Cabrillo hosts night to help students find direction

Event draws thousands to Aptos campus

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APTOS — With just 20 minutes left before the event closed, Chance Tiner and his parents rushed across Soquel Drive on Monday evening, in route to the gymnasium at Cabrillo College.

 Barely into his junior year at Harbor High, Chance is unsure what path to follow after graduation, and took the opportunity to attend the annual College and Career Night to explore his options. Inside the gymnasium stood row after row of fold-up tables, representatives from UC Santa Cruz and Cal State Monterey Bay sitting across from prox-

ies of the University of Massachusetts and UCLA.

Ray Kaupp, executive director of the Santa Cruz County College Commit-
ment, said this is the first year the event has fallen under the umbrella of the countywide educational collaborative. Up to 5,000 students and their parents were expected to attend the event, which also included presentations about college and career planning and financial aid options.

Gage Hinman, 16, will be graduating from Cypress Charter in the spring and likely will enroll in Cabrillo while mul-

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ing over his options. But in his heart of hearts, he dreams of owning a combination coffee and skate shop, where customers can kick back with a latte while mulling over their own options.

Briana Jamrus, 17, plans to attend Cabrillo to get her general education requirements out of the way, then possibly transfer to a four-year university to become a pharmacist. And she’s gotten at least a sneak peak into the profession by enrolling in the medical technician ROP program at Santa Cruz High.

“Since I already had an idea of what I wanted to do, I just decided to take some ROP classes, since it gives you a great overview,” she said.

Lisa Glick, an ROP instructor with the Santa Cruz County Office of Education, said students can take more than a dozen different ROP programs that will count toward an associate’s degree. She was among the ROP counselors stationed across the street in the student center building, along with members from various student clubs and representatives from Career Technical Education programs.

In a nearby classroom, students and parents attended a workshop about financial aid options. At Cabrillo, per-credit fees increased during the summer from $36 to $46.

Sprinkled around the campus are signs urging voters to pass Proposition 30 — Gov. Jerry Brown’s tax-hike initiative that would raise billions for education — when they cast their votes Tuesday. If the measure fails, Cabrillo will be forced to make another $3.5 million in cuts starting in January.

Follow Sentinel reporter Kimberly White on Twitter at @kimwhite95066