SCIENCE EDUCATION

Cabrillo dedicates new science center Friday

By KARA GUZMAN
kguzman@monicasentinel.com

APTOS — Cabrillo College has a new $5.25 million centralized physics, engineering and computer science center this year.

The Cabrillo College Foundation, a nonprofit connecting donors to the college, will host an invitation only dedication Friday, to celebrate Peggy and Jack Baskin.

A $900,000 gift from the Peggy and Jack Baskin Foundation made the project possible.

The science center is housed in the 800 building on upper campus, which was gutted and refurbished with new computers and open lab spaces.

Students have been using the center since Sept. 3.

"Even in the first week of the semester it was packed," said Melinda Silverstein, executive director of the Cabrillo College Foundation. "You see students clustered together working on projects."

"It's an incredibly dynamic situation," Silverstein said.

Before the renovation, the physics, engineering and computer science students were spread over eight buildings on campus, said Jo-Ann Panzardi, chair of Cabrillo's engineering department.

"What I see now is that the STEM center is a hub for learning that creates a sense of community among the students," Panzardi said.

Third-year engineering student Sarah Kalman said that having all her classes, professors, club meetings and classmates in one building is more convenient. She said she uses the new computers to type her lab reports and attends workshops in the new meeting rooms.

"It's set up for students to be successful," Kalman said. "It brings all the students and faculty members together."

The $900,000 gift also funds the Baskin Girls in Engineering Program @ Cabrillo College, a week-long summer camp for 30 middle school girls.

CONTRIBUTED

The Cabrillo College Foundation, a nonprofit connecting donors to the college, will host an invitation only dedication Friday, to celebrate Peggy, left, and Jack Baskin.

AT A GLANCE

BASKIN ENGINEERING, PHYSICS AND COMPUTING CENTER

WHAT: a renovated 29,000-square-foot building with new lab space and classroom technology
COST: $5.25 million
TOP FUNDERS: The Peggy and Jack Baskin Foundation ($900,000) and Monterey Peninsula Foundation ($250,000)
WHERE: Upper campus, building 800

Follow Sentinel reporter Kara Guzman at Twitter.com/Karambutan