

Larry Perez Donates Teacher of the Year Winnings to Osher Scholarship Fund

At the Orange County Teachers of the Year Gala held October 24th at the Disneyland Hotel, **Saddleback College Mathematics Professor Larry Perez** was recognized as Orange County's Community College Professor of the Year, a title bestowed to him by the Orange County Department of Education in May 2009.

Accompanying Professor Perez at the gala were **Saddleback College President Tod A. Burnett, Ed.D.**; **South Orange County Board of Trustees President Donald P. Wagner**; **Trustee Nancy Padberg**; **Chancellor Raghu P. Mathur, Ed.D.**; **Saddleback College Dean of Mathematics, Science, and Engineering James Wright, Ph.D.**; and Algebra2Go Team



Members **Patrick Quigley**, an associate professor of mathematics at Saddleback College, and **Candice Harrington**, a math instructor at Capistrano Valley High School and a former student of Professor Perez.

Professor Perez was one of five educators and the only community college professor to be named Teacher of the Year among 60 finalists nominated by school districts, community colleges, and private schools in Orange County. The five Teachers of the Year were each awarded \$15,000 by Bill and Sue Gross through the Dr. James Hines Foundation. With his prize money Professor Perez donated \$10,000 to the Saddleback College Foundation for the Bernard Osher Endowment, which helps financially strained students pay for their college educations. With a promised match from the endowment a \$20,000 scholarship fund will be established for developmental mathematics students. Saddleback College is challenged to raise \$671,000, and with the Osher matching funds our total endowment could be as much as \$1,342,000.

Professor Perez stated, "I am humbled by this honor and thank my colleagues and students who deserve all the credit for my success. Teaching is a true love of mine and I am lucky to work with such an extraordinary group of people who value an environment that places the success of our students first."

Dr. Burnett stated, "Congratulations to Professor Perez, who inspires us each day with his tremendous teaching skills and innovative online tools to help students succeed at math. Larry is another example of our outstanding Saddleback College faculty who are dedicated to helping our students learn and grow. I also extend my sincere thanks to Professor Perez who has generously donated \$10,000 of his winnings to the Saddleback College Foundation to establish a scholarship fund for developmental mathematics students."

Board President Donald P. Wagner stated, "I am thrilled for Professor Perez, an outstanding instructor who truly deserves this honor. Through Algebra2Go and other resources he has created, Professor Perez helps students realize their potential in what is often their most frustrating subject. Professor Perez is an inspiration to his students and colleagues and we are lucky to have him at Saddleback College."

Dr. Wright stated, "I have known Larry since I was on his hiring committee in 1999 and it has been a pleasure to work with him. He is a wonderful professor and his students consistently rave about his warmth and willingness to help them completely understand his subject. It is no surprise that he has been named Orange County's Community College Professor of the Year."

The Orange County Teacher of the Year award is sponsored by the Disneyland Resort, the Orange County *Register*, and the Schools First Credit Union. To read about Professor Perez and his fellow Teacher of the Year finalists in the Orange County Register, [click here](#).

For more information on the Bernard Osher Endowment or to make a donation please visit the Saddleback College Foundation at www.saddleback.edu/foundation.

Photo: (From left) Associate Professor Patrick Quigley, Candice Harrington, Professor Larry Perez, and Foundation President Gary Capata celebrate the generous donation from the Algebra2Go program to the Bernard Osher Scholarship Endowment.

California Community Colleges Scholarship Endowment

Instructions and Guidelines for Osher Scholar Selection and Distribution Process

Overview

The following guidelines provide financial aid administrators at California Community Colleges with information and instructions for selecting Osher Scholars, as part of the California Community Colleges Scholarship Endowment. This document specifically addresses procedures for the first year of the Osher Scholarship distribution for the 2009-10 academic year. The Foundation for California Community Colleges (the Foundation) and the CCC Chancellor's Office (CCCCO) recognize that adjustments may be needed after the first year based on a number of different factors, including evaluative feedback from community colleges and districts.

