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Mary Solari awards 100 students scholarships to Cabrillo College

Mary Solari and her husband Dick, who passed away in 2008 have been longtime supporters of Cabrillo College. With a generous gift of \$255,000, Mary Solari awarded scholarships to 100 students to attend Cabrillo College in the fall. Graduating high school seniors from Santa Cruz County high schools were eligible to apply for the \$2,500 scholarships to support hard-working students who are motivated to gain skills in college to become contributing members of society.

Scholarship recipient Barbara Dimas will be graduating from Watsonville High School and enrolling at Cabrillo in the fall. "I chose to attend Cabrillo because it will open many doors to different engineering careers, and it is well known for its engineering department. Coming from a low-income family, this scholarship will help pay for my education in various ways. As a first generation student, I was really unsure about starting college, let alone paying for it. I feel very fortunate and appreciative for receiving these scholarships."

Mariel Waldon, dreams of working in the art industry after transferring to UC Santa Cruz from Cabrillo College. "Because of Mary's generosity, I will be able to focus on my art, rather than worry about my finances. I personally believe happiness leads to success. This ethic has led me to art, which has led me to Cabrillo College."

Mary Solari grew up in Klamath Falls, Oregon, and earned a degree in psychology from the University of Oregon. She went on to work for NBC Radio, Radio Free Asia and Bechtel Engineering before marrying Dick and raising three daughters who all attended Cabrillo College. "It warms my heart to make a difference in these young people's lives. Sometimes a little help is all it takes to change someone's life for the better. I hope this is what these scholarships will do," said Mary.

Cabrillo College Foundation has been on the forefront of the movement to make community college free for students. This year over \$800,000 in scholarships was awarded to Cabrillo students.

"Mary's generosity to Cabrillo is legendary," said Linda Burroughs, Cabrillo College Foundation President. "Thanks to Mary and our community, the Cabrillo College Foundation is able to provide scholarships to reduce or eliminate financial barriers so students can afford a quality college education."



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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's students and programs. Private support is used for student scholarships, research and educational programs, faculty and departmental support, facilities, and equipment. Local citizens, college staff, faculty and Cabrillo trustees serve on the 28-member foundation board, representing all geographic areas. Over the last ten years, the foundation has raised over \$36 million for college initiatives. Donations for the 2014-15 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. Its mission is to enhance the intellectual, cultural, and economic vitality of our diverse community by assisting all students in their quest for lifelong learning and success in an ever-changing world.

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