Saddleback College Receives $378,000 Grant for Medical Assisting Program

Mission Viejo, CA – Saddleback College was awarded a $378,182 state grant that will be used to expand the Billing and Coding Program within the Medical Assisting Program. The expansion will allow more students to access the entry-level Billing and Coding Program, helping them complete their education and enter the workforce. The State Chancellor’s Office’s Economic and Workforce Development Division awarded the grant based on President Obama’s American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, in which the President stressed the importance of a nationwide health information infrastructure.

“We are thrilled for this opportunity to develop an even more comprehensive Billing and Coding Program, which will provide Saddleback College students the training they need to get great jobs in a growing field,” said Dr. Tod A. Burnett, President of Saddleback College. “Nationwide Health Information Technology is a top priority and Saddleback College is proud to be a part of this effort.”

Health Information Technician training is the next logical step on the career ladder for those with Medical Assistant training who are either looking for work or seeking promotional opportunities.

“Employment opportunities for health information technicians are expected to increase dramatically over the next 10 years and now Saddleback College can put students in this field on the path to a successful life,” said Dr. Donna Rane-Szostak, Dean of Health Sciences and Human Services.

Saddleback College is planning to develop a simulation capability, which will allow students the ability to hone their skills through the use of “practice set” materials that will simulate the actual workplace. The Funds will also be used to purchase a scanner and 15 computer stations to expand the existing lab.
“Real-world training will make these students much more accurate and efficient workers, we are all excited for the opportunity to work with such an innovative learning experience,” said Tamera Rice, Assistant Dean of Nursing.

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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