CABRILLO COLLEGE THRIVES ON A SOLID FOUNDATION

by John D. Hurd

At a time when many community colleges struggle with state and federal funding – their foundations in an embryonic stage – the Cabrillo College Foundation has raised the level of private giving to new heights. In place is an infrastructure that can capitalize on the college’s exceptionally supportive community ties. Not only is the Foundation surpassing its own ambitious goals, but Cabrillo boasts one of the most successful community college foundations in the state and in the nation.

The Foundation’s great success distinguishes Cabrillo as not just another community college, but an outstanding community college. The generosity of donors results in critical support for a variety of educational endeavors, including student scholarships, faculty grants, equipment funding, and program development. The generosity of Cabrillo’s many supporters truly supports all of its mission.

The Foundation allows Cabrillo to offer one of the largest student scholarship programs in the state. The college’s many privately funded, well-equipped classrooms and laboratories give students a first-rate learning experience. Innovative programs like the Cabrillo Advancement Program (CAP) help ensure the availability of higher education to at-risk youths, starting in the sixth grade. Unquestionably, without the ongoing support of community members Cabrillo College would not be the vital educational institution that it is today.

The Cabrillo College Foundation’s fundraising tour de force is managed by just a handful of staff who work closely with a dedicated team of community volunteers. This year Foundation Executive Director Melinda Silverstein and this outstanding team are celebrating some impressive milestones.

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The Foundation’s net assets have grown from $6 million in 1997 to $10 million last year. The endowment has grown more than 50 percent—to more than $6 million, and a series of capital campaigns to equip new buildings have attained their financial goals in record time.

Given the county demographics, the level of community giving is especially noteworthy. This private fundraising success is reflective of how Cabrillo is seen by local leaders and philanthropists.

Melinda attributes the Foundation’s success to several synergistic factors. An active group of community volunteers provide an engine that drives fundraising activities. An involved and committed donor community imparts an essential energy that enhances the quality of our students’ educational experience. The collective efforts of a talented and dedicated faculty and staff contribute to the college’s overall cachet.

Despite its comparatively small size, the Cabrillo College Foundation now boasts the third largest community college endowment in the state and the fifth largest in the nation. Cabrillo raised over $2.2 million, the fourth largest sum among California community colleges and the 29th largest in the nation.

While the passage of a local bond measure in 1998 allowed the college to move forward with many capital improvements, it also created a need for the college to equip and furnish the new and refurbished facilities. The Foundation is helping meet this need by enacting a series of targeted fundraising campaigns.

A feasibility study in 1999 conducted by the Clements Group, a private consulting organization, has helped focus the most recent fundraising campaigns. Consultants questioned almost 100 local leaders and philanthropists about their perceptions of the college and their priorities for community education. The results were encouraging and have guided the Foundation’s these efforts.

Melinda’s formula for the successful Watsonville Center and Horticulture fundraising campaigns began with basic development principles: identify the campus and community priorities, recruit influential community leaders, and provide quality staff support for volunteers so that they can be most effective.

The Watsonville Center Campaign raised $1.2 million, and the Environmental Horticulture Center and Botanical Gardens campaign raised $400,000. Both campaigns were completed in record time.

The Cabrillo College Foundation has an infrastructure in place that makes it as easy as possible for a team of fundraising campaign volunteers to be highly effective.

Volunteers appreciate the well-organized approach to obtaining community support. Capitola Councilwoman and businesswoman Gayle Ortiz claims it was as easy as promised. Gayle served with Joan DeNeffe as co-chair of the Environmental Horticulture Center and Botanical Gardens campaign.

Gayle attributes the campaign’s success to the Foundation. “They know this community,” she says. “They know how to fundraise. They are allowing the public to see how valuable Cabrillo College is to the community! And the community has certainly stepped up to the plate.”

Next up on Cabrillo’s fundraising horizon is garnering support for the new Visual and Performing Arts Complex. The Cabrillo College Foundation is ready—staff and volunteer team alike—to take on this artful challenge hoping to perform another successful fundraising feat.
FACULTY RECEIVE OVER $20,000 IN GRANT AWARDS

The Faculty Grant Award program was established in 1985 with an endowment gift from Keith and Elinor Shaffer to the Cabrillo College Foundation. Keith Shaffer is the founding Chairperson of the Cabrillo College Board of Trustees.

This year’s recipients of the Cabrillo College Faculty Grant Awards received over $20,000 total. Grants ranging from $350 to over $4000 were given to faculty members representing a wide range of teaching disciplines.

