

Cabrillo's Tech Center ready soon

By DAN WHITE
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APTOS — President John Hurd was upbeat about the college's future during his address Friday to faculty.

Hurd spoke of a year of change and progress with several major construction projects going on at once. All are part of a plan to improve student facilities several years into the future.

Hurd said there would be noise and dust when classes begin Monday, but "once the smoke clears, students can enjoy state of the art facilities."

Some of the new construction will be finished in time for students to use this week. The new High Tech Center is a concentration of computer stations that used to be spread around the campus in different locations.

With 240 computer stations, the center can serve 5,000 students a week, according to Cabrillo staff. Almost \$1 million in private funds were raised for the project.

The High Tech Center is located in a building that was remodeled in 10 weeks. Hurd said the college had raised enough funds for the renovation and to begin purchasing computer equipment.

"Now we have just \$600,000 more to raise," he said.

The other project nearing completion is the Jack and Elena Baskin Children's Center, scheduled to open in early November. Also funded with private donations, it will allow the college to serve 102 families with child care needs.

Hurd reported progress on the Sesnon House, damaged in the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. The Sesnon House will be a place for college and community meetings and events, he said.

But the biggest project — which will be completed in two years if all goes as planned — is the massive library renovation and expansion project. The construction is scheduled to begin in the fall.

Hurd was optimistic, but cautious about the future. He said resources are still scarce and that the college is understaffed in some areas. "We must continue to update and improve the quality of programs. ..."