For Immediate Release

**Cabrillo College Receives Nearly $1 Million Grant to Host Regional ICT Lab**

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Grant to Create and Staff Virtual Net Lab Environment for 25 Bay Area Community Colleges*

APTOS – Cabrillo College today announced that it has been awarded $995,270 in one-time grant funding from the Bay Area Community College Consortium (BACCC) to create, staff and provide a shared regional Internet, Communications and Technology (ICT) lab facility. This facility will be housed at the Cabrillo College Aptos campus and used by 25 community colleges throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

The combination of software and hardware will enable faculty and students from any Internet accessible location to utilize a virtual lab environment designed to provide employer demanded “hands-on” experience with a variety of computer operating systems, networking equipment, and application software.

“This was truly a collaborative effort – many area colleges worked together on the grant proposal,” said Rock Pfotenhauer, BACCC Chair and Cabrillo College Dean of Instruction, Career Education and Economic Development. “All of the 25 San Francisco Bay Area community colleges participating in this regional ICT lab facility have ICT related programs of study, and all have previously struggled with funding, building and managing hands-on ICT lab facilities that develop the skills demanded by ICT employers.”

The solution comes with 450 ICT lab assignments that will enable participating colleges to offer both entry-level classes and incumbent worker training in ICT related areas that range from introductory computer classes to cutting edge courses that focus on cyber security, virtualization, data storage, operating systems, systems administration and network configuration and design.

To utilize the lab, each student will have their own virtual network ‘pods’ that they can access through an online reservation system. The lab environment will be available 24/7 and students can utilize the pods to gain hands-on experience outside of the classroom. Faculty members are given statistical information on the students’ pod sessions, and can also provide students with real-time assistance via remote access. The lab environment is also designed for online classes, and for face-to-face classes, faculty will be able to reserve pods for their students to use during class time.

“This is a very exciting project – it’s a great opportunity to work together with other community colleges on a regional level, and coordinated efforts such as this one are an emerging trend,” said Gerlinde Brady, Computer and Information Systems Program Chair and Instructor. “It would cost an individual college about $150,000 to create a similar lab just to
support its own needs, not including costs and time to manage the system. One centralized lab with a systems administrator and shared, remote access by all 25 community colleges is not only more cost efficient, it enables students and faculty to be more mobile.”

Colleges participating in the project include:
Berkeley City College
Cabrillo College
Chabot College
City College of San Francisco
College of Alameda
College of San Mateo
Contra Costa College
Contra Costa CCD
De Anza College
Diablo Valley College
Evergreen Valley College
Foothill College
Gavilan College
Hartnell College
Laney College
Las Positas College
Los Medanos College
Merritt College
Mission College
Monterey Peninsula College
Ohlone College
San Jose City College
Santa Rosa Junior College
Skyline College
Solano College

"I am so proud of the Cabrillo faculty involved in this endeavor,” said Dr. Laurel Jones, President and Superintendent of Cabrillo College. "This innovation has been an idea for a while now, and I am glad to see it come to fruition. These are very exciting times for the College."

In one week of 24/7 access, the ICT lab system will be able to accommodate 288 simultaneous connections and up to 16,128 individual, three-hour lab sessions.

The grant award includes the creation of one system administrator staff position at Cabrillo College to oversee and maintain the lab, as well as to provide remote support to the participating colleges. The ICT lab is scheduled to be fully operational by fall semester 2015.

About the Bay Area Community College Consortium (BACCC)
The Bay Area Community College Consortium (BACCC) is comprised of the 28 colleges surrounding the San Francisco and Monterey Bays. Funded by the Carl D. Perkins Vocational and Technical Education Act of 1998, the BACCC supports activities and projects that meet the four objectives of the Act:
Improving the Academic skills of vocational and technical education students; Strengthening connections between secondary and postsecondary education; Preparing individuals for occupations in demand that pay family-supporting wages; Investing in effective, high quality programs.

The BACCC serves as a regional framework to enhance the coordination of regional programs; to increase collaboration on regional priorities; and to serve as a link between colleges Career Technical Education programs, Economic and Workforce Development Initiatives, and the Chancellor's Office.

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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