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For Immediate Release

Cabrillo College Foundation Leads State in Donations and Donors
*With a Record \$5.5 Million Raised From 4,714 Donors, Cabrillo College Foundation
Increases Access to Education*

APTOS, CA —The Cabrillo College Foundation today announces that it raised the most of any Community College Foundation in the state of California in 2009-10, with a record \$5.5 Million raised from 4,714 donors. Based upon a survey of California's 112 Community College Foundations, the Cabrillo College Foundation ranked number one in terms of both funds raised and total number of donors.

"As the California Community Colleges constitute the largest system of higher education in the nation, this accomplishment is truly remarkable," said Chancellor Jack Scott. "Though California's Community Colleges are faced with record demand, we are receiving less funding from the state. Impressive fundraising results like these of the Cabrillo College Foundation are proof that even in tough times, we deliver on our ever-important mission of providing students access to affordable, high-quality education."

The Cabrillo College Foundation attributes its success in 2010 to several factors, including Cabrillo College's reputation for award-winning, dedicated and committed faculty and the long-standing relationships Cabrillo College has within its greater Santa Cruz County community. In addition, the Cabrillo College Foundation offers many programs for donors to get involved in directly supporting students.

"Even in a challenging economy, the Cabrillo College Foundation closed a record year, during which we tripled the total funds raised," said Melinda Silverstein, Cabrillo College Foundation executive director. "Innovative scholarship programs and a true sense of donor appreciation involve local community members in the campus, and give them an opportunity to fully appreciate what Cabrillo College has to offer."

"What's wonderful about the work the Cabrillo College Foundation has done is that members of the local community feel like Cabrillo College is 'their college', even if they didn't attend," said Rachel Spencer, Cabrillo College Foundation board member and founder of the Women's Educational Success Program (WES), an endowment fund that provides emergency cash grants of \$100 - \$500 to low-income women, helping them to cover unexpected expenses such as textbooks, a class uniform or a bus pass. Since its inception, the Women's Educational Success program has distributed 840 grants totaling \$153,018.

In 2010 the Cabrillo College Foundation also received \$3.6 million in funding from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation to expand the college's Academy for College Excellence program (formerly the Digital Bridge Academy) for under-prepared college students.



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The program bridges the gap in education for young adults who are not typically encouraged to aim for college.

Since its founding in 2002, the Academy for College Excellence (ACE) has transitioned more than 675 at-risk students into Cabrillo College's regular college courses. The grants fund the program's expansion to three additional California community colleges and one out-of-state community college.

"I am extremely proud our foundation for its statewide leadership in fundraising," said Brian King, president and superintendent of Cabrillo College. "Support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Hewlett Foundation enable us to continue bringing innovation to Cabrillo through programs like ACE and others, which close the achievement gap and lead to student success."

About The Cabrillo College Foundation

The Cabrillo College Foundation is a nonprofit organization established in 1962 to raise private donations for the support of Cabrillo programs. Private support is used for student scholarships, research and educational programs, faculty and departmental support, facilities, and equipment. Of the 1,400 community colleges in the nation, the Cabrillo College Foundation ranks among the top 2%. The generosity of Cabrillo College supporters has resulted in top state and national rankings in an annual study of college donors conducted by the Council for Aid to Education (CAE), a subsidiary of RAND Corporation.

Local citizens, college staff, faculty and Cabrillo trustees serve on the 34-member foundation board, representing all geographic areas. Over the last ten years, the foundation has raised over \$29 million for college initiatives. Donations for the 2009-10 academic year were \$5.5 million. The foundation has helped to build an endowment of over \$13 million. A recent survey completed by the Network of California Community Colleges ranked Cabrillo College's endowment as the sixth largest statewide.

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 over 100 academic and career technical education programs that serve multiple educational goals such as A.A. and A.S. degrees, certificates of achievement, 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 our diverse community by assisting all students in their quest for lifelong learning and success in an ever-changing world.

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