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Cabrillo College Receives \$1 Million Donation to Support Student Scholarships

Barbara Samper, Graduate of Notre Dame High School and Former Los Gatos Resident, Continues Support for Cabrillo College

APTOS, CA — The Cabrillo College Foundation today announces that it has received a \$1 million donation from its largest individual donor, Barbara Samper. The donation will provide first-year scholarships for students attending Cabrillo College as part of the Santa Cruz County College Commitment (S4C), a historic, countywide partnership comprised of public education institutions including all K-12 School Districts, Cabrillo College, CSU Monterey Bay, San Jose State University (SJSU) and the University of California Santa Cruz (UCSC), formed with the goal of increasing the college readiness and success of every student in Santa Cruz County.

"Thankfully, I am in a position to help with another exciting program at Cabrillo College," said Barbara Samper, President of the Barbara Samper Foundation. "We've seen the nationwide statistics that show one-third of our children do not finish high school. Starting at the fourth grade level, every student in the county will learn about college and know that we focused on providing them a high quality, college education. Cabrillo College will once again show why it is a leader in the county."

Another initiative of the Santa Cruz County College Commitment is the Fourth Grade Experience. On May 14, Cabrillo College will welcome more than 3,200 fourth grade students from across Santa Cruz County to its campus, for a half-day of educational activities and programs specifically designed to provide them with exposure to a college environment. In honor of this gift from Barbara Samper, Cabrillo College will name this event *The Samper Fourth Grade Experience*.

"The Santa Cruz County College Commitment is a groundbreaking initiative that will have a significant impact on student success rates," said Brian King, President of Cabrillo College. "We are incredibly grateful for Barbara's gift, which provides momentum for the initiative, and lessens the financial burden for our first-year students, allowing them to focus on the achievement of their educational goals."

In addition to supporting student scholarships, Barbara Samper's financial support will support the Visual and Performing Arts program as well as the ongoing maintenance of Cabrillo's Music Recital Hall. In her honor, the state of the art performance facility will be named the Barbara Samper Recital Hall.



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"The Cabrillo College Foundation is deeply appreciative of this generous gift," said Melinda Silverstein, Executive Director of the Cabrillo College Foundation. "Barbara is a remarkable individual whose passion and support has already made life-changing affects on Cabrillo's students."

Since 2007, Barbara Samper has given more than \$1 million in support to the Cabrillo College Foundation's Cabrillo Advancement Program (CAP), which provides counseling support and guidance as well as a number of college preparatory activities for low-income, middle and high school students from six middle schools and five high schools throughout Santa Cruz County. In middle school, CAP students are each awarded a \$2,000 scholarship that they earn upon graduation from high school and enrollment at Cabrillo College.

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 \$32 million for college initiatives. Donations for the 2011-12 academic year were \$3.4 million. The foundation has helped to build an endowment of over \$16 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. Cabrillo College is a dynamic, diverse and responsive educational community that is dedicated to helping all students achieve their academic, career, and personal development goals.

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