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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**MASSIVE STATE BUDGET REDUCTIONS
STALL CABRILLO'S ABILITY TO DRIVE
THE COUNTY'S ECONOMIC RECOVERY**

APTOS, CA—The California state budget crisis continues to create reverberations—this time at Cabrillo College. At the college's monthly Board of Trustees meeting tonight, the board approved a framework consisting of criteria, process commitments, strategies and a timeline for determining the \$5,000,000 in cuts Cabrillo anticipates it must make for its 2009-2010 fiscal year. This marks the third year in a row the college has faced significant state budget challenges. The board also approved the college's proposed mandatory set aside of \$4,000,000 in anticipation of potential 2008-2009 mid-year cuts. In 2007, Cabrillo was forced mid-year to cut \$400,000, bringing the three-year budget reduction total to \$9,400,000.

"At a time when the community most needs what Cabrillo has to offer, instead of expanding our offerings, we unfortunately may have to cut course sections, reduce services, and lay off employees," stated Claudine Wildman, Chair, Cabrillo College Board of Trustees, "The framework we approved tonight will guide the college in its process for making recommendations to the board regarding where to make these potential cuts and still maintain the high quality of education for which Cabrillo is famous."

Cabrillo College President Brian King declared, "California's road to economic recovery really depends on higher education's ability to turn out qualified, educated employees. It's a domino effect—less money into community colleges, means fewer classes, leads to longer completion times, causes delayed entrance into the job market resulting in smaller labor pools. It's when people get hired that they can afford to buy a car, buy a home, buy goods and services and begin to contribute to the county's and the state's economic recovery. It starts with education. It always has."

King continued, "It's a tragic situation. Eighty five percent of our budget is salary and benefits. The two previous rounds of budget cuts forced us to trim around the edges of our programs so that we were able to preserve jobs while keeping our services and course section choices. This third round of cuts means we are left with limited choices that, regrettably, may include laying off many of our dedicated, outstanding employees."



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"These cuts will delay students' ability to get into the classes they need because there will be fewer offerings, which in turn will delay how quickly they enter the job market qualified for higher paying jobs or to transfer to four-year institutions and graduate ready for even higher paying careers," King added.

This fall, Cabrillo had record enrollment—17,000 students are taking advantage of the award-winning college's higher education instruction, student services and innovative specialized programs—the most students in the college's 50-year history.

With UC and CSU institutions putting limits on the number of students they'll accept, Cabrillo and other community colleges expect to find those students on their doorsteps, not to mention the thousands of displaced working adults coming to Cabrillo to improve their job skills or to start over with a new career.

For this spring semester 2009, Cabrillo has already cut 50 course sections and will not offer its popular late-starting eight-week online classes known as CyberSession. The adjunct faculty teaching these sections will lose those contracts. Service hours will also be reduced in the spring, but details won't be known for several weeks.

"Our outstanding adjunct faculty are the backbone of Cabrillo's ability to add course sections in response to the community's needs," King asserted. "Having to cancel their contracts is devastating for them and heart-wrenching for our entire college community. Their devotion to Cabrillo students has been beyond reproach. We certainly hope the state legislature resolves the budget crisis quickly so we will be able to reinstate course sections and services, but their actions to date make that unlikely."

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 college offers more than 100 academic and career technology programs that serve multiple educational goals such as A.A. and A.S. degrees, certificates of proficiency, skills certificates, transfer to 4-year institutions or for lifelong learning and personal enrichment. Its mission is to enhance the intellectual, cultural, and economic vitality of its diverse community by assisting all students in their quest for lifelong learning and success in an ever-changing world.

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