Saddleback College Professor Awarded for Work in Creating Sign Language Instructional Videos

Mission Viejo, CA – Praised for her work in creating American Sign Language (ASL) videos for online education, Saddleback College Dr. Rita Tamer, an ASL Professor at Saddleback College, was honored with a 2010 International Blackboard Catalyst Award in the area of Staff Development. The BbWorld 2010 Client Program Committee selected Dr. Tamer and her project to "join a select group of e-Learning professionals…from around the world whose participation has been recognized as a significant and exemplary contribution to our Blackboard Community."

Dr. Tod Burnett, President, said, “Saddleback College is always searching for innovative ways to serve all student populations. Accolades are definitely warranted for Dr. Tamer, who created a new way to enable ASL students to learn anytime, anywhere.”

Professor Tamer took on the project because she recognized a gap in ASL learning. “Creating my class online was something that I realized I needed to do for my students. I created several detailed videos that help students better understand not only the language, but the culture in the deaf community.”

“This achievement is highly significant, as it provides students with unlimited opportunity for practice ASL using the expert modeling provided by Dr. Tamer in these online videos,” said Dr. Donna Rane-Szostak, Dean, Health Sciences & Human Services

Valerie Senior works in Saddleback College’s Center for Instructional Design and Distance Education and assisted Dr. Tamer with the project and commended her for making online education more dynamic. “While the technology exists to bring ‘personality’ into online instruction, it’s a huge commitment of time and energy to create effective online course materials. Dr. Tamer painstakingly and methodically bridged that gap and made a connection that many instructors are striving to achieve.”

Dr. Rita Tamer joined Saddleback College in 2001 and serves as the Department Chair of Administration, Teaching and Scheduling. She received her B.A. in Deaf Studies from CSU, Northridge in 1997 and her M.A. in Linguistics from CSU Northridge in 1999. Dr. Tamer received her Ed.D. in Community College Executive Leadership from Argosy University 2008.

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.