Grant revives Cabrillo’s women’s studies

Baskin Foundation funds aimed at promoting equality

By Kara Guzman
kguzman@santacruzentinel.com
@karambutan on Twitter

APTONS A $166,000 grant from the Peggy and Jack Baskin Foundation will revive the Cabrillo College Women’s Studies program this fall by adding and reinstating courses.

The grant is part of a $500,000 Baskin Foundation initiative to launch women’s studies at community colleges in the Santa Cruz and Monterey areas. Monterey Peninsula College is also a recipient.

The larger focus, said Nicole Baran, the foundation’s executive director, is local women and girls. The foundation has given $500,000 to girls in engineering programs at UC Santa Cruz and Cabrillo, and $900,000 to a Cabrillo science center opened in 2013.

Jack Baskin, 95, is a retired engineer and real estate broker, whose general contracting company, J.B. Inc., built seven schools and thousands of homes and low-income apartments. Peggy D. Baskin is a political science professor who lectured at UC Santa Cruz before her retirement. Peggy Baskin, 85, is known for her work on women in politics. The couple splits time between Santa Cruz and Monterey.

Promoting women’s educational equality is not just about the message that women’s educational equality has to include feminist analytical thought as a legitimate category of academics in order for us to progress as a society,” she said.

Due to budget cuts, Cabrillo’s women’s studies program was cut by half in 2010, and has now dwindled to three classes of 50 students, said Teresa Macedo, the program’s chairwoman. In the next three years, the campus plans to offer eight more women’s studies classes, including feminist theory and the psychology of women, previously offered. New courses will also be developed, Macedo said.

“While the grant is not going to bring it to its former state, it’s going to help us re-establish the department on campus,” Macedo said.