**Background:**

Over the past year, the college had been preparing a grant application for Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) to submit to the Developing Hispanic Institutions (HSI) program under Title V of the Department of Education. This is a multi-year grant of up to $4,339,878 for five years. The proposed project design and services, prepared by Jo-Ann Panzardi, Engineering Chair and proposed project director of this grant, reflect a multipronged approach most likely to accomplish these goals:

1. A STEM Summer Bridge Program highlighting different industries that hire STEM majors each year, hands-on lab experiences and opportunities to develop an individual STEM degree/transfer plan.
2. A new STEM Center with increased academic support (peer led supplemental instruction and tutoring in math and science) and proactive academic and transfer advising.
3. Expanded Engineering and Computer Science laboratory spaces and resources to promote project-based/total engagement experience for STEM students.
4. A model articulation/transfer initiative, involving northern California regional cross-institutions faculties, to align Cabrillo College Engineering and Computer Science majors.
5. A comprehensive STEM database accessible at the administrative, program and instructor level for timely use of STEM student outcomes to assess effectiveness of STEM services and activities and to make evidence-based improvements.

The goal of the HSI program is “to improve the capacity of minority-serving institutions, which traditionally have limited resources and serve large numbers of low-income and minority students, to improve student success and to provide high-quality educational opportunities for their students.” To qualify for funding, a college must have a minimum number of needy students (defined as Pell Grant recipients); spend under a set maximum amount per Full Term Equivalent student, and have at least 25% enrollment of Hispanic students. The college has previously applied for and been awarded a Title V grant. The 2011 Title V STEM grant awards are expected to be announced in late summer 2011.