Saddleback College Adapted Kinesiology Program to Host Walkathon Fundraiser

Mission Viejo, CA – The Saddleback College Foundation and the Adapted Kinesiology Program will host a walkathon fundraiser on Wednesday, December 14th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the college’s track. Proceeds from the event will help fund the Adapted Kinesiology Program, which helps students with developmental and physical disabilities stay active. In addition to the walkathon, the event will also feature a BallPark Pizza buffet lunch, demonstrations from Adapted Cycles, a Wounded Warriors obstacle course, and a Tai Chi demonstration.

Dr. Tod A. Burnett, President of Saddleback College, stated, “It is truly inspiring to see the dedication of so many students, faculty, staff, management, and community members work to preserve the invaluable services like those found in our college’s Adapted Kinesiology programs. Events like the ‘Back on Track’ walkathon provide innovative solutions to raise additional funds so that we can continue offering vital programs that serve our students and community.”

Terence Nelson, Assistant Dean of Counseling Services and Special Programs, stated, “The Adapted Kinesiology Program is important for the entire community as it helps adults of all ages who suffer from disabilities. The funds raised will go to a program that supports students with various challenges such as autism, brain and spinal cord injuries, and other chronic pain problems. The program is highly regarded and effectively run, touching the lives of hundreds of our community members.”

"Over the last few years, the Adapted Kinesiology Program has grown remarkably while our operating budget has declined due to the state’s financial situation. This fundraiser will allow us to continue to provide vital exercise programs for 350 disabled adults each semester, programs that can help keep people physically and mentally healthy," stated Mike Bennett, Adapted Kinesiology instructor.

There are different levels of donations, including:

- $10 – Lunch buffet hosted by BallPark Pizza in Rancho Santa Margarita
- $25 – Walkathon participation and lunch
- $50 – T-shirt, walkathon participation and lunch
- $100 – Goody bag, t-shirt, walkathon participation and lunch
- $500 – Banner Recognition, goody bag, t-shirt, walkathon participation and lunch
The event organizers are still seeking corporate sponsorships and gift donations to be raffle prizes or awards for walkers. If someone is interested in donating or participating, please contact Kinesiology Professor Omar Yunes at (949) 582-4666 or oyunes@saddleback.edu.

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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