Cooking up success

Cabrillo culinary program gets a boost from Proposition 30

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APTOPIX — Sue Slater lost count of how many seminars she had passed since Cabrillo College stopped offering wine classes.

“It was so depressing when it happened. I think the last class we had was a Spanish wine class in spring 2013,” said Slater, culinary arts instructor.

Thanks to Proposition 30 funding kicking in, however, students will get a chance to taste success once again.

The college is slated to offer 24 new classes this summer and 30 new classes this fall due to $750,000 in restoration funding coming from the state. The governor’s budget includes $897 million for the state’s 117 com-

munity colleges.

When the college was hit by budget cuts in 2008, full-tuition costs, effective from most departments that had to be cut,” said Eric Carter, director of Cabrillo’s culinary program.

Cabrillo’s focus primarily on offering students associate’s degrees in two years so they could transfer to four-year universities.

“We were in serious budget-cut times, electives from most departments had to be cut,” said Eric Carter, director of Cabrillo’s culinary program.

Yet while culinary courses were cut, students continued to pursue degrees and certifications from the program.

There are about 250 students currently enrolled in the program.

During the past few years, the number of students receiving degrees and certificates in Cabrillo’s culinary program has tripled, according to Slater. This increase in student success is due to the program’s emphasis on job placement, Slater said, which attracts potential candidates looking to secure a career.

“We all hear really great stories on how the associ-

ate’s degree helped them later on in life,” Slater said. “We are really impressed upon them to get their degree.”

And the budget’s upswing will help the college work toward its mission to assist the under-prepared, maintain a broad array of vocational courses and help students transfer to four-year universities, said John Hendrickson, the college’s interim president since Feb. 1.

In my opinion, we will be a state leader because of our collaborative atmosphere and our efforts to assure stu-

dents success in a more timely manner,” Hendrickson said.

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