

Cabrillo will get grant to expand

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WATSONVILLE — A \$3.2 million federal grant will allow Cabrillo College to triple the size of its Watsonville Center.

U.S. Rep. Sam Farr, D-Carmel, said that federal Economic Development Administration Secretary Phillip Singerman will deliver the grant to the college Thursday at 1 p.m. in a ceremony at the Watsonville Center, 318 Union St.

The grant joins \$1.2 million promised by the City of Watsonville's Redevelopment Agency, as well as \$200,000 from the college foundation, for construction. The building is owned by the redevelopment agency and leased to the college.

Ground will most likely be broken for the new building in fall 1997, and occupancy is slated for 1999. The building, now in preliminary design, may measure between 25,000 and 30,000 square feet.

"We're delighted," Cabrillo President John Hurd said today. "That will allow us to significantly expand out programs and services."

Hurd said the college plans to expand its Watsonville programs across the board — programs in vocational education and college preparation.

More than 1,000 students study at the site; after the center is expanded, the college plans a capacity of nearly 3,000. That total, Hurd

said, may be reached in 2005.

"The facility and the project were designed to improve educational infrastructure, to help with the city's economic development in general," center Director Rachel Mayo said.

Cabrillo spokeswoman Kathy Summa-Ford added that the foundation will need to raise money for furnishings and equipment for the building.

She said foundation President Marshall Delk noted the foundation is close to completing a \$5 million fund-raising campaign, and is eager to begin anew to outfit the new center.