Mid Term Report—Thank you for your support of Measure D!

by Claire M. Biancalana

When the votes were finally tallied on election night, and we announced the good news that Measure D passed, I felt deep gratitude to Santa Cruz County voters for their support of Cabrillo College. The Measure D campaign started about the time that John Hurd retired and I stepped into the role as Interim President. I knew that passing a bond measure would be a challenge during these economic times, but I believed that our community’s commitment to education would support our effort.

Measure D passed with such generous voter approval for one reason and for one reason only: Cabrillo College plays a vital role in the lives of many thousands of individuals living in Santa Cruz County. For over four decades, Cabrillo has been the most available path and most critical link to self-improvement in our community. Cabrillo College has given thousands of people the opportunity to improve their earning potential and their lives. The passage of Measure D ensures that for generations to come many thousands more students will be able to rely upon Cabrillo College. Thank you for your support on behalf of our past, present and future students and thank you on behalf of the Cabrillo College community.

The Measure D campaign required the hard work and commitment of a large group of volunteers. I would especially like to thank Measure D Campaign Executive Committee Co-chairs Rachael Spencer and John Leopold. Rachael and John were instrumental in coordinating the campaign process and a host of volunteers. I would also like to thank Campaign Advisory Committee co-chairs, Karen Cogswell, Rowland Rebele, and Mike Machado; and treasurer Fred McPherson.

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CABRILLO COLLEGE REPRESENTATIVES
MEET WITH STATE LEGISLATORS

Students, Governing Board members, faculty and staff visited the State Capitol on January 26 to advocate for community colleges in the next round of budget discussions. Cabrillo College Trustees Rebecca Garcia, Rachael Spencer, and Claudine Wildman; Nancy Brown, philosophy instructor and FACCC representative; Jeff Hickey, Student Trustee; and Cathy Summa, Marketing and Communications Director, joined President Claire Biancalana in speaking with lawmakers about the next round of budget discussions. Cabrillo representatives joined other community college leaders in sharing their concerns about the impact that a proposed fee hike could have on students and the workforce. The visit was part of the two-day Community College League of California’s Annual Legislative Conference. After the conference ended Monday afternoon, Biancalana and Summa — guided by various legislative staffers — met in the Capitol offices with Assemblyman Robert Pacheco, R-Walnut, and representatives of Assembly Members Russ Bogh, R-Beaumont, and Alan Lowenthal, D-Long Beach. Biancalana advocated for support on a fair Proposition 98 split, essential funding issues such as property tax backfill, the elimination of the proposed differential fee for BA holders, and reform of the community college allocation mechanism to tackle equalization, enrollment growth and noncredit inequities. The Cabrillo delegation also met with local lawmakers including: Senators Bruce McPherson, R-Santa Cruz, and Joe Simitian, D-Palo Alto; and Assemblymembers Simon Salinas, D-Watsonville, Abel Maldonado, R-Santa Maria, and John Laird, D-Santa Cruz. The lawmakers expressed their support for community college issues, in light of the State’s ongoing budget woes.

MID TERM REPORT (continued)

The members of the campaign advisory committee were instrumental to Measure D’s success. They attended early morning meetings and kept the campaign moving forward energetically. There are hundreds of individuals who enthusiastically helped make Measure D successful too numerous to thank in this newsletter. We were also fortunate to have excellent campaign staff including Campaign Manager Kris Reyes and Volunteer Coordinator Spencer Ryono.

I look forward to the day in the not-too-distant future that the goals of the college master plan are complete. Cabrillo will soon be able to expand its excellent health-careers training programs, make improvements to classrooms, expand the Watsonville Center, help students better prepare for jobs and transfer to four-year colleges, and provide greater services to the North County. Thank you again for your support.

Now that the election is over we can once again turn our full attention to college governance. Even thought it contained significant increases to enrollment fees, the Governor’s January budget proposal was better than usual for community colleges. We will continue to advocate for that budget and work to reduce the fees. Cabrillo College faculty, staff and students will continue to be politically active with the legislature throughout the upcoming budget discussions.

Finally, I am delighted to say that the process of hiring a new college president is moving ahead at full speed. Hiring consultant Grace Mitchell reported at the March Governing Board meeting that a diverse pool of 59 applicants will be considered for the position of Cabrillo’s next president.

