



BRINGING MUSIC TO STUDENTS

PAYING FOR COLLEGE

Cabrillo to host financial aid workshop to highlight options for students

By TOVIN LAPAN

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APTOS — With college fees rising precipitously over the past few years and further cuts to higher education in the works, it is more important than ever for students to know what financial aid is available to them.

To help local students, and their parents, navigate the myriad options for assistance, Cabrillo College is hosting a financial aid workshop at the Aptos campus on Feb. 26 that is open to all students regardless of where they plan to attend college.

UC Santa Cruz will also be participating, offering its financial aid coun-

selors as volunteers for the event.

Advisers will help parents and students fill out the important Free Application for Federal Student Aid, FAFSA, which provides the basis for deciding how much and what type of aid a student is eligible for.

Counselors will be on hand to answer more specific questions such as:

■ How do you indicate that a parent lost their job in the last year and the family income has changed?

■ What do you do if a family member has a chronic medical condition that requires continuing health care costs?

Students must apply by March 2 to

qualify for Cal Grants, which cover student fees and are renewable for four years.

The earlier students apply the better, because some pools of money, such as work study, are limited.

While Cabrillo has offered workshops in the past, this event marks the first time the school has directly targeted the entire community.

Cabrillo Vice President of Student Services Dennis Bailey-Fougner said he borrowed the idea from his previous stop at Portland Community College.

"For me personally it is so gratify-

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Cabrillo College is hosting a financial aid workshop for the community's students and parents on Feb. 26.

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AID

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ing as a professional to have parents walk out after an hour, thank you and say 'I couldn't have done it without you. I didn't understand the process.' A lot walk out saying they didn't even know they qualified," Bailey-Fougner said.

Every year students miss out on substantial amounts of money for school because they do not apply, or are unaware of all the different types of aid available.

In 2010 the College Board Advocacy and Policy Center

issued a report showing that a significant portion of college students are not applying for aid even though they are eligible.

Nationwide, 58 percent of community college students eligible for federal Pell Grants applied for financial aid, while 77 percent of students at four-year public institutions applied, the study found.

"The population I worry about the most is students not applying to college because they don't think they can afford it," said UCSC Financial Aid Director Ann Draper. "They should complete the FAFSA just to see how much they qualify for; they might be pleasantly surprised."

IF YOU GO

FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOP

WHAT: Cabrillo College is hosting a workshop to help students and parents apply for financial aid. Spanish and English speaking counselors will be on hand, and the workshop is open to all students regardless of where they plan to attend college. No appointment is necessary.

WHERE: Student Activities Center West, Room 201

WHEN: 9 a.m. to noon Feb. 26

DETAILS: The Cabrillo Financial Aid Office recommends that students who attend bring the following information: Student's Social Security card and driver's license or state ID; parent's Social Security number and birth date (for students under 24); student's and parent's 2010 federal tax returns and W2s (if taxes aren't done yet, bring income estimates); student's and

parent's 2010 bank and investment statements; records of untaxed income such as child support, housing allowance, workers compensation or disability; student's alien registration number (if not a citizen); student's and parent's federal personal identification number, PIN, if they have one. The PIN is required to file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, FAFSA. To be eligible to Cal Grants, students must apply by March 2. All their information must be into the California Student Aid Commission by that date, including grades, which are sent by the student's high school. **INFORMATION:** For information, contact the Financial Aid & Scholarships Office: financial.aid@cabrillo.edu, or call 479-6415.