

Women's club gives students a boost

By JOHN ROBINSON
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SANTA CRUZ — A local women's organization has sold its clubhouse to provide scholarships for women attending UC Santa Cruz.

The Santa Cruz Business and Professional Women's Club endowed the scholarship by presenting a check for \$200,000 to UCSC Chancellor Karl Pister at a luncheon last month.

"The Santa Cruz Business and Professional Women's Club's generous gift is more than an investment in this scholarship program," Pister said. "It is an investment in the students the program supports — the people who will serve as tomorrow's leaders — and in the future of our state."

The money was raised by selling the group's clubhouse on Plymouth Street that was bought in the 1950s. In the intervening years, the once 100-member chapter has seen membership shrink to its current level of just over a dozen members.

The current members decided they no longer needed a private



The Santa Cruz Business and Professional Women's Club with UCSC Chancellor Karl Pister, top right.

clubhouse and believed the proceeds from its sale could benefit education, one of the organization's favorite causes, according to Dean Jan Corriden, club president.

"The BPW has long been interested in helping to create women leaders," Corriden said, "and we have always believed that education is the key to success for women in our society."

The clubhouse was sold to the Scandinavian Cultural Center of Santa Cruz County.

The scholarships, part of UCSC's Leadership Opportunity Awards, will provide \$10,000 each year in the club's name, to

a selected student. Club members specified that their gift support a female student.

For years the local chapter has given smaller scholarships to students attending UCSC, as well as to students at Cabrillo College.

The LOA scholarship program was established in 1993 by Pister to recognize talented students who have overcome adverse socioeconomic circumstances. Several students are nominated annually by the presidents of each of 13 community colleges in the region. Recipients are selected by Pister in consultation with the Leadership Opportunity Awards Advisory Committee.