



COMMUNITY COLLEGE

School's back in session at Cabrillo

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APTOS — Filling seats in classrooms, students uncapped pens, leafed through course notes and cracked the spines of textbooks: A new semester and new academic year began Monday at Cabrillo College.

But even with the campus — and students — waking from the summer slumber, energized by the possibility of a fresh start, the reality of budget cuts is still being felt.

Brian King, president of Cabrillo College, said enrollment is down slightly from last year due largely to cuts passed down from Sacramento that limit course offerings and class sizes.

"The pattern you see everywhere is that the classes are very full," King said.

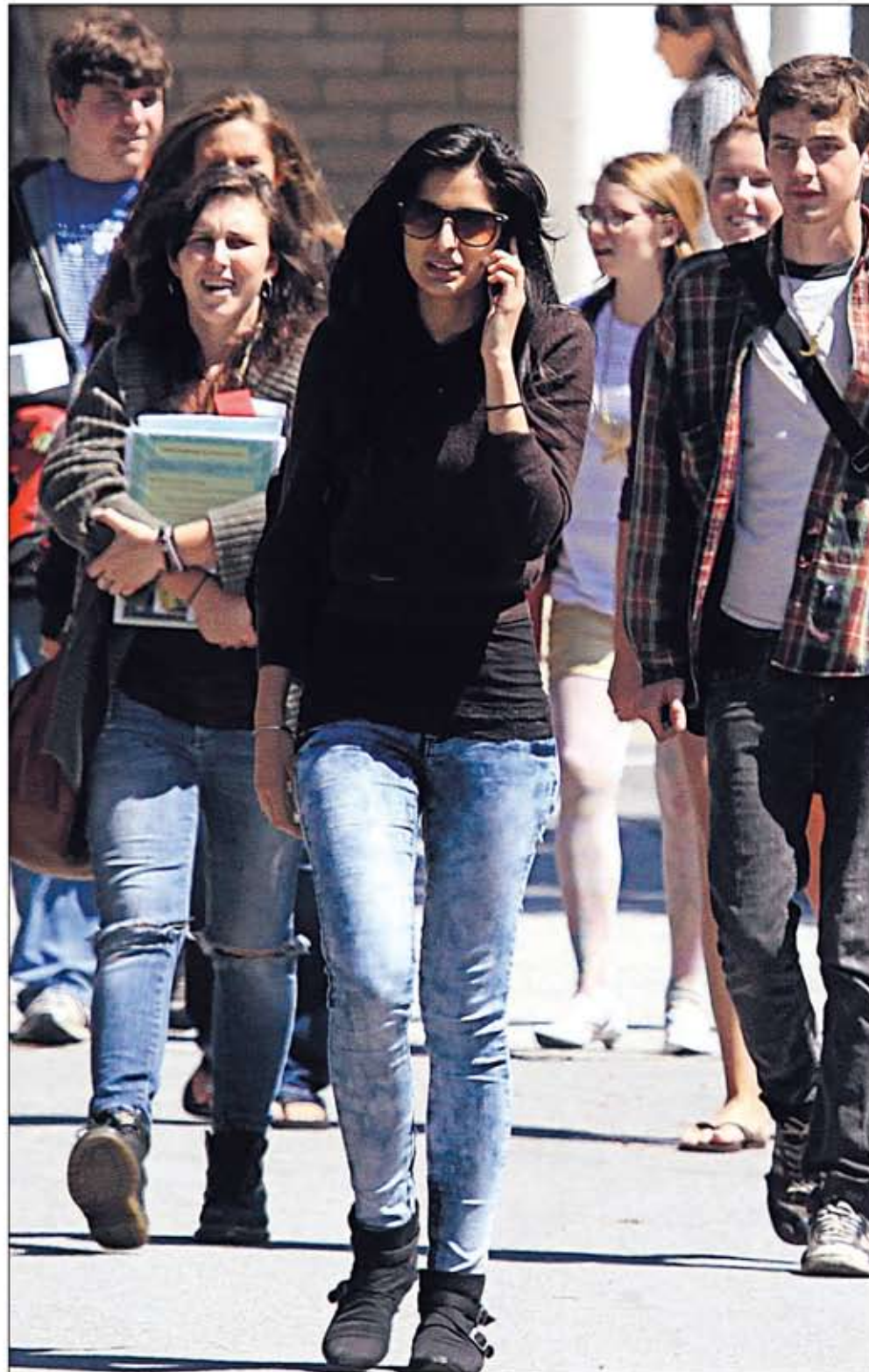
While he said students have a better chance at getting in a needed course through early enrollment, that is not a guarantee.

"One student was saying she was wait-listed in three classes," he said. "She was certainly optimistic, but it would be nice if we could have everyone enrolled in the classes they need on the first day."

But even in light of fiscally difficult times, Cabrillo was able to find a "short-term solution" to a pressing concern: the bookstore at the Watsonville center will, temporarily, remain open.

There were plans to close the bookstore as a result of decreasing sales, but officials decided to keep it open for the first two weeks of the semester. Expenditures for the bookstore were increasing to nearly \$1 million a year, but revenue from new and used books dropped by 28 percent.

In comparison to last fall, enrollment at Cabrillo has dropped about 3 percent to around 15,000. Earlier this month, Cabrillo's board cut classes and eliminated 14 full-time positions to close a budget gap, and next academic year faces a \$3.4 million structural deficit.



SHMUEL THALER/SENTINEL

Students return to Cabrillo College for the first day of the fall term on Monday.

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CABRILLO PRESIDENT BRIAN KING