A Faculty Grants committee selected 12 projects for funding this year. Preference was given to proposals that benefit students and reflect a high degree of professionalism and scholarship.

Committee membership was comprised of Cabrillo College faculty members, including Frank Lynch, Dave Schwartz, Nancy A. Brown, Elissa Wagner, Jane Gregorius, and Joanne Noto Wylie.

Bill Lamp, Art Instructor, received funding for safety equipment for a bronze casting class.

Nursing Instructor Christine Madsen will buy newborn and pediatric care simulators with her grant award.

The Voice, Cabrillo College’s student newspaper, will have a new a fax machine/scanner machine thanks to the award that Journalism Instructor Andre Neu received.

Music Instructor James B. Durland will purchase a Macintosh G4 Dual Power Computer.

Physical Education Instructor Kim Belliveau will purchase a Precor Stretch Trainer with her award.

Physics Instructor Carlos E. Figueroa, Physics will purchase special equipment using ultrasonic pulse technology to measure motion.

Funding for a joint proposal by Anthropology instructors Karen Fjelstad, Ruth Laird, Allan Lonnberg, Chuck Smith, Kristin Wilson, and Corinne Wood will help improve instructional and laboratory materials in Physical Anthropology Laboratory.

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CAMPUS CONSTRUCTION NEWS

With much of the preliminary infrastructure work completed, Cabrillo College will launch several new projects, and put a few finishing touches on some recently completed structures as follows:

1. Soquel Drive/Cabrillo College Drive—Construction is complete. Landscaping along the roads continues through the end of April 2001.

2. Parking Areas A and B—The new parking structure was fully in use at the beginning of Spring semester. The landscaping will be finished by April 2001.

3. Student Services - Phase One—Construction and drawings are in process. Site construction will begin in April 2001 and building construction in July 2001, with an expected completion date of November 2002.

4. Environmental Horticulture Center and Botanical Gardens—Site preparation and utilities have been completed.

Construction will begin in May 2001 and be completed by June 2002.


6. Watsonville Center—Construction began on April 14, 2000 and is ahead of schedule. The completion date is scheduled for fall semester 2001.


8. Campus Signage—The first phase of signs, including the monument signs, has been completed.

9. ECE Addition—Additional funding for the project is being pursued. Construction will begin by June 2001.

10. Athletic Fields—Construction of the fields is scheduled for spring and summer 2001.
CABRILLO COLLEGE HELPS STUDENTS ACHIEVE

The nine-year-old ACHIEVE Program at the Cabrillo College Watsonville Center continues to grow in reputation and stature as an expanding number of students successfully transfer newly acquired office skills into the workplace. Not only is the program gaining increasing attention as a national model for entry-level occupational training, but local employers are increasingly asking for ACHIEVE graduates.

What makes the program unusual is its integrated approach in teaching skills to nontraditional students. ACHIEVE Director Maia Chisholm teaches the culture of the American workplace and interpersonal skills in real life situations. Maia believes that it takes an increasingly complex set of skills to succeed in today's workplace.

The program was launched in the 1992-93 school year with a grant from the Private Industry Council of Santa Cruz County. The idea is to integrate time management and office skills with English to create a pool of office workers among the Watsonville population.

About 20 to 24 students enroll in ACHIEVE each year. They complete about 650 hours of study in an office environment. In this program punctuality is a priority and they clock in daily. In the simulated office environment, students juggle assorted responsibilities.

They learn common technical language of the office, receive help on their resumes, and attend job fairs together. Weekly speakers from the local business community share their ideas with students on what skills are needed for success in the workplace. The students have heard nurses, insurance salesmen, chiropractors, and ACHIEVE graduates talk about the work world.

The ACHIEVE program is earning increasing credibility among local employers. The County of Santa Cruz, which employs 15 ACHIEVE graduates, compares ACHIEVE graduates' experience to six to nine months of real work experience. ACHIEVE graduates are also working for the Pajaro Valley Unified School District, Cabrillo College, the City of Watsonville, and many other local businesses. Employers recognize that ACHIEVE graduates are able to handle responsibility, work hard, show initiative and resourcefulness, handle stress well, and are dependable.

Although it is an intensive program for students, the retention and completion rate is a remarkable 92 percent. From 1992 through 2000, 160 enrolled in the program and 147 graduated. They range in age from about 18 to 68 years old. About 85 percent of the students are women and about 96 percent are Latino.

