Students encouraged to apply for Cabrillo scholarships

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APTOS — Seniors graduating from area high schools next month who need help paying for the next step up the educational ladder are encouraged to apply for scholarships to attend Cabrillo College.

Scholarships will be provided to 120 students, thanks to a $1 million donation that Cabrillo’s largest donor, Barbara Samper, made to the Cabrillo Education Foundation in March.

The $500 scholarships are reserved for low- and middle-income students, according to Melinda Silverstein, the foundation’s executive director. Applications must be turned in by May 18, and students will receive notification by early June. Those who have already submitted 2012 high school scholarship applications to Cabrillo, and who meet the criteria, will also be considered.

About half of the $1 million donation was used to create an endowment, meaning the principal will be invested and funds for the scholarships provided through interest earned.

“From here on out, we’re going to have the $500 scholarships, and as we raise more and more funds, we’ll have more and more of those scholarships,” Silverstein said. “It’s nice to have that kind of sustainable funding, because students know that’s a scholarship they can depend on year after year.”

The remaining funds will be used for a new visual and performing arts facility that’s slated to open in the fall.

At the Oct. 26 grand opening, the center will be christened the Samper Music Recital Hall, according to spokeswoman Kristin Fabos.

The scholarships are tied to

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