Saddleback College VETS Program to Host Veterans Resource Fair

Mission Viejo, CA – The Saddleback College Veterans Education and Transition Services (VETS) program will be hosting a Veterans Resource Fair on Thursday, September 23rd from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The event, developed to help veterans connect with resources to achieve their educational and life goals after service, will take place at the Saddleback College quad.

The Veterans Resource Fair will present an “all-in-one” opportunity for student veterans to learn about the VETS program on campus including the VETS Center, the Student Veterans Association, the Transfer Center, the Center for Career and Life Development, Disabled Students Programs and Services, and Learning Assistance Program. Community organizations will include Laguna Hills VA Clinic, American Legion-Post 862, Troops to Teachers, the South Orange County Vet Center, AMVETS Foundation VSO, OC One Stop and many more.

Dr. Tod A. Burnett, President of Saddleback College, stated, “It’s an honor to bring such unique resources to our students and their families after their service in the military. As these students have served their country, it is our responsibility as an institution of higher learning to present them with all the information and assistance we can offer regarding their return to civilian life and academia. This fair will present not only educational options and opportunities to these men and women, but also valuable social, financial and community based resources as well.”

Terence C. Nelson, Assistant Dean of Counseling Services and Special Programs and VETS Director stated “The Veterans Resource Fair is one small way that Saddleback College and our VETS Program can show our appreciation to U.S. Military Veterans in our community for their sacrifices. The first step in a successful transition back to civilian and college life is acquiring the knowledge of what is available for you. Our aim is to bridge existing support services on our campus and in the community with those who dearly need them. The nation’s community colleges must play a role in supporting the transition and reintegration process of our returning veterans.”

Army Veteran Ann Reeder, a Saddleback College student and a VETS Center team member, stated, “The VETS Program and the upcoming Veterans Resource Fair are truly unique to Saddleback College and prove to be a tremendous asset in increasing awareness of services designed to improve family reunification, transitions, and successful reintegration for our military and veteran community.”
With a vision to become the model veterans program in post secondary education, the Saddleback College VETS Program was developed to provide current or prospective Saddleback College students who are United States military veterans, active military, and their families with access to educational opportunities and the necessary support services to reach academic success, their career goals, and transition back into civilian life. Student veterans are aided by a specialty veterans’ counselor, a “Boots to Books” transitions course, a Veterans Outreach Aide and Marine Veteran, an on-site Service Officer, awareness events such as the Veterans Resource Fair, and numerous ties to Orange County agencies and organizations.

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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