SABBATICAL PROPOSAL ABSTRACT

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TITLE: Best Practices for Recruiting and Serving Students Who are Wounded Warriors

BACKGROUND: The term “Wounded Warriors” is used to describe military personnel who have been injured in Iraq or Afghanistan. One of the challenges in serving the needs of this population is that many of their injuries are invisible, such as brain injuries or post traumatic stress disorder and/or the men and women themselves do not consider themselves “disabled” even though their conditions significantly change their pre-service levels of functioning. They tend not to identify with and self-refer to disabled student services even though they need those support services to succeed in college.

My role as a counselor in disabled student services is directly connected to serving all Saddleback College students with disabilities. The number of “Wounded Warriors” attending our college is expected to increase over the next few years.

GOAL(S) and OBJECTIVE(S):

1. To understand how to best recruit and serve students who are “Wounded Warriors.”

2. To identify and understand distinguishing characteristics of “Wounded Warriors” and their counseling and disability related needs.

3. To identify best practices at other colleges which can be recommended for implementation at Saddleback College.

4. To disseminate findings to faculty, staff and administrators at Saddleback College.

ACTIVITIE(S): Activities will include review of literature and website resources related to serving “Wounded Warriors” in the college environment. The results of a national study of what colleges and universities are doing for “Wounded Warriors” will be published by the time of this proposed sabbatical. That report will be used to select several exemplary programs to visit. Findings and recommendations will be documented and disseminated at Saddleback College.

PRODUCT(S):

1. Written report documenting “wounded warriors” in colleges and universities literature review and observations/interviews, including recommendations for programs, services and facilities planning at Saddleback College.

2. PowerPoint presentation summarizing findings and recommendations.