Interviews will begin next month and community members will be able to meet final candidates in public continued page 7
NORTHERN CALIFORNIA COMMUNITY COLLEGES FORM COLLABORATIVE TO CLOSE THE DIGITAL LITERACY GAP

In an unprecedented, historical move, 26 Northern California community colleges have formed a collaborative to close the state’s digital literacy skills gap and better prepare students to compete in a global workforce. Led by Cabrillo College, the Bay Area Information Technology Consortium (Bay ITC) is a collaborative effort among 26 Bay Area community colleges and high technology businesses dedicated to educational innovation and IT reform.

Working with employers and workforce boards around the Bay Region, Bay ITC is poised to launch a campaign to raise information technology user skills in response to industry demand for consistent skills assessment. The campaign launches this month and has already attracted interest from community colleges statewide.

Bay ITC is adopting the International Computer Driving License (ICDL) to meet its goal of bringing 10,000 students up to an industry-defined standard by 2005. Known as the world’s leading workforce skills credentialing program, ICDL is used to create computer literate, skilled workforces in more than 130 countries. More than 3.5 million people worldwide have earned or are earning their ICDL.

The ICDL is being executed as an assessment that validates instruction throughout a variety of courses in the community college system. There is no cost for a college to join the campaign. Community colleges have existing assessment and instructional infrastructures sufficient to support the rollout of ICDL and there are no additional investments required by the state.

Bay ITC will open nine ICDL testing centers this month at San Francisco Bay Region, Orange County and Kern County community colleges. In mid-March, more than 20 additional ICDL testing centers from across the state will join the campaign. Bay ITC plans to make the program available to all of the community colleges, K-12, workforce investment boards and companies throughout California as part of an information competency campaign.

California Community College System: World’s Largest System of Higher Education

Linking the scale of California community colleges to industry, government, other higher education providers and community agencies promises tremendous returns, according to Claire Biancalana, interim president of Cabrillo College. “We propose to undertake change efforts on a scale that, to our knowledge, has never been attempted in the community college system,” said Biancalana. “We believe that working collaboratively at the regional and statewide level is essential to the initiative’s success. This effort will provide Californians and businesses with the skills they need to remain competitive in a rapidly changing economy.”

IBM helps launch ICDL Initiative in California

In helping business and community leaders understand the value of creative partnerships that leverage significant resources, IBM has taken the lead on this program and other initiatives. “These are the kind of steps we need to take to answer California’s job and sustainable economic development woes,” says Ted Olsson, IBM’s Manager of Corporate Community Relations for the West and a member of Bay Area Council’s Education Committee.
ICDL (continued)

tion and Workforce Preparation Task Force. “Now we can address job skill proficiency and allow Californians to take advantage of the technology needed to perform more than 90% of today’s jobs, and good jobs mean good wages to support families and communities. Driving the campaign to include K-12 partners will even further efforts to prepare residents with proper assessment and preparation for success in education and in the workforce.”

How will California benefit from ICDL?

The loss of jobs in California is at an all-time high. According to area leaders, California must develop more competitive advantages in order to retain jobs and compete with other states and regions. Key among these is a workforce that has the necessary IT skills that employers can bank on.

In many European countries, approximately two percent of the population is ICDL certified, according to Grant Castle, president of ICDL-US. “These levels were achieved in about five years and with the major worldwide momentum behind ICDL, a one to two percent penetration rate for California is definitely attainable.

It’s already happened in Ireland, England, Italy and several other countries,” Castle explained. “California is a global economy on its own; a tool that has proven itself on a global basis as a job-creation tool is a perfect fit for the state now,” said Castle. “By working with state and local employers, the demand for workers with their ICDL should grow quickly.”

ICDL is used as the global measurement workforce standard in major universities and businesses including: Trinity College-Dublin, Ireland; Univ. of South Africa; National University of Ireland – Maynooth and Galway campuses; Royal College of Surgeons of Ireland; IBM - UK; Volkswagen-South America; Heineken-Ireland; as well as the UK National Health Service.

With the ICDL tool, we will quickly reach a scale that makes a significant economic impact,” said Corey Kidwell, Executive Director of Bay ITC. “ICDL provides a consistent measurement that validates the learning taking place in community colleges around the state, and it provides businesses and industry with an independent assessment of those skills that is clear, consistent and validated by companies around the globe.”

About the Bay Area Information Technology Consortium (Bay ITC)

Bay ITC is a collaborative regional effort among 26 California Bay Area community colleges and high technology businesses dedicated to educational innovation and information technology program reform in the Bay Region community college system.

