Cabrillo College downsizes dental hygiene program

Enrollment cut by half, 12 faculty may lose jobs

By Kara Guzman
kaguzman@santacruzsentinel.com

APTOS — Starting fall 2015, Cabrillo College will cut funding for its dental hygiene program, meaning fewer students and faculty and possibly fewer patients in its low-cost clinic.

The college announced Sept. 30 that it will admit dental hygiene students ev- er two years, instead of annually, due to reduced general enrollments. In 2012 and 2013, the college cut one-time funds, not in the general budget, toward adding classes in an attempt to boost stu- dent numbers, said Kath-

By Alex Orlovsky
aorlovsky@santacruzsentinel.com

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TIGHT BUDGET

Chief, vice president of instruction. This fall, en- rollment is down 1 percent from last year, continuing a two-year trend of the col-lege failing to meet its tar- get.

“That still translates to the fact that we put- money that we don’t have in classes that don’t fill,” Welch said. “The reason we don’t have it is because it’s not in our operational budget.”

Founded in 1967, Ca- brilllo’s two-year dental hygiene program, which graduates around 16 stu- dents each year, is the most expensive program on campus, due to a 1-to-1 student to faculty ratio mandated by its accredit- ing board, Welch said.

“Tight budget” is on the cards.

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PHOTO BY JAY COYNE — SANTA CRUZ SENTINEL

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Dental program

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