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### HIGHER EDUCATION BUDGET



KEVIN JOHNSON/SENTINEL

Nick Gorman, 17, sits outside of the Student Activity Center at Cabrillo College in Aptos on Wednesday. Gorman says he is hoping to attend Cabrillo as a student next fall.

# Cabrillo projects \$7.2M in cuts for 2011-12



KEVIN JOHNSON/SENTINEL

A student walks through the Cabrillo College campus on Wednesday.

Students statewide already struggle to get classes more than in other states

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APTOS — As Cabrillo and other California community colleges prepare to deal with their portions of a \$400 million cut in state funding, survey results released in March found that twice as many California community college students are locked out of courses than the national average.

The Pearson Foundation Community College Student

Survey found that 47 percent of California students, compared to 28 percent of the rest of the U.S. have been unable to enroll in courses because they were full.

The survey, conducted in fall 2010 by Harris Interactive, consisted of 1,434 current or recent U.S. community college students, 260 of whom came from California colleges.

While funding mechanisms

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## CABRILLO

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for community colleges vary across the country, Cabrillo College administrators readily acknowledge that over the past three years it has become increasingly difficult for students to progress at a normal rate.

Upcoming cuts will only exacerbate the problem.

"These cuts are going to have devastating effects on the college and instructional opportunities for students," said Cabrillo Vice President of Instruction Renee Kilmer. "In the long run we will have to reduce offerings, programs and services. There isn't another way to get to the level of reductions otherwise."

The \$400 million cut in state aid to community colleges translates to roughly 350,000

students being turned away from the system in the 2011-12 academic year, according to the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office.

The \$400 million figure assumes that Gov. Jerry Brown will be successful in getting tax extensions passed in a November election. If not, the community college system could face an \$800 million cut.

Also, students will be paying \$10 more per credit in 2011-2012, bringing the total to \$36.

"We are willing to accept our part of cuts, but not as much as they are proposing," said Cabrillo Student Senate President Theo Offei. "Students can't get the classes they need to transfer or graduate as it is now. Education is very critical at this time. Community colleges play a critical role in improving the economy, and a vital role in training the work force of California."

Cabrillo will be preparing its 2011-2012 budget over the next few months, and Monday the Governing Board will be asked to approve budget parameters to guide the task.

Mid-range estimates put the cuts to Cabrillo's general operating budget at \$7.2 million, which comes on the heels of \$5.6 million in cuts since 2008. Additionally, the school's restricted fund, which pays for various student services, has been reduced \$2.9 million since 2008. The general operating budget and restricted fund for 2010-2011 for the 15,000-student campus are about \$59 million and \$10.6 million respectively. Reserves and the shifting of departmental funds will keep immediate changes to a minimum, according to Cabrillo Vice President of Administrative Service Victoria Lewis, but the impacts will be felt in 2012 by students and employees.

"Previously we've approached budget reductions by trimming programs and services," Lewis said. "But with the magnitude of numbers we're looking at now, it will require us to rethink how the college is structured and our priorities."

During that time about 400 classes have been eliminated at Cabrillo, according to Kilmer. In general, there are multiple classes for each course. Some courses have been eliminated, while others have fewer seats available.

The fall term course schedule has been set, but the projected \$7.2 million cut could lead to the elimination of "hundreds" of additional classes in spring 2012 and beyond, Kilmer said.

The California Community Colleges is the largest system of higher education in the nation, serving 2.76 million students in 2009-10.