The intent of the scholarship process is to minimize the administrative burden and reporting requirements, while ensuring accountability and integrity for the program. The CCCCCO and the Foundation want to provide colleges with flexibility in this first year process to permit a successful integration into local scholarship application processes at the community colleges in subsequent years.

Please refer general questions regarding the California Community Colleges Scholarship Endowment to endowment@foundationccc.org or (866) 325-3222 ext. 144. If you have other questions regarding the scholarship process, please contact Tim Bonnel in the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office at tbonnel@cccco.edu or (916) 445-0104.

Student Criteria

When selecting Osher Scholars, you must adhere to the following criteria:

1. Student must have completed 24 or more "degree applicable" semester units (or the equivalent) at the time of the initial scholarship disbursement.
2. Student must be enrolled at least half-time (6 or more units) during all terms in which the award remains active.
3. Student must have received a CCC Board of Governor's Fee Waiver.
4. Awards will be adjusted based on enrolled status and determined as follows:
 - Full-time (12 or more units per term) = up to \$500/semester
 - Three-quarter-time (9 - 11.99 units per term) = up to \$375/semester
 - Half-time (6 - 8.99 units per term) = up to \$250/semester

Please note that the CCCCCO and the Foundation are not involved in the selection process. A suggested application template can be provided for your college's consideration upon request. However, it is not

required, provided your college can identify the aforementioned student criteria through your existing scholarship application and selection processes.

Additional Criteria

The Osher Foundation wishes to target these scholarships to the neediest students. The Grant Agreement specifically states “Priority shall be given based upon need, as determined by the College in its discretion, and so long as an applicant is making satisfactory progress toward a degree, the applicant’s academic performance shall not be considered by the selection committee.”

This affords your college some flexibility to work within the awards criteria in determining what you define as “financial need.” However, The Osher Foundation specifically stipulates that academic performance, including GPA, **not** be criteria for consideration in selecting student scholarship recipients. Additional criteria which your college may consider in determining a student’s financial need may include:

- Financial need according to federal formula
- Narrative describing other hardships or non-federal formula financial needs
- Remaining financial need after other aid is considered

If you have questions about additional criteria being used to determine Osher Scholars, please contact the Foundation for California Community Colleges at endowment@foundationccc.org.

Use of Scholarship Funds

The Osher Foundation stipulates that all scholarship funds specifically be used for educational purposes. Since students must receive a Board of Governor’s fee waiver in order to qualify for Osher Scholarships, the scholarship awards will not need to be used for fees. They can be used for other educational expenses, including textbooks, lab fees, uniforms, tools, and other equipment required by a student’s course of study.

