**News from Saddleback College**

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**Saddleback College Awarded $1 Million Department of Labor Grant to Train Students for Engineering Jobs in Orange County**

Mission Viejo, CA – Saddleback College is thrilled to announce that it was awarded a $1 million Technical Skills Training grant from the United States Department of Labor. The grant will go toward the college’s role in the OC Bridges to Engineering program, a consortium of 10 California organizations that will receive nearly $5 million over four years to train American workers for engineering jobs that employers currently use H-1B visas to hire foreign workers.

Assistant Professor of Chemistry Dr. Jim Zoval and Assistant Professor of Mathematics Frank Gonzalez are co-project directors for the Math, Science and Engineering portion of the grant, while Professor Emeritus Ken Patton and Advanced Technology Center Director Ed Tackett will oversee the grant-related activities for RapidTech, the National Center for Additive Manufacturing at Saddleback College.

Dr. Tod A. Burnett, President of Saddleback College, stated, “Congratulations to our Chemistry and Mathematics Departments and our RapidTech program for their work in securing this grant, which will help us build a program around the incredible talents of Dr. Jim Zoval, Frank Gonzalez, Ken Patton, and Ed Tackett to train students for in-demand jobs for many years to come. The Bridges to Engineering Program at Saddleback is sure to become a model for other colleges that seek to train engineers for jobs here in Orange County.”

In an effort to bring jobs back to the United States, the Department of Labor announced that grantees would receive funding to provide education, training, and job placement assistance in the occupations and industries for which employers are currently using H-1B visas to hire foreign workers. Saddleback’s Division of Math, Science and Engineering and RapidTech will receive funding through the Santa Ana Workplace Investment Board, which is the fiscal agent for the award and will manage the overall grant program.

The OC Bridges to Engineering program provides an accelerated mathematics bridge program, tutoring, specialized counseling and mentoring support, research opportunities, internships, and on-the-job training sponsored by local engineering and biotech firms. The program accelerates students into articulated engineering pathways that exist within the California State University and University of California systems. Through the program, Saddleback College will provide intensive, cohort-based learning communities that will increase the participation of underrepresented minorities and women in engineering and increase the supply of qualified engineers in Orange County.
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 more than 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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