

## CABRILLO COLLEGE

## Cabrillo to receive award

Communication department named 'Model Communication Program'

By KIMBERLY WHITE

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APTOS — The communication studies department at Cabrillo College will be recognized as a model program at an upcoming regional association conference, a timely development as administrators continue discussing which programs to trim ahead of expected budget cuts.

"It will protect our department a lot from cuts or reductions," predicted Dan Rothwell, the department's program chair, noting "it's more difficult to cut a department that's just been recognized as a model program as it is for other departments that haven't been so recognized."

Rothwell was notified Tuesday, and the 2012 Model Communication Program Award will be presented in Albuquerque during the Western States Communication Association's annual conference in February.

John Reinard, the association's executive director, said representatives from the department will receive a plaque, then host a panel discussion to talk about teaching methods they've employed that can be replicated elsewhere.

The award comes on the heels of an award Rothwell received last month in New Orleans during the annual National Communication Association conference, where he was named "Community College Outstanding Educator." The award came with a \$300 cash prize, which he donated to the Cabrillo Col-



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**Cabrillo College communications instructor Dan Rothwell is the recipient of the 2011 National Communication Association Community College Outstanding Educator Award.**

lege Foundation.

Instructor Kanda Whaley, noted in her nomination Rothwell's exceptional dedication, as well as teaching methods and research skills that keep students engaged and eager to learn more.

"Over and over again, I've heard (students) say that they have to work hard, the content is challenging, and Dan's expectations are high," she wrote. "But they always seem to follow that by saying how fun the class is and how much they're learning."

Rothwell was selected based on his contributions and exemplary teaching, scholarship and service to the com-

munication field, according to Jennifer Glicoes, a communications specialist with the association.

"I had no idea what to expect, I really didn't," Rothwell said Friday. "They give it once a year and anyone can be nominated, and I had no idea I was going to get it."

But get it he did, and since he received notification earlier this year that he would receive the award, he included that information in his department's application for the Western States Communication Association award.

Rothwell has been a college professor since 1969, working

at higher-education institutions in Kansas, Oregon and Washington state before starting at Cabrillo in 1986. In addition to serving as program chair, he teaches small group communication, persuasion and argumentation and introduction to communication process.

Last year, he received the 2010 Cabrillo College Innovative Teacher of the Year award, as well as the 2010 Ernest L. Boyer International Award for Excellence in Teaching, Learning and Technology. The latter award came with a \$5,000 cash prize, which he also donated to the Cabrillo College Foundation.