**News from Saddleback College**

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**Nearly $500,000 in Scholarships Awarded at Saddleback College Ceremony**

Mission Viejo, CA – A record-breaking $498,000 in scholarships was awarded to more than 300 deserving students at Saddleback College’s 37th Annual Scholarship Ceremony on Friday, May 17th. More than 400 were in attendance to honor both the scholars and the donors, including family, friends, and Saddleback College faculty, staff, and administrators. The scholarships were donated by businesses, organizations, and community members; additionally the Saddleback College Associated Student Government donated $69,000 in scholarships and underwrote the expenses for the ceremony.

Dr. Tod A. Burnett, president of Saddleback College, stated, “Congratulations to our outstanding students who received scholarships and were recognized for their academic achievement, service to the community, leadership, and talent. The generosity of our donors made the entire event possible and I thank them for their support of Saddleback College and our students, who benefit greatly from the kindness of those who give so much to our college.”

The evening began with the presentation of the ASG Outstanding Student Award, which is presented to a student that has shown exemplary leadership, community involvement, and academic achievement. Elaine Werner-Hudson, a human services student, was presented the award by outgoing ASG President Rodman Oveis. Ms. Werner-Hudson volunteers at the Coastal Mountain Youth Academy and is a board member of the Orange County Alcohol and Drug Advisory Board. She also started two support groups; Solace, for families and loved ones of substance abusers, and Soul Chat, for siblings of abusers.

Dr. Michael Foudy, a member of the Saddleback College Foundation Board of Governors and Chair of the Scholarship Committee, presented Gil Rowland and Saddleback Kiwanis Laguna Hills with the Scholarship Donor of the Year Award. Laguna Hills Saddleback Kiwanis Club consist of more than 100 men and women who are dedicated to serving the community by supporting civic organizations. The organization has been granting Saddleback scholarships for nearly 20 years and, in the last 12 years, the total amount given totals more than $150,000.

Saddleback College Foundation Board of Governors President Jim Leach served as the event’s Master of Ceremonies and presented the scholarship awards with assistance by: Dr. Burnett; Dr. Mike Foudy; Rocky Cifone, dean of the Division of Business Science, Economics and Workforce Development; Nancy Padberg, president of the South Orange County Community College District Board of Trustees; Marcia Milchiker, Clerk of the South Orange County Community College District Board of Trustees; and Timothy Jemal and David Lang, members of the South Orange County Community College District Board of Trustees.
On behalf of the Board of Trustees, President Padberg provided the welcome address. Music was provided by the Division of Fine Arts Jazz Combo. In addition to the presentation of scholarships, three scholarship speakers shared their stories: Stacey Ann Tobie, Randy Wilcox, and Kamran Sadaghiani.

The Saddleback College Scholarship Ceremony is an annual event that started in 1976, when 45 donors contributed just over $12,000 to some 60 students. Over the past 36 years, the foundation has awarded more than $4 million in scholarships to deserving Saddleback College students.

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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