FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cabrillo College Foundation Celebrates Planned Bequest
Brian and Patti Herman Hope Their Legacy Will Provide Direct and Sustained Support for Student Success

APTOS—Long-time Cabrillo College supporters Brian and Patti Herman have established a planned bequest that will provide a significant and lasting contribution to several successful programs at the College.

The couple that has made Santa Cruz County their home for more than 40 years says the gift reflects their strong support for the mission of the community college. Everyone, they say, should have access to education and job skills training.

“Cabrillo College fills an important gap in the educational system for students who aren’t prepared for a four-year university or can’t afford the cost,” said Brian Herman, who taught Communication courses at the college and served as an interim tennis coach in the 70s. “We’ve really seen the programs working here and see the people involved,” he continued.

This is the largest private bequest to Cabrillo College to date. Proceeds from the Brian and Patricia Herman Endowment will benefit the Tutorials Center, Women’s Educational Success (WES), Cabrillo Advancement Program (CAP), the President’s Circle, Early Childhood Education, and Cabrillo Stage. The Herman’s are big fans of Cabrillo Theater.

Earlier in the year, the couple gave $27,289 to sustain the Cabrillo Tutorials Center, which had suffered from severe budget cuts. Their gift helped sustain free peer tutoring services for about 400 transfer students per semester.

Patti Herman has enjoyed Cabrillo literature courses over the years and said, “It is a small thing we can do. Cabrillo has been a part of us.”
The couple made the decision to allow the gift to be public because they wanted to encourage similar philanthropy in others.

“We’re regular people,” Patti Herman said. “This is about Cabrillo and the students.”

The Herman’s noted the warmth and enthusiasm of student tutors and Lori Chavez, Cabrillo College Tutorials coordinator, and how easily it is to see the positive impact peer tutoring has on students’ ability to move forward with their goals.

“The support will result in enhanced academic success,” Chavez said. “We greatly appreciate this kind of support from our community.”

Some students visit the center because of the positive study atmosphere; others to get help with particular transfer subjects or borrow study materials such as a calculators that they could not otherwise afford.

American Sign Language student Christine Holeman, who practices regularly with native signer and student Garrett Nichols, says, “Tutoring has made the difference between passing and being successful. With a tutor, it comes alive.”

Peer tutors help students gain confidence and grow to meet their educational goals.

“It’s very enriching to be able to give back,” said Brian Herman.

About The Cabrillo College Foundation
The Cabrillo College Foundation is a nonprofit organization established in 1962 to raise private donations for the support of Cabrillo programs. Private support is used for student scholarships, research and educational programs, faculty and departmental support, facilities, and equipment. Of the 1,400 community colleges in the nation, the Cabrillo College Foundation ranks among the top 2%. The generosity of Cabrillo College supporters has resulted in top state and national rankings in an annual study of college donors conducted by the Council for Aid to Education (CAE), a subsidiary of RAND Corporation.

Local citizens, college staff, faculty and Cabrillo trustees serve on the 31-member foundation board, representing all geographic areas. Over the last ten years, the foundation has raised over $33 million for college initiatives. Donations for the 2013-14 academic year were $2.6 million. The foundation has helped to build an endowment of over $23 million.

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 that is dedicated to helping all students achieve their academic, career and personal development goals.

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