

It was a good year for Cabrillo College

Things were upbeat at Cabrillo College this year, with the best news by far being an increase in enrollment.

Enrollment had slipped for a couple of years, then leveled out for two years at about 10,000 students.

This year enrollment is back up, near 10,600.

Although still a bit short of top enrollment figures of the early '80s, the figure pleases school administrators.

More ambitious recruitment of Pajaro Valley Hispanics is one reason enrollment has increased. At Cabrillo, 8.5 percent of all students are Hispanic, an increase of about one percent over past years.

Manuel Osorio, dean of student services, said

Cabrillo counselors have been visiting area high schools more than ever, and while the increase is good news, Cabrillo still has a long way to go.

"The population base for this area is at least 15 percent Hispanic, but we are making progress," said Osorio.

The college also had a smooth year in administration, although there were many changes.

The college got a new president, a new registrar, a new financial aid director, and most recently, a new vice president of instruction.

The college also saw a new board chairman appointed and two new trustees elected just before the new year.

—Jesse Chavarria