The Bay ITC represents the strongest workforce development network in the Greater Bay Area. It provides a unified voice to assess and define regional workforce development needs in IT. Bay ITC has garnered support from Intel, Sun Microsystems, Hewlett-Packard, and Cisco Systems, and others. Originating in the Silicon Valley, the Consortium now includes colleges from Monterey to Santa Rosa and extends from San Francisco to the Napa and Tri-Valleys. Additional information about Bay ITC is available at www.bayitc.org, or by calling 510-663-2277.

About the International Computer Driving License

The International Computer Driving License (ICDL) is a globally recognized certification program that enables individual to validate workforce-ready computer skills. Using a seven-module certification program, ICDL validates each user’s proficiency in the areas of basic computer competency, including basic concepts of Information Technology, file management, Internet and e-mail use, word processing, spreadsheets, presentations and databases. Based in Southport, Connecticut, ICDL-US is the sole U.S. licensee of the ICDL/European Computer Driving License (ECDL) Foundation.

For more information, visit the ICDL website at www.icdlus.com or call 866-799-4235.

About the European Computer Driving License Foundation

The European Driving Licence Foundation Ltd. (ECDL-F) is the governing body for the European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL) program. The ECDL is an internationally recognized certification program with more than three million participants in more than 100 countries. The program is known as the International Computer Driving License (ICDL) outside Europe. ECDL/ICDL certifies that the holder has knowledge of the essential concepts of Information Technology (IT) and is able to use a personal computer and common computer applications at a recognized level of competence.
STUDENTS CAN EARN A BACHELOR’S DEGREE AT THE CABRILLO COLLEGE WATSONVILLE CENTER

At the February Cabrillo College Governing Board meeting, Watsonville Center Director Rachel Mayo announced that an agreement has been reached with the California State University at Monterey Bay (CSUMB) to offer a bachelor of science degree in Business Administration at the Cabrillo College Watsonville Center starting this spring semester. This is the first time that Watsonville area residents will be able to earn a baccalaureate degree right in their own backyard.

Cabrillo College students who have completed or are close to completion of a transfer associate degree in business will be able to earn a BS in Business Administration from CSUMB.

“This is a milestone for the Watsonville community and for Cabrillo College. Area residents have never before had such ready access to higher education,” says Cabrillo College President Claire Biancalana. “We are fortunate that one of CSUMB’s goals is to increase their outreach in this area.”

Watsonville Center Director Rachel Mayo also is enthusiastic about the agreement with CSUMB. “It has been a goal of the Watsonville Center to provide access to education from basic skills to a higher degree. This is a step to the next level,” says Mayo.

Having a college degree increases a student’s chances of securing a well-paying job. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, people with bachelor degrees earn 45% more than non-degree holders.

Two pilot courses are being this spring with three more courses to be added in fall 2004. Additional courses will be added each semester, enabling students to complete all or the majority of their coursework at the Watsonville Center.

Courses are taught in a “hybrid” fashion using both online teaching and in-person meeting with the instructor. Students are required to visit the CSUMB campus twice a semester for orientations. Every three weeks the instructor will meet students at the Watsonville Center to check progress and answer questions, with the balance of the coursework completed using online lectures that can be downloaded at the student’s convenience. The intent is eventually to offer the entire business major program online.

For more information about enrolling in the program, call the CSUMB School of Business Advising Center at 831-582-4406, or call CSUMB’s main office 831-582-4232. Information can also be found on the CSUMB website: http://www.csumb.edu/info/admissions/transfer.html.
EXPANDS CABRILLO’S CHEMISTRY CURRICULUM

Organic chemistry students grappling with abstract molecular properties will benefit from enhanced curriculum to be developed at Cabrillo under a prestigious National Science Foundation Grant.

Cabrillo College Chemistry Instructors Harry Unger and Jason Camara, and former Cabrillo student Albion Baucom are working with cutting-edge computerized visualization technology to create new exercises and study programs for students.

The $100,000 grant will go a long way to advance computerized curriculum that lets students see and manipulate the unique characteristics of three-dimensional molecular structures.

“We want to be at the forefront of development of new teaching methods at Cabrillo College,” Unger says. “The excitement of being on the leading edge is the reward.”

The award is the second NSF grant given to the college to pioneer the revolutionary use of computers in chemistry. Unger and his then-students Camara and Baucom worked for three years in the late 90s to create visual exercises using a similar technology known as CHIME that is still in use on campus.

This project benefits from a more sophisticated technology known as WebMO, which supports more complex interactions.

