Cabrillo College STARS Program Selected as 2014 ‘Examples of Excelencia’ Finalist

National Initiative Selects Cabrillo STARS Program from Field of 217 Nominations

APTOS, CA – Cabrillo College today announced that its Students Transitioning in Academics: Reaching Success (STARS) Program was selected out of a field of 217 nominations as a finalist for the 2014 Examples of Excelencia, a national initiative to identify and promote programs that are at the forefront of advancing educational achievement for Latino students in higher education.

As part of the recognition, Cabrillo’s STARS program was honored at the annual Celebración de Excelencia, held on September 30th at the St. Regis Hotel in Washington, DC in partnership with the Congressional Hispanic Caucus (CHC) and the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO).

“Cabrillo College is honored to receive this recognition as a finalist, especially amongst such a competitive field of outstanding programs,” said Dr. Laurel Jones, President and Superintendent of Cabrillo College. “The STARS First Year Experience provides students with a fun and supportive cohort-based learning environment. Our research demonstrates that students who enroll in Learning Communities are more likely to accomplish their transfer and career goals, and have better long-term success.”

As a result of the positive impact of Cabrillo’s STARS program, Cabrillo College will be featured in the 2014 edition of the publication “What Works for Latino Students in Higher Education Compendium” and included in Excelencia’s searchable, online Growing What Works database, which profiles selected evidence based programs and institutions from across the U.S. In addition, the program will be included in a national press release and highlighted in an online broadcast to more than 10,000 Excelencia in Education constituents.

About the STARS First Year Experience Program

Cabrillo College is a Title V Hispanic Serving Institution. The vision of the Title V initiative is that students who assess into pre-transfer level courses will be fully engaged with the college through a First Year Experience program, starting with Summer Bridge and including Supplemental Instruction, enabling them to complete their first year and subsequent courses successfully.
The STARS First Year Experience program at Cabrillo College is a Learning Community designed to prepare students for academic success in their first year as college students. The year long program includes a two-day orientation prior to the start of the program and includes a two-week Summer Bridge program designed to acclimate students to the college environment and give them tools for success in college. The STARS program is designed for full-time students and provides priority registration and guaranteed enrollment in math and English classes, as well as math tutoring and extra support through supplemental instruction. In the program, students learn college survival skills and explore transfer and career options, including career workshops, guest speakers and field trips, as they take courses required for transfer or toward their degrees.

**About Excelencia in Education**

Since its inception in 2004, Excelencia in Education has accelerated Latino students’ success in higher education by providing data-driven analysis of the educational status of Latinos, and by promoting education policies and institutional practices that support their academic achievement. For additional information about their Examples of Excelencia initiative may be found on the Excelencia in Education website at [www.edexcelencia.org](http://www.edexcelencia.org).

**About Cabrillo College**

*Cabrillo College is a leading California community college serving Santa Cruz County with locations in Aptos, Scotts Valley and Watsonville. It is ranked #1 in transfers to UC Santa Cruz. Founded in 1959, the college offers over 100 academic and career technical education programs that serve multiple educational goals such as A.A. and A.S. degrees, certificates of achievement, skills certificates, transfer to 4-year institutions or for lifelong learning and personal enrichment. Cabrillo College is a dynamic, diverse and responsive educational community dedicated to helping all students achieve their academic, career and personal development goals.*

###