

SPENDING TO LEARN

Higher ed spending off 10 percent in Santa Cruz, Monterey counties

Only ag, tourism rank ahead as economic drivers

By **LANE WALLACE**

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Higher education spending is down more than 10 percent in Monterey and Santa Cruz counties this year, but the number of students is up slightly. "We're having to do more with less," said Mitchel Winick, dean of the Monterey College of Law, who presented his economic study to the Monterey County Business Council on Friday.

Operating budgets for the 12 degree-granting institutions and 11 research institutes in Monterey and Santa Cruz counties were \$1.7 bil-

lion this year, down from \$1.9 billion a year ago, Winick said at the Council's Higher Education and Research Leadership Summit at the Monterey Marriott. Enrollment at the colleges and universities was 78,853, up 1 percent.

Salaries at those 23 institutions were \$994 million, up 6 percent.

Cost-of-living increases would cover most of the increases, Winick said.

Even with the decreased budget, Winick said, the number is an indicator that education is holding up in a depressed economy.

Research grants for institutions went up 12 percent this year this year to \$409 million, Winick said, following a 16 percent increase a year ago.

The Naval Postgraduate

School in Monterey and UC Santa Cruz received 83 percent of the research grant money. The naval school received \$214 million and UC Santa Cruz \$121 million.

Winick said education is third behind agriculture and tourism as an economic driver for the region, acknowledging that the available numbers are like "comparing apples and kumquats."

Gross agricultural sales for Monterey County were \$4 billion in 2010, the most recent figures available.

Santa Cruz County's total was \$532 million. Direct spending on tourism rose from \$1.7 billion to \$1.9 billion, Winick said.

Most of the institutions covered in the study are in Monterey County. The only

places from Santa Cruz County included are Cabrillo College and UC Santa Cruz. Winick said there are a number of research agencies in Monterey that the public may not be aware of.

Included in the study are the Panetta Institute, Hopkins Marine Station, Naval Research Laboratory, Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, Fleet Numerical Meteorology and Oceanography Center, Pacific Science Center of the U.S. Geological Survey, Defense Manpower Data Center and Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration and Moss Landing Marine Lab and state Department of Fish and Game research efforts.