

Cabrillo \$\$\$ picture brightens

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APTOS — State funding for Cabrillo College is expected to rise by more than 13 percent in the coming year. That's the good news.

And now, the better news: If the college can boost its attendance by some 400 students next year, Cabrillo's state revenues will jump by more than 17 percent.

Those are the broad brush outlines of a state budget analysis, by the state community colleges chancellor's office, which has Cabrillo officials practically pinching themselves to make sure they're not dreaming.

"This is by far the best financial news that we've had since I came on board in 1977," college President John Petersen told the Cabrillo Board of Governors Monday afternoon. "It does wonders for my morale."

"I wouldn't have believed it until I received it," Vice President Cliff Nichols said of the state chancellor's budget report.

Surpassing the bounds of Nichols' credulity were figures from the state chancellor's office indicating that Cabrillo will receive between \$300,000 and \$700,000 more in state funds in 1984-85 than college officials had anticipated, even in their most optimistic budget projections.

Nichols said Monday that the unexpected state revenues derived from a provision in the budget act restoring funds lost to community colleges in 1983-84 as a result of Gov. Deukmejian's spending cuts. That provision, he indicated, could net Cabrillo as much as \$807,000 in 1984-85.

Overall, Nichols said, the increase in state support for Cabrillo could run anywhere from \$1.1 million to \$1.5 million in the coming year. Cabrillo's state income for 1983-84 was slightly less than \$9.1 million, which accounted for about 62 percent of its total budget.

Statewide, Sacramento will pump 10 percent more into community college coffers in 1984-85 than in 1983-84. Even at a minimum, Cabrillo's increase will be more than the statewide figure, because the college is to receive more than \$213,000 in "equity" money from the state — to bring its average daily attendance (ADA) revenues closer to the statewide average.

How much more Cabrillo ultimately receives from Sacramento will depend on the college's ability to boost its enrollment. According to Nichols and Petersen, \$400,000 of Cabrillo's projected state funding increase is "at risk;" the college won't get the money unless it can restore its full-year enrollment, currently at 11,000, to what it was in 1982-83. In order to do that, Cabrillo will have to recruit another 400 students over the course of the next school year.

College officials are hopeful that expansion of Cabrillo's computer facilities will help boost attendance. Monday, Cabrillo trustees approved the purchase of IBM personal computers and ancillary equipment worth nearly \$290,000. Commenting after the vote, Petersen said the purchase would increase the number of computer stations at the college and allow more students to enroll in computer education classes. He said he hoped that would prove to be a selling point for prospective students.

Nichols said Monday that in contrast to last year, when budget skirmishes were waged over program cuts, this year's fiscal battles would be fought over how best to spend the extra state money. College employees already have some ideas on that score; Cabrillo instructors have already asked for a 12 percent pay raise, and Monday, the college's classified employees presented Cabrillo trustees with their own wage proposal for a 12.4 percent pay hike next year.