Saddleback College Celebrates Ability Awareness Day with “The Facts of Life”
Actress and Comedienne Geri Jewell

Mission Viejo, CA – The Saddleback College Disabled Students Programs and Services (DSPS) department is proud to present Ability Awareness Day with Geri Jewell on Tuesday, March 22nd from 12:00 noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Student Lounge (SSC 212). Jewell is best known as playing Cousin Geri on the NBC sitcom The Facts of Life and was the first person with a disability to have a regular role on a primetime series. When Jewell is not working in television, she is a motivational speaker and trainer in the areas of disability and diversity.

“Having a comedienne who has overcome a disability will shed a humorous light on a very serious and important topic – educating people about the difficulties that face disabled students and community members. Saddleback College strives to provide every student with the necessary tools for success,” said Dr. Tod A. Burnett, President of Saddleback College.

The event is free and open to everyone in the community. A light lunch will be provided. Sign Language Interpreters for the deaf will be provided. For more information, please call the Special Services Department at (949) 582-4885 or the main college number at (949) 582-4500.

“Audience members will discover that Jewell lives what she teaches and that she is responsible for countless acts of kindness every day. We are fortunate to have Jewell as a guest here at Saddleback College. She will make us different,” stated Ardith Lynch, Coordinator, Special Services.

In addition to her groundbreaking role on The Facts of Life, Jewell has appeared on Sesame Street, 21 Jump Street, The Young and the Restless, Evening at the Improv on A&E, and Stand-Up Spotlight on VH1, the Emmy-award-winning movie Two of a Kind, and the HBO hit series, Deadwood. She has consulted for Hewlett Packard, Master Foods, Johnson Wax, AT&T, and Amgen. She has also trained the CIA, The U.S. Treasury Department, Defense Intelligence Agency, and the U.S. Army.

DSPS organized this annual event to remind people that disabilities do not have to stop a person from living a full life, but adaptation and accommodation are essential components to allow the disabled person to focus on their strengths and build on their on their abilities.

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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