“It’s creative and somewhat artistic when science education and art all come together like this,” said Baucom, who served as lead developer on the first NSF project and is now a post-graduate researcher at University of California at Santa Cruz Molecular Cellular and Developmental Biology Department. Baucom said he is excited to head up the programming on this grant as well.

Traditionally instructors have relied on handheld representations of logs, balls and wires and statistical tables. Molecular modeling brings the abstract concepts of molecular energy to life.

“Students have a certain fascination with visualization right away,” Baucom says. “It gets their interest, but it’s another thing to watch them interact and be part of the experience by moving the model and understanding at a deeper level what’s going on. The students become molecular experts in their own right.”

The WebMO technology moves molecular chemistry from the theoretical realm, which is impossible to see and difficult to imagine, to an unprecedented realm of colorful on-screen images that can be easily manipulated.

Students can see the characteristics of a particular molecule three-dimensionally, twist them around, see the molecule’s properties and predict how it will behave in various situations.

“Computational chemistry is so new that there are teachers who haven’t been exposed to it before,” Unger says.

In addition to speeding up comprehension, the technology is already used in the commercial sector and experienced students will have a greater marketability, says Camara.

“There’s an education they can get with WebMO that you can’t give them from a blackboard. It forces them to participate in chemistry,” says Camara.

The NSF grant has three components: buying WebMO, collaborating with its creators, Hope College Professor William F. Polik and graduate student J. R. Schmidt, to create new curriculum; implementing the new curriculum at Cabrillo; and lastly, making the curriculum available beginning in the spring to a consortium of six other...
community colleges in the region via the Internet.

The developers of WebMO welcome the collaboration with Cabrillo educators because it expands the scope of their product by making the technology more accessible to lower division chemistry students.

Unger estimates that hundreds of students will benefit from the curriculum once it is up and running. “Cabrillo is way ahead of most other colleges and universities.”

The grant helps pay for the technology and for the hours of development by Unger, Camara and Baucom and student assistants who will help build web pages, test new exercises and perform other educational tasks. Cabrillo will also receive a new computer system that will be dedicated to serving the consortium of college departments and to training for educators.

Community colleges in the consortium include DeAnza, Diablo Valley, Gavilan, Hartnell, Monterey Peninsula and San Jose City. Their students will have free access to the software from the Cabrillo system.

MID TERM REPORT (continued)

forums before a new president is hired in June. While I am truly enjoying the challenge of serving as Interim President, I am also looking forward to returning to my permanent position of Vice President of Instruction. The last two months have been particularly invigorating and rewarding because of the warm reception that I have received as part of the Cabrillo College community. I have truly appreciated serving the college in this new role.

BEST WISHES TO DEPARTING DR. LOREEN EASTERYL ON HER NEW ADVENTURES

This month the college bids a fond farewell to Cabrillo College Dean of Student Development Dr. Loreen Easterly. Loreen has served as dean since August 1999.

Loreen will miss the college. “My life has been so positively impacted by the people that I met here and the students that I served. I feel that people tease about the ‘Cabrillo Way’ and yet the ‘Cabrillo Way’ is really an excellent way to be a part of this community. I felt part of this community as soon as I came to Cabrillo. The college is truly an integral part of the cultural fabric here, she said.

During her tenure Loreen achieved several outstanding accomplishments greatly contributing to college governance and student success. Loreen says that she is most proud of her work as the co-chair of the initial President’s Diversity Taskforce. The taskforce led to the formation of the standing Diversity Committee, which has spearheaded diversity training throughout the campus. The committee also brought Dr. Terrence Roberts, one of the Little Rock Nine, as an All College Day keynote speaker and made recommendations to the college president regarding recruitment, hiring and retention practices.

Loreen was also a driving force last year behind Cabrillo’s Running Start Program allowing early registration for high school seniors. The program attracted over 600 high school students to the Aptos campus and served over 800 high school seniors.

Colleagues will miss Loreen’s upbeat nature and support. “I worked with Loreen on a number of projects, and she was always a joy to work with. I knew that the project would be successful if Loreen was involved,” says Dean of Career and Community Education Rock Pfotenauer.

Among her other accomplishments, Loreen helped develop an online orientation program that soon will be implemented with Cabrillo’s new WebAdvisor and will allow students to access their assessment scores and complete a college orientation online from the their home computer.

Loreen came to Cabrillo from the State Center Community College District in Fresno, where she served as Director of Grants.

Dr. Loreen Easterly, Dean of Student Development
THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT ON MEASURE D!

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North County Democratic Club
Monterey Bay Central Labor Council
Locally Owned Business Alliance of Santa Cruz
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