

## EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE

# Cabrillo to help financially struggling students

Emergency support program will offer small loans, grants

By **TOVIN LAPAN**

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**APTOS** — At a time when college staff is handling a tighter budget for the school itself, the Cabrillo College Board of Trustees voted unanimously Monday to approve a program to help students struggling with their own finances.

The student emergency support program, a combination loan and grant program, will assist those students who are waiting for financial aid and scholarship disbursements or working.

Students who are not waiting on aid but need immediate support to continue at Cabrillo, will receive a grant.

Dennis Bailey-Fougner, Cabrillo vice president of Student Services, said he saw 20 to 30 students in his office at the beginning of the term who were on the brink of dropping out for lack of funds.

"If I saw between 20 to 30, that means there are at least 100 students out there who need the help," Bailey-Fougner said.

In the fall of 2009, Bailey-Fougner said, veterans start-

## ON THE NET

CABRILLO STUDENT SERVICES OFFICE

**WHERE:** Activities Center East, Room 219

**INFORMATION:** 479-6317 or <http://www.cabrillo.edu/services/studserv/>

**HOURS:** 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Monday - Friday

ed showing up at the student services offices in large numbers because of a change in veteran's benefits disbursements that pushed the issuing of checks toward the end of the semester.

That was when a need for the emergency aid was first spotted, but the number of students who need small loans of \$200 to \$500 to keep them going has only increased with the down economy.

For 14 years, Cabrillo has had the Women's Educational Success program, which provides a similar service, but only for female students.

The support program will start with \$50,000, \$15,000 for revolving loans, \$20,000 for

grants over the next five years as the endowment builds earnings, and \$15,000 to establish the emergency support program's endowment.

The revolving loan portion of the program will be replenished as students repay their loans once their aid, scholarship or employment check arrives. The Cabrillo College Foundation will work to increase the program endowment to \$250,000 to provide permanent grant funding of \$10,000 a year.

"It's a really great program," said student trustee Kitt Allenser. "Students can't concentrate when they are stressed, and there's nothing more stressful than not being able to pay rent or buy materials."

The need for such program may grow in the coming years as budget cuts and fee increases appear to be on their way.

In January, Gov. Jerry Brown proposed cutting \$400 million from the state's community college budget to help close a \$26.6 billion deficit.

Cabrillo's portion of that cut would be approximately \$4 million.