Saddleback College Welcomes 600 High School Students
For Constitution Day Event

Mission Viejo, CA – Saddleback College hosted the annual Constitution Day Conference on September 16th and 600 local high school students spent the day learning about the role that the United States Constitution plays in historical and present-day decisions. The Constitutional Rights Foundation (CRF) of Orange County has hosted this award-winning event for five years and the Daughters and Sons of the American Revolution attend the event dressed as historical figures.

Dr. Tod A. Burnett, President of Saddleback College, stated, “These students are our country’s future leaders and college graduates and Constitution Day is a great way for them to recognize the importance of getting involved in public service. The work that the Constitutional Rights Foundation is doing is so important in advocating and training for responsible citizenship. Saddleback College is honored to host such a worthwhile event. ”

The theme of this year’s conference was the “Constitutional Defense of Unpopular Causes” and President John Adams (in colonial character) gave the keynote address and discussed his decision to represent the British soldiers who were involved in the Boston Massacre. The students then enjoyed a mock Supreme Court hearing with the local judges and justices serving as the 1963 Supreme Court judges who heard the case of Gideon v. Wainwright, which lead to the guarantee that all defendants have the right to legal counsel.

Following the mock trial, the students participated in their choice of two interactive workshops on the following topics: Clara Foltz and The Public Defender; the desegregation of Orange County Schools in the case Westminster v. Mendez; the “Race Factor” in defending unpopular defendants; civility and bullying; and an information workshop about an essay contest where students could earn a $2,500 scholarship.

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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