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Cabrillo's Watsonville Center continues growth

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Cabrillo College's Watsonville Center experienced another year of growth during the 1991-92 school year, a trend that will continue for several years to come.

According to an annual report submitted last night to the college's governing board, the Watsonville Center served 900 students last year, representing a six-percent growth rate over last year.

The Center has continued to expand every year since it opened in 1987. Since the 1987-88 school year, the Center has grown by 61 percent, according to Center director Rachel Calero.

The trend is expected to continue, especially in the fall when the Center will offer a special vocational training program called ACHIEVE. The program will provide clerical and English-language training. ACHIEVE, which is funded by a \$100,000 grant from the Santa Cruz Private Industry Council, will target older workers, youth, and adults that qualify for training under the Job Training Partnership Act.

According to Cabrillo's Master Plan, the Center will serve more than 2,000 students by the year 2006. That plan also calls for Cabrillo to have a satellite campus in Watsonville.

The Center currently rents four classrooms at La Manzana shopping center and several classes are held at Watsonville High during the evening. But school officials are looking for a larger site in the downtown Watsonville area.

A plan by Cabrillo officials to target the Latino population in South County seems to be working. This spring, the Center's Latino enrollment is expected to reach 60 percent, while the main campus' Latino enrollment is expected to be around 14 percent.

Calero, who became director of the Center last fall, said the biggest problem facing the center is

lack of classroom space. She said the Center will not only continue to grow in the coming years, but will play an increasingly larger role for both Cabrillo's and Watsonville's future plans.

"It's become an integral part of Watsonville and of Cabrillo College," she said.

In other board action:

● Cabrillo officials presented to the board a draft of a redistricting plan, called for last February by the board. The draft plan calls for redrawing the district's seven trustee areas and using 1990 U.S. Census figures to balance the pop-

ulation in each of those areas. The plan also recommends a switch from at-large elections to by-district elections.

The college has not gone through a redistricting plan since it opened in 1959. The district extends into parts of Santa Clara, San Benito and Monterey counties.

The board is expected to approve the final version of the plan next month. The plan would still need to be approved by the Santa Cruz County Office of Education and the U.S. Department of Justice.

In November, four seats on the board be up for election, but the new plan is not expected to be in effect by that time.

● Carlos Campos, a student at Cabrillo, told the board the college needs more bilingual classes. The college currently has two bilingual classes — typing and basic computer — at Watsonville Center.

● A Cabrillo Service Employees' International Union representative asked the board for an outside arbitrator to expedite negotiations with the union. The union's contract expired July 1, 1991. Workers are asking for a .9 percent salary increase.