Saddleback College’s Class of 2011 to be Recognized in Commencement Ceremony

Mission Viejo, CA – Saddleback College will recognize its 1,472 graduates and 981 certificate of achievement recipients on Friday, May 20th at its annual commencement ceremony. The event, which will be held in the college’s gymnasium beginning at 9:00 a.m., will feature the traditional processional and reading of graduates’ names, along with Commencement Speaker and Alumna of the Year Frances Dilorinzo, a comedienne and writer who appeared on NBC’s Last Comic Standing. Also featured will be Commencement Student Speaker Justin Huft, a graduate who is transferring this fall to UC Irvine.

Dr. Tod A. Burnett, President of Saddleback College, stated, “Commencement is a special time at Saddleback College where we celebrate the accomplishments of our graduates. I am very proud of our students and the faculty, staff, and administrators who played an integral role in helping them reach their goals. Congratulations to the Class of 2011!”

Students participating in commencement are candidates for Associate in Arts and Science degrees and certificates of achievement. More than 2,000 students will also be transferring to four-year colleges and universities to continue studying for their baccalaureate degrees. This year’s graduates will be transferring to four-year institutions such as USC, UCLA, UC Berkeley, UC Irvine, CSU Fullerton, San Diego State University, and Arizona State University, among others.

South Orange County Community College District Board of Trustees President Nancy Padberg will lead the conference conferral of degrees along with Trustees T.J. Prendergast, III, Marcia Milchiker, David B. Lang, Thomas A. Fuentes, Frank M. Meldau, William O. Jay, Student Trustee Eve Shieh, and Chancellor Gary L. Poertner. During the ceremony, special recognition will be given to the 30 retiring faculty members who will be elevated to Professor Emeritus status and to Professor of the Year Dr. Kris Leppien-Christensen (psychology) and to Associate Professor of the Year Teresa Bear (chemistry).

Of the students who graduated from Saddleback College this year, 346 received honors, including 31 summa cum laude (4.0 grade point average), 125 magna cum laude (3.75 to 3.99 grade point average) and 190 cum laude (3.5 to 3.74 grade point average). Showing the diverse range of ages at the college, the youngest graduate is 17 years of age, and the most senior graduate is 71 years of age. Eighty-five graduates are under the age of 20 and 73 graduates are over the age of 55.

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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