New program to target freshmen

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Published: Wednesday, February 10, 2010
Updated: Wednesday, February 10, 2010

Recently, the first group of Freshman Academy students embarked on a journey designed to help them succeed. The Freshman Academy is a new, one year long program offered to incoming freshman based on matriculation test scores in English, math, and reading and includes an interview process. “The interview process was the most important part,” College Counselor Jo Ann Alford.

As a freshman coming into Saddleback College, discovering all the available aid programs one might be eligible for can be very daunting. That is why saddleback counselors are available to guide students into programs, such as, The Freshman Academy. “The program is designed to assist students in reaching their academic goal. Most students express a desire to complete their first year of college with a solid base of academic knowledge and move on to the next level of study (university)” said Saddleback College Counselor Jo Ann Alford.

What are the advantages offered to students? The Freshman Academy program offers guidance and guaranteeing their enrollment in those classes through Early Bird registration, tutoring sessions, Counselors, faculty mentoring and academic counseling. Field trips to four year schools and other scholarships are also available throughout the year, allowing students to feel a part of the college community.

Who qualifies for The Freshman Academy? Applicants are required to matriculate sufficiently to meet the criteria, placement in English 300 or 340 for the English criteria, and Math 351 for the math criteria.
GPA of 2.0 and remain enrolled in all their classes through the duration of the semester. Screen Early Bird registration and students are notified by mail if they qualify for application.

“The program has the potential to make a real difference in students’ lives. With support and encouragement, freshmen are provided a real opportunity for success.” said, English/journalism Instructor Carol Ziehm.

“I think it is helping them significantly. They might not realize it now. We are with them every step of the way; they will realize how helpful it was.” Said Saddleback College Counselor Eric Garcia.