News from Saddleback College

For Immediate Release

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Saddleback College Names
Classified Employee of the Year

Mission Viejo, CA – Saddleback College recognized Sara Sheybani, Senior Chemistry Laboratory Technician, as the Classified Employee of the Year. Sheybani, a Saddleback College and UCLA graduate, helped to create a Science Lecture Series, which has attracted such distinguished speakers as Nobel Prize winning Laureate Kary Mullis and National Medal of Science Winner Francisco J. Ayala.

“Sara Sheybani has taken initiative to go beyond what is asked of her to help students,” said Dr. Tod A. Burnett, President of Saddleback College. “Saddleback College is proud to reward hard-working staff like her.”

In the fall semester, Sheybani secured a $12,000 grant from the Saddleback College Associated Student Government to begin the Science Lecture Series and then chaired the committee that scheduled nine lectures by key leaders in biology and chemistry. She has also been the key to ensuring that the chemistry labs are well-maintained and experiments and demonstrations are ready for students.

“Sara has provided absolutely superb service to the Chemistry Department and to the Division of Mathematics, Science & Engineering. She consistently identifies department needs then takes the initiative to influence change,” said James R. Wright, Ph.D., Dean of Mathematics, Science and Engineering.

Sheybani, a Tustin Ranch resident, was surprised by the recognition, “I was overwhelmed with emotion when I was announced as the recipient of this great honor. It is highly rewarding to have my hard work recognized by my supervisor and colleagues. My success would be impossible without the help of fellow senior lab technician, Warren Ansaldo, and all the employees who help me accomplish my tasks. I’d like to thank everyone from purchasing to IT to Maintenance & Operations.”

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.

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