COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Danville resident gives $1M to Cabrillo

Funds to go to low-income high school seniors

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APTOS — More than 100 low-income high school seniors who plan to attend Cabrillo College in the fall will have an easier time paying for it, thanks to a $1 million donation from Barbara Samper.

The money will be distributed for a five-year period, starting with $500 scholarships to 120 seniors who will be graduating this year, said Melinda Silverstein, executive director of the Cabrillo College Foundation, which will administer the funds. She estimated about 1,300 graduating high school seniors from Santa Cruz County enroll at Cabrillo each year.

Applications can be picked up in the financial aid department, but Silverstein said a deadline has not yet been established. Cabrillo's financial aid counselors will contact area high schools with more information as it becomes available.

Samper, a Danville resident who grew up in Los Gatos and whose family lived in Santa Cruz, said she personally donated $500,000 and the rest came from the Barbara Samper Foundation.

It's the second large gift she's made to Cabrillo in the last five years. In 2007, she donated $1 million to the Cabrillo Advancement Program, a scholarship and enrichment program designed to prevent low-income students from dropping out of college.

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