News from Saddleback College

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Saddleback College Hosts Town Hall Meeting on Student Success

Mission Viejo, CA – Saddleback College hosted a student success town hall meeting on Tuesday, November 8th attended by nearly 200 students, faculty, staff, and community members who were given the opportunity to provide suggestions about ways to increase student completions at the state’s community college system.

The town hall was part of a series of meetings held by Chancellor Jack Scott’s statewide Student Success Task Force that is examining ways to improve student achievement in California. The task force has produced a draft of recommendations for development of a plan to be adopted by the California Community Colleges Board of Governors and presented to the state legislature by no later than March 2012.

At the town hall, the draft recommendations were presented and discussed by Task Force representatives Dr. Yasmin Delahoussaye, Interim Vice Chancellor of Educational Programs and Institutional Effectiveness at Los Angeles Community College District, Dr. Melinda Nish, President of the California Community College Chancellor’s Instructional Office Executive Board and Vice President for Instruction at Orange Coast College, and Erik Skinner, Executive Vice Chancellor of Programs at the California State Community College Chancellor’s Office. Participants were provided opportunities to bring forth questions and comments to these representatives, which would be considered by the task force in preparation of the final recommendations to be presented to the board of governors and legislature.

Dr. Tod A. Burnett, President of Saddleback College, stated, “It was a pleasure to host the Student Success Task Force and to give our community the chance to speak about the many issues facing community colleges and our services for students. I am confident that the feedback provided will be vital in enhancing student success and shaping the future of California’s community colleges.”

Gary L. Poertner, Chancellor of South Orange County Community College District, stated, “Student completion is a top priority and this town hall meeting was an important step in ensuring our students are given the greatest opportunity to succeed. I look forward to seeing the final report so we can turn the recommendations into action.”

While the Student Success Task Force has held several student success meetings throughout the state, the November 8th town hall at Saddleback College was the only meeting that was held in Orange County. Students and community members of all ages filled the room and provided feedback about a host of issues including financial aid, prioritizing classes, and partnering with local high schools.
To learn more about the Student Success Task Force and view the draft recommendations, please visit [http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/PolicyInAction/StudentSuccessTaskForce.aspx](http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/PolicyInAction/StudentSuccessTaskForce.aspx).

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](http://www.saddleback.edu).

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