial documents to complete our divorce. I have been through some serious safety issues and have turned to CalWORKs DASU Domestic Violence Department for help...After going through all the legal and safety issues while raising our daughter alone I was worn out and stressed out...I asked CalWORKs to help me get to school as I knew that I had to start from the beginning...I was grated to opportunity to go to school and pursue an AA Degree in Psychology and BA in Psychology and continue to get support form them.”

### **On How attending a community college made a difference in your life:**

“Since I was given the opportunity to go back to school ‘I feel wonderful about myself!’ The Special Services Department at Saddleback college has a very knowledgeable and helpful ground of people who have provided me with the services I need to able to hear my professors and be successful. Building a new career for myself during this time in my life is an awesome opportunity which I am grateful to have...”

### **The Community College CalWORKs Program has aid goal achievement by:**

“...The EOPS and CalWORKs staff has offered educational and goal oriented guidance, financial aid and friendship... I am a firm believer in ‘surrounding yourself with support which is the key to success at every level of your life and career’ ...”

### **Goals for the next five years:**

“I want to complete my AA in Psychology and continue with my education so I can get my BA in Psychology. I want to get my Masters in Marriage and Family Therapy with a specialization in Sign language communication...I will be first generation degree earner in my family and started this journey with a GED and not a dime to my name.”

## EOPS/CARE/CalWORKs Leaders

Name: **Michael Bertand**

Area of Study: **Geology**

Expected Degree Completion: **2010**



I have two children, Colby who is ten years old and Isabella who just turned nine. I am currently working on my third year here at Saddleback college, next fall I am planning on transferring to Cal State Fullerton where I plan on pursuing a major in mathematics with a minor in environmental science. The goal I have in mind is to pursue a career in teaching after completing my degree.

In my kitchen at home hanging on my wall is an old Chinese Hexagram that from time to time I read just to remind me that when life brings some form of chaos my way that there is a way of turning that chaos into positive energy, It states the following...

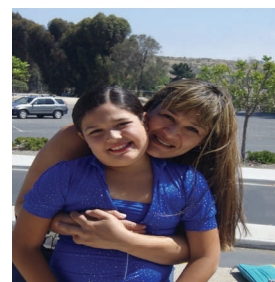
### Chaos

*Where great Dreams Begin Before a great vision can become reality there may be difficulty. Before a person begins a great endeavor, they may encounter chaos. As a new plant breaks the ground with great difficulty, foreshadowing the huge tree, so must we sometimes push against difficulty in bring forth or dreams.*

Name: **Lissette Ortega**

Area of Study: **Nursing**

Expected Degree Completion: **2009**



Growing up I always wanted to be a nurse. Unfortunately, I never had the guidance to show me how to make my dream a reality and to say the truth I never believed I was “smart enough” to make my dream come true. Life happened and I ‘m a single mother raising two wonderful children.

Today with the support of my family and the guidance of Saddleback College’s CARE / Cal-Works counselor, I recently transferred to West Coast University to start working on my BSN. My graduation date is set for April 2012. However, I am not stopping there. I plan to go straight to Cal State Fullerton to obtain my MSN shortly after.

*George Eliot (1819 – 1880) once said “It's never too late to be who you might have been.*



## Extended Opportunity Program and Services

Saddleback College is committed to the outreach, success, and retention of college students. The EOPS Program is designed to assist students from educational and socioeconomic disadvantaged backgrounds. The goals of the EOPS Program are to prepare students to transfer to four-year universities, complete an Associate Degree or achieve a vocational certificate.



## Cooperative Agencies Resources for Education

CARE serves as an educational support/assistance program for single head-of-household parents who are participants of the California Work Opportunities and Responsibility to Kids Program (CalWORKs) / Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF).

## California Work Opportunity & Responsibility to Kids

At Saddleback College we are knowledgeable and provide CalWORKs students with academic, personal, career, and employment-related assistance. In addition to providing clear and consistent educational planning and counseling we also help students navigate the community college system and bridge them to other on-campus and off-campus services such as financial aid, work-study, job placement services or child care services.



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