News from Saddleback College

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Contact: Jennie McCue
jmccue@saddleback.edu
(949) 582-4320

Amy Wheeler
awheeler@saddleback.edu
(949) 582-4897

Founding Faculty Member Endows $140,000 toward Student Scholarships

Mission Viejo, CA – Linda Richardson Rice, a member of Saddleback College’s “first faculty” who started when the college opened its doors to students in 1968, endowed more than $140,000 for scholarships for students who are majoring in or planning a career in education. The first scholarship from Rice’s endowment will be awarded in May and will continue to support students for many years.

Dr. Tod A. Burnett, President of Saddleback College, stated, “Linda Rice is a beloved first faculty member who through her 42 years of service showed her profound dedication to Saddleback College and our students. Her very generous donation will have a lasting impact on the next generation of educators who will continue the work that she loved.”

Donna Varner, President of the Saddleback College Foundation, stated, “The generosity of Linda Rice will greatly benefit our students, who may be facing their own financial hardships. These scholarships mean the world to our students and Rice’s contribution will positively impact them for years to come.”

In the information provided to the Foundation, Rice wrote that she appreciated the scholarships she received while in college and endowed this money to give future students the same opportunity for a college education. Rice, who passed away in 2010, was a devoted teacher for more than 50 years and joined Saddleback in 1968 as one of the first faculty members, teaching secretarial science. She became an instrumental influence in computer information management, both originating and teaching many computer courses. She taught full-time at Saddleback for 27 years until she retired in 1995. Following retirement, Rice continued teaching part-time for seven years, and then taught emeritus courses until 2010.

The Saddleback College Scholarship Ceremony is an annual event that started in 1976, when 45 donors contributed just over $12,000 to some 60 students. Thirty-five years later, more than $4 million in scholarships have been awarded to deserving Saddleback College students.

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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