For Immediate Release

23rd Annual Cabrillo Advancement Program (CAP) Awards Ceremony to Recognize
Alumna Alejandra Beristain-Barajas, Harvard Graduate and Ceiba Prep Teacher
Tuesday, March 5, 6:30 – 8:00 p.m. at Cabrillo College Crocker Theater

APTOS, CA — The Cabrillo College Foundation and Cabrillo College announce the 23rd Annual Cabrillo Advancement Program (CAP) Awards Ceremony, to be held on Tuesday, March 5th, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at the Crocker Theater, Cabrillo College Aptos Campus, 6500 Soquel Drive, Aptos.

The Cabrillo Advancement Program (CAP) is a scholarship and support program designed to increase the academic success of high-risk, low-income students and to support their preparation for attending college. Sponsored by Cabrillo College and the Cabrillo College Foundation, the CAP program awards college scholarships to sixth graders from local Santa Cruz County schools. Students who complete CAP receive $2,000 in scholarships upon high school graduation for their first and second years at Cabrillo. In collaboration with the schools, CAP also provides supplemental counseling, after school tutoring, Saturday Academies, guest speakers, a Summer Institute, family outreach, and support for academic development to all CAP recipients.

At this year’s scholarship awards ceremony, the Cabrillo College Foundation will induct 60 new 6th graders into the CAP program, honor graduating CAP high school seniors, and recognize CAP Alumna Alejandra Beristain-Barajas, who entered the CAP program in 2001 and graduated from Harvard University with a Bachelor’s degree in Neurobiology, in 2010. Though her road to Harvard was long and challenging, those same challenges today fuel her passion to encourage children to overcome their own struggles. Alejandra has returned to the Santa Cruz County community and currently teaches math at Ceiba Prep School in Watsonville. Alejandra exemplifies the success of the CAP program and will be the event’s featured keynote speaker.

Barbara Samper, Cabrillo's largest individual donor who has donated more than $2 Million to Cabrillo, will also attend the event.

In 1991, twelve sixth graders at EA Hall Middle School were chosen to receive the first CAP Scholarships. CAP has since expanded to Lakeview Middle School, Mission Hill Junior High School, Pajaro Middle School, Rolling Hills Middle School, and Shoreline Middle School. Including this evening’s presentations, CAP has awarded 978 scholarships to sixth grade students in Santa Cruz County.
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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