For students who have not experienced academic or workplace success in the past, ACHIEVE is a place where they can build skills they can take pride in. Some students enter the program from fast food, retail, or manufacturing jobs. Several of them are mothers and some were not working prior to enrolling in the program. They are very highly motivated and excited about learning. Many return for further education.
ADAPTIVE CENTER MAKES LEARNING ACCESSIBLE

In one corner of the state-of-the-art Cabrillo College Computer Technology Center (CTC) is a small, dedicated group of students learning computer skills that are changing their lives. The group in the CTC is not learning a programming language or trendy Web design, however. These are students with disabilities that make using a regular computer impossible. They are blind and can’t read, or they have multiple sclerosis and can’t type, or they have sustained recent head injuries that limit simple movements most students take for granted.

It is in the adaptive corner of the CTC that students are learning the ins and outs of specialized computer equipment designed to help them tackle challenges once out of reach.

This semester, Adaptive Computer Instructor Calais Roussel and a skilled team of assistants are teaching about 50 students — almost double the number from last year. With state-of-the-art adaptive technology, Cabrillo is offering a growing number of students hands on experience, hope, and success.

The adaptive computer program was founded in 1988 with grant money and community donations. Sandra Eldridge, now a retired Cabrillo instructor, spearheaded the program when it existed a in a separate building. Since then the center has been relocated in part to reflect the inclusive philosophy of teaching at Cabrillo College. These days, the push is toward campus-wide integration. The lab exists in the hustle and bustle of the busy student computer lab. It makes a big difference in terms of decreasing the stigma students can feel.

In one of the most exciting advancements for the campus, students will soon benefit from technology that will almost instantly convert printed material to electronic text. The text can be translated to Braille or burned onto a CD-ROM and read aloud by a screen reader. The idea is to institutionalize the adaptive technology so it is a resource for everyone on campus. A recent visit from the chancellor’s office affirmed that the college was on the right track.
Years of community outreach and a solid reputation for developing skills for independence has created a tremendously successful disabled students program at Cabrillo College. The program is ranked sixth in size out of 108 California community colleges and plays an enormous role among rehabilitative programs in Santa Cruz County.

The numbers, which represent many hard-won victories for students and their instructors, are impressive.

A little over 12 percent of the Cabrillo student population, or about 1,630 students are physically or learning disabled. Research conducted last year shows that disabled students’ grade point average is about the same as mainstream students, even though disabled students attempt and complete more units on average than the mainstream student. Disabled students also transfer as often as the mainstream students do and earn associate’s degrees at higher and possibly increasing rates.

Much of the credit is due to Director Frank Lynch and his dedicated and outstanding faculty and staff, many of who have contributed to the program’s success for years.

In 1973, Congress passed Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act, which prohibited discrimination on the basis of handicaps in federally assisted programs or activities. It has been followed by more legislation including the American Disabilities Act in 1990. Since then, the kind of services available to populations with disabilities has multiplied and Cabrillo has worked hard to be in the forefront.

The steady growth of Cabrillo’s program is in large part due the development of strong relations with high schools and other transition groups that know what we offer. The college is also in contact with county mental health services and organizations that serve the disabled population.

In the Adaptive Physical Education Program, Micki Witzig, adaptive rehabilitation specialist and program director, teaches students how to manage their symptoms. With new state-of-the-art equipment she teaches them to use their bodies efficiently either by increasing their strength or their ability to move if they’re in a wheelchair or using canes or crutches.

Recent changes in Witzig’s department include the full accessibility of the physical education facility with a new ramp, accessible restrooms, and exciting new equipment to help students develop their strength and balance. The classes encourage independence so individuals can better participate in their community or their workplace.

Witzig teaches about 300 students each semester with the help of a part-time instructor and classroom aides. The population this semester includes about 120 students with congenital conditions and about 80 with orthopedic handicaps. Another 100 are comprised of students with various conditions including blindness, deafness, brain trauma, and rare neurological disorders.

Other programs for the disabled thrive at Cabrillo College. The Stroke Center, under the direction of Carolyn Bliss-Isberg and her dedicated faculty and staff, continues to serve about 90 people daily. The Adaptive High Tech Center has grown to 50 students this semester. With the expansion of the Watsonville Center, the Learning Skills Program will begin testing there for potential learning-disabled students in fall 2001 semester.

It’s very emotional work for instructors who put their heart into helping people who have just come through a life-changing trauma. It is their heartfelt dedication that has made a difference in thousands of lives.
NEW TRDP PROGRAM WILL ASSIST FUTURE TEACHERS

Over the next ten years California will need to hire over 300,000 new teachers. The expected shortage of qualified teachers, especially in the greater Monterey Bay region, is exacerbated by several factors, including high retirement rates, high cost of living, class size reductions, enrollment growth, and an economy that continues to offer competing job opportunities.

