Graduates take the next step

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APTOS — Cabrillo College awarded degrees and certificates to 1,213 students at Friday’s commencement ceremony, marking the college’s largest graduating class in six years, according to school officials.

The Apts community college awarded 873 associate of arts degrees, 427 associate of science degrees, 115 certificates of achievement and 238 skills certificates.

The class ranged in age from 17 to 86.

The graduating class included 68 students with a perfect 4.0 GPAs.

Fifty-four students graduated as part of the honors transfer program, which means they completed all of the courses required to transfer to a four-year university while maintaining a 3.5 GPA or higher with at least 15 units of honors classes.

Cabrillo’s interim president, John Hendrickson, and faculty senate president Michael Mangin offered congratulatory remarks to the class during the ceremony.

Kathleen Welch, vice president of instruction, highlighted inspirational stories of the graduates who have overcome challenging situations to achieve their degrees.

A sea of blue gowns approaches the Cabrillo College football field in Aptos on Friday evening as hundreds of students prepare to graduate from the community college.

A reception was held in the pavilion on the stadium field after the ceremony.

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