**News from Saddleback College**

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**Saddleback College Hosts Nationally Recognized Student Success Expert**

Mission Viejo, CA – As part of the District-wide efforts to embrace academic excellence, Saddleback College hosted an open dialogue session with Dr. Vincent Tinto, nationally renowned scholar and student success expert on Thursday, April 19th. Dr. Tinto, a distinguished professor at Syracuse University, has carried out extensive research on student success and is an in-demand consultant to federal and state agencies as well as higher education institutions. Faculty, staff, and administrators from Saddleback, Irvine Valley College, and the District offices, including Chancellor Gary Poertner, attended the presentation entitled, “Promoting Student Success One Class at a Time.”

“The entire Saddleback College community is committed to helping our students succeed academically and meet their short- and long-term goals,” stated Dr. Tod A. Burnett, President of Saddleback College. “Student success does not happen by chance, it is something for which everyone on campus must constantly work.”

“The issue of student success is not trivial,” Dr. Tinto told the audience, which was largely made up of faculty. “Nowhere is student success more important than in the first year and in the classrooms of the first year.” Dr. Tinto noted that an important step toward student success is making sure that classroom expectations are clear and high; colleges, as a whole, must also ensure that expectations for themselves and their students are high and clearly defined so that students are empowered to meet and exceed their expectations.

“Thursday was a special day for Saddleback College and I feel very fortunate to have met and spent time with Dr. Tinto,” stated Patricia Flanigan, Dean of Online Education and Learning Resources. “We look forward to exploring new ways to integrate the recommendations into future practices.”

After the presentation, attendees broke into groups and collaborated on a “One Minute Test,” a technique that Dr. Tinto uses in his Syracuse classes to gauge student understanding and engagement. The simple test garnered several questions about ways to apply the student success techniques in the traditional, online, and hybrid courses that Saddleback College offers. For more information about Dr. Tinto and to read his publications, visit [http://faculty.soe.syr.edu/vtinto/](http://faculty.soe.syr.edu/vtinto/).

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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