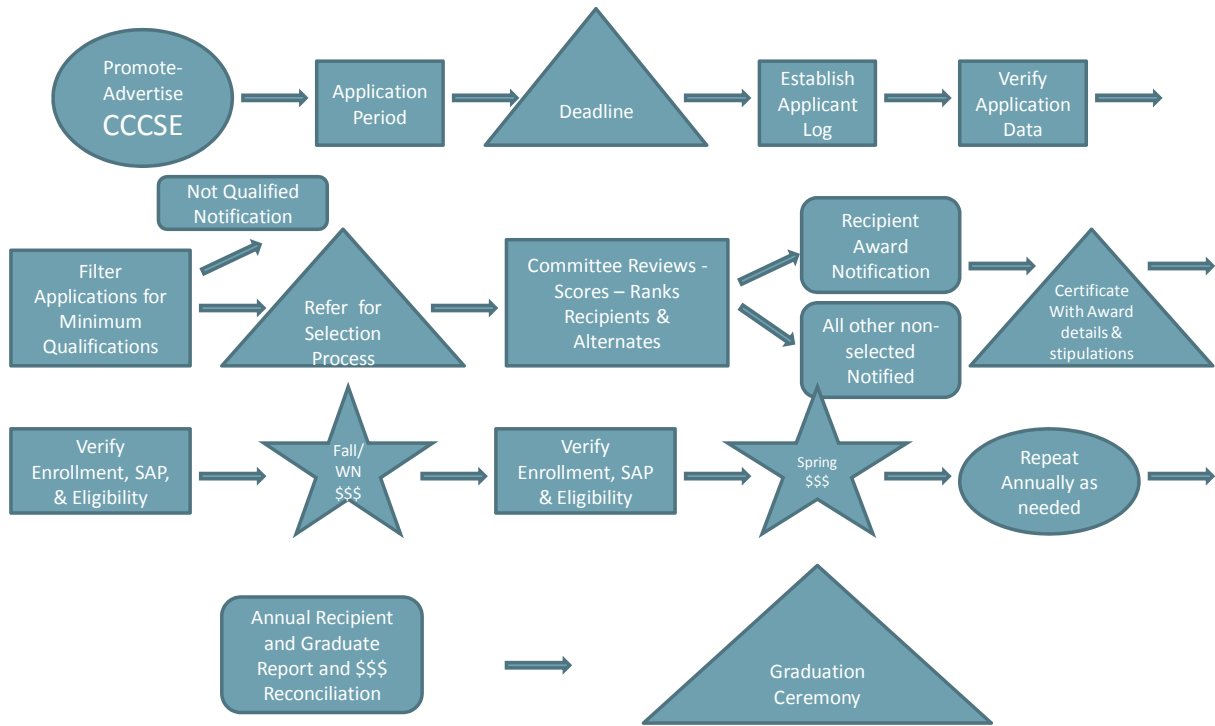
It is up to each college to ensure, to the best of its ability, that students use the Osher Scholarships for the appropriate items.

Renewal of Scholarships

If students receiving Osher Scholarships continue to qualify in subsequent academic years, they may be automatically renewed, not to exceed a cumulative award total of \$3,000. As long as the student continues to meet the criteria set forth above, the student will not need to reapply for continued funding.

Recommended CCCSE Process Flow Framework

The following recommended process flow provides a framework for how the Osher scholarship may be implemented at your community college campus or district.



Osher Scholar Responsibilities

Once a student receives an Osher Scholarship they must:

- Send a thank you letter to The Osher Foundation, via the Foundation for California Community Colleges for their generous support. The letters will be forwarded by the Foundation for California Community Colleges for inclusion in its annual reporting to The Osher Foundation.

The Foundation for California Community Colleges
 Attn: Resource Development
 1102 Q Street, Suite 3500
 Sacramento, CA 95811

- Maintain Satisfactory Academic Progress (SAP) at all times, according to your college's policy.
- Maintain at least half-time enrollment status (6 units or more) to qualify for initial and all subsequent payments.

- Continue to meet all student criteria to remain eligible for a scholarship renewal in the following academic year. Awards are renewable up to a maximum disbursement of \$3,000.
- Amounts will be adjusted to reflect the student's enrollment status each term under the following definitions:
 - Full-time (12 or more units per term) = Maximum \$500/semester
 - Three-quarter-time (9 - 11.99 units per term) = Maximum \$375/semester
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Annual Reporting of Osher Scholarship Student Recipients

Each year, the Foundation for California Community Colleges will report to The Osher Foundation, on behalf of the California Community Colleges and the CCC Chancellor's Office, the scholarship awarded for that year. Accordingly, California Community College scholarship offices are requested to submit reporting data of their Osher Scholars to the Foundation for California Community Colleges. To make this process as simple and straightforward as possible, the Foundation for California Community Colleges will develop and provide a reporting template to California Community Colleges prior to the first reporting period in June 2010.

News from Saddleback College

For Immediate Release
Contact: Jennie McCue
949-582-4320

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Located in Mission Viejo, Saddleback College provides quality higher education and training to the greater south Orange County community. Having served more than 500,000 students since 1968, Saddleback College offers over 300 degree and certificate

programs to help students reach their personal, career, and educational goals. For more information, please visit www.saddleback.edu.