Saddleback College Introduces New Career Programs in Health Sciences & Human Services Division

Mission Viejo, CA – Building on its existing and well known course offerings in the allied health industry, Saddleback College will offer two new career/technical education programs this fall semester through its Division of Health Sciences and Human Services. A new Medical Laboratory Technician program and a Mental Health Worker certificate/associate degree program will both begin in the fall semester, with classes starting August 24, 2009. These new programs are part of Saddleback College's well known and existing allied health programs, including nursing, emergency medical technician, paramedics, medical assisting, phlebotomy, billing and coding, alcohol and drug counseling, and human services generalist.

Dr. Tod A. Burnett, President of Saddleback College, stated, "I am thrilled that our Medical Laboratory Technician and Mental Health Worker programs will enable our students to start work on a career path that will lead them to success and personal fulfillment. These programs are an extension of our commitment to the allied health industry and creating jobs for the benefit of our students and community."

Tamera Rice, Interim Dean of the Division of Health Sciences and Human Services, stated, "It is a pleasure to offer programs that will help students reach their educational and professional goals. These programs also come at a time when students are specifically pursuing an education that has career possibilities. I am happy that we not only offer such programs, but that we do so with services to help our students succeed."

Students in the Medical Laboratory Technician (MLT) program will prepare for employment as MLTs in a clinical medical laboratory. Students will learn to perform routine laboratory procedures in phlebotomy, microbiology, clinical chemistry, hematology, coagulation, immunology, and urinalysis in preparation for work as MLTs in both public and private laboratories serving the health care sector.
The MLT program is a two-year curriculum leading to the Associate in Science degree in Medical Laboratory Technician. Completion of pre-requisite courses will be required prior to entering the program.

Graduates of the program qualify for national certification examinations sponsored by the American Society of Clinical Pathologists (ASCP) Board of Registry or by the American Association of Bioanalysts (ABB) Board of Registry to become state licensed Medical Laboratory Technicians.

The Mental Health Worker Certificate and/or Associate of Science Degree is a psychosocial/mental health track that will enable students to be eligible to transfer to a university in human services or a related field of study. Students can enter the workforce as a paraprofessional in community-based mental health programs or related health science disciplines.

Students in the Mental Health Worker program will discuss the language, definition of terms, systemic procedures, and approaches/models essential to understanding what mental wellness means. The student will also participate with regional partnerships among the mental health system while reaching out to multicultural communities to increase the diversity of the mental health workforce, reduce the stigma associated with mental illness, and promote the use of web-based technologies.

For more information on the Medical Laboratory Technician and Mental Health Worker programs at Saddleback College, please call the Division of Health Sciences and Human Services at (949) 582-4701 or visit www.saddleback.edu/hs.

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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