

Saddleback College to replace gaucho mascot with a bobcat



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Saddleback College officials announced the new school mascot will be the bobcats. A design for the mascot is the next thing to be voted on.

Earlier this year, the community college's president announced the original gaucho mascot would be retired after school leaders heard from students and staff members about how the depiction was hurtful and made them feel excluded by the campus community.

"Your fellow students and my Latinx colleagues who shed tears and told of their pain at our open forums over the last few months were not the first to do so," college president Elliot Stern said at the time. "Our mascot inflicted a sense of otherness on those we care about."

Also in the running after 330 suggestions were whittled down to 21 semi-finalists and then, after campus-wide forums, to three finalists were the rattlers and the mountain lions. More than 3,200 people voted, campus officials said.

The campus community will also get to vote on the look for the bobcat mascot, options for which will be created over the summer by a working group and a designer, officials said.