Saddleback College Names Classified Employee of the Year

Mission Viejo, CA – Saddleback College recognized Anita Bandekar, a Senior Laboratory Technician in the Microbiology Area of the Biological Sciences Department, as the Classified Employee of the Year. Bandekar is praised by college faculty, staff, and managers for going above and beyond the call of duty and implementing procedures that save the science department money and time. Because of Bandekar’s efficiency, Saddleback College has been able to increase the number of microbiology sessions offered from nine sections to 11.

“Anita Bandekar has taken initiative to go beyond what is asked of her to help students,” said Dr. Tod A. Burnett, President of Saddleback College. “Saddleback College is proud to reward hard-working staff like her.”

“Anita has provided absolutely superb service to the Biological Sciences Department and particularly to the microbiology courses that are taught at Saddleback College,” said James R. Wright, Ph.D., Dean of Mathematics, Science and Engineering. “People look to her as the expert and the reservoir of knowledge in the microbiology area.”

Bandekar continually tries to improve upon existing lab procedures, often leading to better results in experiments performed by students. She recently started growing certain bacteria at different temperatures and when students performed the bacterial capsule staining procedure, the success rate went from 25 percent to more than 80 percent.

Bandekar, a Laguna Niguel resident, was surprised by the recognition, “It is always a great feeling to be appreciated by your peers and/or colleagues for a job well done and beyond! On a daily basis, along with the Professors, I look forward to helping the students have a wonderful learning experience through their Microbiology Course work.”

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.

###