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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Cabrillo College Board of Trustees Places Education Bond Measure on June Ballot**

APTOS, CA – Following a special study session and public comments made by community speakers from throughout Santa Cruz County, the Cabrillo College Board of Trustees unanimously voted Monday night to place a local education bond measure on the June 7, 2016 ballot.

“Tonight we’ve heard from students, faculty, and community members who have spoken about Cabrillo’s important role in Santa Cruz County and who have conveyed that we need to continue to help our students transfer to four-year universities as well as prepare for well-paying careers in the area,” said Trustee Gary Reece. “This measure will help us upgrade our outdated technology, expand classrooms and enhance labs for STEM fields so we can continue to offer the high caliber of affordable education for which Cabrillo College is known.”

The *Cabrillo College Technology, Job Training and Classroom Repair Measure* is a \$310 million education bond that would make repairs and upgrades to the College in order to increase opportunities for local students to earn college credits, certifications, and 21st century job skills.

“For many families, the costs of college tuition and living in another city are a challenge,” said George Ow, long-time Santa Cruz resident and Cabrillo College Foundation Board member. “The key for myself and many of my siblings was to start at our local community college and then transfer to four-year universities, which made college affordable and allowed us to live at home and work. Dozens of my extended family have gone through Cabrillo College, and our community college experiences absolutely prepared us for success at our transfer colleges.”

Cabrillo College provides essential training that prepares students to successfully transfer to four-year colleges and universities. It is ranked #1 in transfers to UC Santa Cruz and #2 in transfers to CSU Monterey Bay. Cabrillo College Honors Transfer program students have an 80% acceptance rate to UCLA and a 90% acceptance rate to UC Berkeley.

“The demands of the 21st century workforce include an increased emphasis on Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) fields – accordingly, Cabrillo has recently experienced an increase in student demand for science, engineering, and math classes,” said Dr. Laurel Jones, President and Superintendent of Cabrillo College. “To meet this demand, Cabrillo needs large lecture classrooms that can provide the technology tools for faculty to



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enhance the classroom and that will help our students succeed as they transfer to four-year colleges and universities and excel in the 21st century economy.”

In addition to addressing urgent and basic repairs for Cabrillo’s deteriorating, 1960’s era buildings, the bond measure would upgrade classroom technology, science labs and computer labs. It would also improve electrical systems and wiring for computers and wireless Internet access to enable distance education and online learning, in addition to making water and energy conservation improvements.

“Cabrillo serves hundreds of veterans, and the number of veterans coming home is only increasing,” said Ricardo Espinoza, Cabrillo student veteran. “Many veterans have post-traumatic stress disorder and permanent disability, so they need services, as well as job training and placement. Cabrillo needs to continue to improve its veterans services and facilities to ensure we receive the support we need to complete our education and enter the civilian workforce.”

The bond measure would address urgent and basic repairs for Cabrillo’s 1960’s era buildings, classrooms, job training equipment and science labs that are deteriorating and outdated. The measure includes fiscal accountability requirements such as a Citizens’ Bond Oversight Committee and independent annual financial and performance audits to monitor that funds are expended as promised.

“Cabrillo has transformed my life,” said Charlotte Achen, Cabrillo alumna. “I started at Cabrillo as a basic skills student, dropped out, came back again, entered a learning community, and with the skills acquired at Cabrillo, went on to become Cabrillo’s first Student Body President to serve a two-year term. I won the prestigious Pister & Baskin scholarships and transferred to UCSC, where I graduated with honors, and am now back at Cabrillo as a staff member working in the Foster Youth Program.”

### **About Cabrillo College**

*Cabrillo College is a leading California community college serving Santa Cruz County with locations in Aptos 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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