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Saddleback College and Irvine Valley College Launch Free Mobile Campus App

Mission Viejo, CA – Feb. 7, 2011 – South Orange County Community College District (SOCCCD) has launched free mobile campus applications for Saddleback College and Irvine Valley College (IVC). ***Saddleback Mobile*** and ***IVC Mobile*** will integrate college life with popular smart phones and mobile devices. “This is another important step toward providing the best in technology and access for our students, using mobile as a platform. The apps provide access to services and information that students identified as most important,” said Dr. Robert S. Bramucci, SOCCCD Vice Chancellor of Technology and Learning Services.

The apps will enable students and the community to browse class schedules, access campus maps, news and events, and use an interactive directory to email or call professors and staff. The app also offers Blackboard Mobile Learn that enables students and faculty to complete assignments and participate in class discussions using their mobile devices.

“***Saddleback Mobile*** will help our students stay connected to the college and make it easier for them to get information they need and want. It is a thrill to see the launch of this innovative tool that will continue to improve and evolve with the needs of our students in mind,” said Saddleback College President Tod Burnett.

Glenn Roquemore, Irvine Valley College President, is excited about how the app can help students and the community too. “***IVC mobile*** will be a tremendous help to anyone seeking class information, Blackboard, college directories and campus news. Finding building locations via GPS will also be a beneficial asset to students and the community,” he said.

The application was developed by a district-wide group of students, faculty, and staff in partnership with Blackboard Mobile, a division of education technology company Blackboard, Inc. SOCCCD is one of the first community college districts in California to launch comprehensive mobile apps to assist students.

“We are grateful to have a partner in Blackboard that really understands the possibilities for mobile applications in education,” added Bramucci.

The two apps are currently available for use on the iPhone, iPad and iPod touch and can be downloaded for free through the iTunes store. Applications will soon be available for Android, Blackberry and other mobile devices.

District and college staff are also working together to develop mobile versions of the two college websites. Over the past few years, SOCCCD has been on the forefront of developing innovative technology tools that help students be more successful such as a homegrown Student Information System (SIS), My Academic Plan (MAP), MySite web portal and others. “This is just the beginning. Mobile is quickly becoming the dominant computing platform on the planet,” added Bramucci.

Founded in 1967, South Orange County Community College District serves 26 cities and communities through Saddleback College, Irvine Valley College and the Advanced Technology & Education Park (ATEP). The colleges prepare more than 43,000 students each year for careers, transfer to four-year colleges and universities and lifelong learning.

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