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June 22, 2018

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cabrillo College Receives Statewide Recognition As A Strong Workforce Star

Innovative, Career Technical Education Programs Advance Economic and Social Mobility for Students

APTOS, CA – Cabrillo College today announces that several of its Career Technical Education programs recently earned the California Community College’s Strong Workforce Stars recognition at the Gold, Silver, and Bronze levels, for success in improving student employment and wage outcomes.

Cabrillo’s Accounting, Associate Degree in Nursing, and Dental Hygiene programs earned Strong Workforce Stars at the Gold Level. Cabrillo’s Construction and Energy Management, Horticulture and Crop Production, Human Services, and Radiologic Technology were awarded Silver Stars, and Cabrillo’s Administration of Justice, Children’s Literacy, Culinary Arts and Hospitality Management, Engineering Technology and Fire Technology were awarded Bronze Stars.

Strong Workforce Stars is an annual recognition for career education programs, also known as career technical education, within the California Community Colleges system whose graduates show significant gains in factors important for advancing social mobility – a substantial increase in earnings, attainment of a living wage and a job closely matched with the field of study.

“We are incredibly proud of our Strong Workforce Stars,” said Dr. Kathleen Welch, Cabrillo College Vice President of Instruction. “Our program faculty work very hard to create learning environments that not only promote student growth and learning, but also that prepare students for success in the real world. As evidenced by these awards, they’ve achieved that, and in our area where the cost of living is high, achieving these milestones is particularly impressive!”

The 2018 Strong Workforce Stars were given to career education programs throughout the state in 12 industry sectors, based on earnings gains, living wage attainment, and employment in field of study. Those named Strong Workforce Stars met one or more of the following thresholds:

- An increase in earnings by 50 percent or more, based on a match to the state wage file, for students who earned a certificate or degree and were last enrolled in 2015-16.
- Attainment of the regional living wage by 70 percent or more, based on a match to the state wage file, for students who earned a certificate or degree and were last enrolled in 2015-16.

- 90 percent or more are employed in a job similar to their field of study, according to the Career Technical Education Outcomes Survey, for students who earned a certificate or degree and were last enrolled in 2014-15.

This year, the Bronze Stars, Silver Stars, and Gold Stars levels were introduced, with each winning program receiving recognition in one of those categories. Bronze Stars programs met one or more thresholds; Silver Stars met two; and Gold Stars met all three.

Cabrillo College's Accounting program achieved a Gold Star standard because students who participate in this program boost their earnings by 62%, 73% attain the regional living wage, and 91% report securing a job closely related to their field of study. Cabrillo's Accounting faculty attribute students' strong employment outcomes in part to the program's responsiveness to both industry demands and student needs.

Cabrillo College's Associate Degree in Nursing program achieved a Gold Star standard, because students who participate in this program boost their earnings by 90%, while 86% attain the regional living wage, and 100% report securing a job closely related to their field of study. To support students' successful transition to the workplace, Cabrillo's ADN program tracks and utilizes a range of data. Because faculty are in tune with trends in the labor market supply and demand of registered nurses (RN), they recognize that recent graduates are entering a favorable labor market, due to an increased demand for healthcare with the Affordable Care Act and a high number of Registered Nurse retirements.

Cabrillo College's Dental Hygiene program achieved a Gold Star standard, because students who participate in this program boost their earnings by 112%, while 89% attain the regional living wage, and 100% report securing a job closely related to their field of study. Cabrillo's Dental Hygiene program attributes participants' employment success to a handful of signature characteristics, including a focus on intentional, integrated student support from day one. Two weeks before the program's first semester, students enroll as a cohort in Allied Health 110, a week-long foundation course that helps build the skills needed to achieve both academically and professionally.

"Strong Workforce Stars career education programs are proven to help Californians increase their earning power," said Van Ton-Quinlivan, executive vice chancellor for Workforce & Digital Futures. "With the introduction of levels this year, we are able to highlight those programs that are seeing significant results, as well as those that are on the rise toward even greater success."

For more information about Cabrillo College and our Workforce Stars program, go to http://www.dwmshowcase.com/showcase_workforce_stars.asp?pg=7.

About the California Community Colleges System

Cabrillo College is part of the California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation composed of 72 districts and 114 colleges serving 2.1 million students per year. Community colleges supply workforce training, basic skills education and prepare students for transfer to four-year institutions. The Chancellor's Office provides leadership, advocacy and support under the direction of the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges. For more information about the community colleges, please visit <http://californiacommunitycolleges.cccco.edu/>. To see all of the Strong Workforce Stars stories, go to <http://dwmshowcase.com/>

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



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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. With a commitment to quality and equity, we connect all learners to pathways that propel them from where they are to where they aspire to be, including: academic, personal, and career growth.

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