Commission Reaffirms Accreditation for Saddleback College

Mission Viejo, CA – Saddleback College is pleased to announce that the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) today stated its acceptance of the College’s 2008 Progress Report that addressed recommendations made by WASC concerning student learning outcomes and College governance. The positive news from WASC comes as Saddleback College begins its upcoming Accreditation Self Study, a process required by all colleges every six years to reaffirm accreditation. Saddleback College has already started its Self Study with unprecedented participation from students, faculty, staff, and administrators.

Dr. Tod A. Burnett, President of Saddleback College, stated, “All involved in the Progress Report did impressive work and I thank everyone for their unending dedication and commitment to this effort, and I thank the Chancellor and the Board of Trustees for their unending support. Saddleback College has made a great deal of progress over the past few years and we look forward to working together to continue this progress and reaffirm the College’s accreditation in our upcoming Accreditation Self Study.”

South Orange County Community College District Chancellor Dr. Raghu P. Mathur said, “I congratulate Saddleback College for this positive outcome which is a recognition of faculty, staff and trustees all working together to address pertinent issues for the good of students, with the utmost respect for each other’s areas of responsibilities. We also greatly appreciate all the hard work, leadership, and expertise of the Commission during the Accreditation process.”

President Burnett stated, “I thank WASC for recognizing the excellent progress made by our faculty in adopting campus-wide student learning outcomes, and I thank our faculty for their tremendous efforts in completing this extremely daunting task. In a matter of months, our faculty wrote 1,490 student learning outcomes for as many courses for a 100% college completion rate, a huge and critical undertaking that promotes student success.”

Student Learning Outcomes enable colleges to measure how well students master the objectives of courses and programs. Environmental Studies Professor and Chair of the Committee that responded to WASC’s recommendation concerning Student Learning
Outcomes, stated, “It was a pleasure to team up with such a great and devoted group of people, who worked tirelessly to ensure that our response to WASC would demonstrate the extraordinary commitment Saddleback College has made to Student Learning Outcomes. I am so pleased that our work did not go unnoticed by WASC.”

Professor Carmen Dominguez, Chair of the task force that responded to WASC’s recommendations concerning governance, stated, “Our college has made tremendous progress in resolving the recommendations given to the college by WASC in 2005. I am optimistic that the Accrediting Commission will recognize the sustained effort made by the entire college community to improve our institution when we submit our 2010 Accreditation Self Study.”

###