Last fall Cabrillo College received a $125,000 five-year renewable grant from the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office to implement the new program called the Teacher Reading and Development Partnership (TRDP) designed to address the looming teacher shortage, and to improve the readings skills and retention of at risk youth by the third grade.

Dean of Transfer and Instruction Bette Hirsch has been a major force in bringing the TRDP program to the Cabrillo College and ensuring its success. Bette worked closely with other educational institutions building cooperative relationships that would benefit students. California State University Monterey Bay (CSUMB), San Jose State University, University of California at Santa Cruz, and ten other Northern California community colleges are now participating in the TRDP consortium.

Cabrillo College Counselor Eva Acosta was hired as the TRDP Director in fall 2000. Bette and Eva secured agreements for Cabrillo College TRDP students to receive field experience working as tutors at several Pajaro Valley Unified School District (PVUSD) schools. In just one semester Cabrillo’s TRDP program accomplished or surpassed all of its initial goals. Thirty students enrolled full time in TRDP. About 30 additional Cabrillo College students participated in the Teachers For Tomorrow Club. TRDP students worked as reading tutors 192 hours per week over 16 weeks in three PVUSD elementary schools.

TRDP students receive many benefits, including free academic and career planning, paid field work in tutoring, extra training on how to tutor and teach reading, guaranteed transfer, financial aid, free preparation for the California Basic Education Test (CBEST), hands on classroom experience, free conferences and related events.

The Teachers For Tomorrow Club was developed with the help of CSUMB’s Las Alianzas Program. The club meets monthly during the day on the Aptsos campus, and in the evening at the Watsonville Center. At each club meeting students discuss issues such as financial aid, and transfer among others.

Eva expects enrollment in the program to increase over the next five years and hopes to permanently institutionalize the TRDP program as part of Cabrillo’s ongoing offerings. Qualified teachers are the past, present, and future of education. The TRDP program will provide future teachers a chance to develop skills early and guarantee transfer to four-year universities where they can complete the educational requirements.
ACCOLADES continued

Alisa Messer was elected Northern Vice President of the Community College Council of the California Federation of Teachers. Alisa has been a part-time instructor in English and active in CCFT negotiations on campus. She is also the editor of the *California Part Timer*, a special publication for part-time community college instructors.

Cabrillo’s Equal Opportunity Program Services (EOPS) was selected as a mentor program for the California Community Colleges Chancellor’s Office Exemplary Practices Project. Vera Romandia and David Trevino have been invited to participate in a college mentor program workshop in San Francisco. As a mentor program, Cabrillo College EOPS will provide leadership and effective practices to other colleges throughout the State.

Helene Jara was elected Regional Representative for Region IV for the Statewide Tutorial Association (ACCTLA). In addition, Helene recently published a short story entitled “Who’s Ed?” in MINDPRINTS, a literary journal from Allen Hancock Community College.

VAPA Art Instructors Sue Dirksen and Tim Craighead have had their work recently featured. Sue’s work was recently included in an exhibit titled “Space Odyssey” at the UCSC Eloise Packard Gallery and Tim will exhibit his paintings at the Peters Gallery through mid-April in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

ESL Instructor Zarmina Dastagir was invited last fall to teach two courses at Georgetown University in the English as a Foreign Language and English for Specific Purposes Departments.

At the annual conference of the California Community College Foreign Language Council, Spanish Instructor Nancy Stucker was awarded a scholarship for a two-week education abroad program in Spain in 2001. The International Education Council, in collaboration with the Chancellor’s Office, has established this scholarship program to provide California Community College instructors like Nancy an opportunity to study Spanish language and culture in Spain.

The Chancellor’s Office has offered Nursing Instructor Kathleen Welch a grant to gather, analyze and provide criterion-referenced validation evidence for prerequisites used to determine eligibility for California Community College Associate Degree Nursing Programs. The grant will be used to develop a model nursing program for the Chancellor’s Office. Kathleen has also been selected to serve on the steering committee for the state-wide Associate Degree Nursing Model Prerequisites Validation study.

The Wallis Foundation has given Tobin Kellor, Cabrillo College Art Instructor and Gallery Director, a significant grant to publish a full color catalog of the Alan Counihan exhibition, "Prayers Before Dying." The grant also will fund the cost of sending both Tobin and artwork to Dublin Ireland, where the exhibition will open on June 15 at the Temple Bar Gallery.