Saddleback College Foundation
Campaign for Athletic Stadium Renovation

Saddleback College Foundation is proposing a capital campaign to renovate the athletic stadium. This exciting project will meet both college and community needs for a venue large enough to host major athletic, cultural, and social events.

Saddleback College

Just under one million people call south Orange County home. From its pristine coastlines to its rugged canyons, the region attracts residents who share common values such as a close sense of family and interests like living an active lifestyle. Together, residents take great pride in building a strong and vibrant community with a diverse economic base, outstanding educational opportunities, and world-class recreation and cultural attractions.

Integral to the region’s growth and prominence is Saddleback College, one of the largest of California’s 112 community colleges and the leading public institution of higher education and training in south Orange County. Since opening its doors in 1968, the college has built a strong reputation as the primary choice for students seeking associate degrees and certificates, transferring to four-year colleges and universities, preparing for the workforce, and pursuing lifelong learning. Saddleback is located on 200 acres with 1,300 employees serving over 40,000 students annually.

Saddleback’s rich academic tradition—led by a faculty renowned for its expertise, experience, and commitment to student success—is complemented by its lively campus life. In addition to an active student government and wide variety of campus clubs and organizations, the college offers one of the most comprehensive and progressive arts programs in the nation and championship athletics programs featuring 9 men’s and 10 women’s sports that, combined, have won 156 conference titles, 24 state titles, and 3 national championships. Saddleback’s student-athletes also excel in the classroom, achieving above average grade point averages, and have one of the highest transfer rates to four-year colleges and universities.

With a new administration leading the charge, Saddleback is embracing the future through a comprehensive and inclusive process of strategic and master planning that will position the college to provide students a dynamic, innovative, and student-centered postsecondary education and to serve the broader needs of the entire south Orange County community. A critical component of Saddleback’s plans for the future is an effort to ensure that campus facilities adequately support the quality of its first-rate programs.
A Renovated Community Athletic Stadium

A key priority is to address the major deficits of the current athletic stadium, which have not been satisfactorily addressed since the college's founding in 1968. Saddleback's football program has established itself as one of the premier community college programs in the nation. The Gauchos have won 21 conference titles, 3 state titles, and 3 National Championships during its 40+ years of competition. Saddleback also fields competitive men's and women's intercollegiate teams in track and field, cross country, and women's soccer.

With seating for just 3,000 on the home side, temporary seating for 1,500 on the visitor's side and no restrooms inside the venue, the stadium is woefully inadequate to accommodate the enthusiastic crowds that come to enjoy the highly competitive sporting events. Saddleback is also the home stadium for JSerra and Santa Margarita high schools' football games, which often draw more than 5,000 fans. Many visitors whose first or only experience with Saddleback is the substandard stadium leave with a less-than-positive impression of the college, unaware of the outstanding educational and athletics programs offered.

In addition, south Orange County has no stadium large enough to host major athletic, cultural, and social events. Big playoff games—college and high school alike—take place in venues over 20 miles away such as Orange Coast College and Santa Ana's Eddie West Field. Popular performances, concerts, and cultural and social events that attract widespread community interest must use smaller local venues or take place in distant locations.

Saddleback, in partnership with the Saddleback College Foundation, is committed to rebuilding a new, state-of-the-art athletic stadium to serve the college, south Orange County region, and beyond. Benefits of the proposed stadium project are vast:

- Saddleback College's athletic programs will have a state-of-the-art practice, training, and competition facility.
- Local high schools will have a safe, secure, and modern facility for the comfort and enjoyment of their students and fans.
- California Interscholastic Federation (CIF) and California Community Colleges Athletic Association (CCCAA) playoff and championship events can be hosted on site.
- College and community organizations can host graduation ceremonies, cultural events, and performances, as well as charitable and community activities such as Special Olympics, youth soccer, and walk-a-thons.

New Stadium Features

- Seating capacity of 10,000 (up from 3,000 now)
- 7,000-seat home bleachers and 3,000-seat visitor section
- Artificial turf field
- Soccer field
- Synthetic 9-lane track
- Scoreboard
- Sound system
- State-of-the-art media box
- Restrooms
- Concessions

At a time of significant funding challenges for education, the Saddleback College Foundation is proposing to launch a capital campaign focused on raising private support to fund the renovation of the athletic stadium.

This project is long overdue, but it can only succeed with the widespread financial support of the entire community. Everyone has a stake in this campaign: once completed, the proposed athletic stadium will be a focal point for south Orange County and a source of great pride for the college and community.