News from Saddleback College

For Immediate Release

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Saddleback College Foundation to Host
“Escape to Paradise” Gala

Mission Viejo, CA – Assemblywoman Diane L. Harkey will be honored as Saddleback College’s 2009 Alumna of the Year at the Saddleback College Foundation’s “Escape to Paradise” 10th Annual Gala on Saturday, November 7th at 6:00 p.m. at the Norman P. Murray Center in Mission Viejo. Guests of the event will be transported to a tropical island paradise and will enjoy a welcome reception, silent auction, dinner and Polynesian entertainment. Proceeds of the gala will benefit student scholarships and campus programs.

Dr. Tod A. Burnett, President of Saddleback College, stated, “The Saddleback College Foundation Gala is a fun and elegant event that secures scholarships to help our students succeed. Over 500,000 alumni have benefited from the college’s outstanding academic and career training programs, and this gala will enable the college to help more students achieve their higher educational goals.”

Assemblywoman Harkey was elected in 2008 and represents the 73rd District, which includes Oceanside, Camp Pendleton, San Clemente, San Juan Capistrano, Dana Point, Laguna Niguel, Laguna Hills and Aliso Viejo.

Backed by a successful 30-year career in corporate finance and banking, Assemblywoman Harkey works closely with the California State Assembly budget staff, the Governor’s Department of Finance, State Controller and the State Treasurer. Diane has led the fight to revitalize California’s homebuilding and construction industry to bring back much-needed jobs. She is also working to bring jobs in the biotech sector to students in our state’s universities and community colleges.

A strong believer in public service, Assemblywoman Harkey has been actively involved in countless grassroots efforts for issues affecting local communities throughout most of her adult life. She took a leading role in the effort to incorporate Dana Point in 1989 and later served as mayor of the growing city, where she worked to implement sensible long-term financial policies and community planning initiatives.
Assemblywoman Harkey attended Saddleback College and transferred in 1992 to the University of California, Irvine, where she graduated cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in economics.

In addition to honoring Assemblywoman Harkey, the Saddleback College Foundation’s 10th Annual Gala will feature soothing music of the Nalu Boyz and the mesmerizing dances of the Le Polynesia dancers. The five Nalu Boys will be performing original and traditional songs accompanied by a variety of instruments, including the guitar, bass guitar, ukulele and percussion. The always popular silent auction will begin at 6:00 p.m. and dinner and entertainment will begin at 7:30 p.m. Guests are asked to wear resort attire (no jeans).

Tickets are $100 and tables of ten may be reserved for $1,000. For further information and to make reservations online please visit http://www.saddleback.edu/foundation/SpecEvents.html or call the Saddleback College Foundation office at (949) 582-4479.

Established in 1988, the Saddleback College Foundation is organized exclusively for charitable purposes to raise funds in support of the academic and institutional excellence of Saddleback College, and serves as an umbrella to the college’s Alumni Association, campus radio station KSBR (88.5 FM), Friends of the Library, the Angels, a performing arts support group, and the Athletic Associates – supporters who raise funds for specific programs to benefit Saddleback College students. The Foundation spearheads a community scholarship campaign, raising over $300,000 each year in scholarships, and has the fiduciary responsibility for oversight and distribution of scholarship endowment funds of $700,000, ensuring distribution of many scholarships into perpetuity.

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 over 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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