

Cabrillo sets new records for enrollment

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APTOS — A decrease in course fees and the large number of 2007 high school graduates have helped boost enrollment to record levels at Cabrillo College this fall.

The student population increased 6.4 percent over last spring to 14,877. The number of full-time equivalent students at the college and its satellite campuses in Scotts Valley and Watsonville also increased 5.1 percent to 5,197 students.

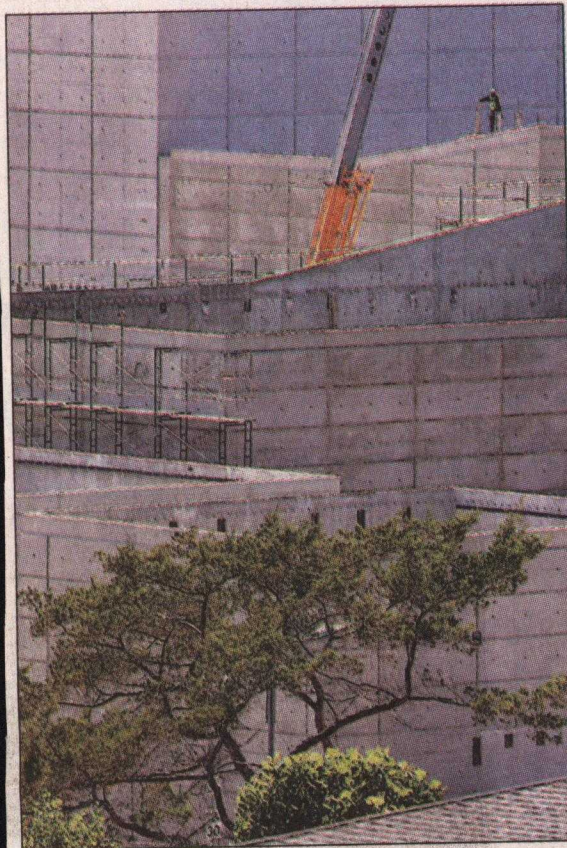
"Our overall head count is the highest it's ever been since the founding of the college," said Cabrillo spokeswoman Mary Planding.

Enrollment is also up at other community colleges in Northern California. Sacramento-area schools shot up 11 percent while San Francisco Bay Area campuses reported gains of 4 to 8 percent, according to The Associated Press.

Course fees at all 109 community colleges in California dropped to \$20 per unit last spring. Planding said she believes that helped draw more students, especially those interested in taking a single class.

Another key factor was that last

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Construction at Cabrillo College includes a new Student Activity Center, Performing Arts Theater, parking lot and paving.

Shmuel Thaler/
Sentinel file

Cabrillo

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year's senior high school classes had peak enrollment.

"Graduating high schools in 2007 were at record size," Planding said.

Administrators at Cabrillo College, and other San Francisco Bay Area campuses, also conducted marketing campaigns to attract students.

Along with overall enrollment, demand for several areas of study expanded.

"The biggest growth was in business and accounting" courses, Planding said.

That demand corresponds to a strong need for employees in the business and accounting fields in the community, she noted.

Computer applications, English and beginning Italian classes also have increased in popularity. Campus officials have also seen increased demand for art, history, music and physical education courses. Also popular are organic

agriculture and introduction to hydroponic food production.

This fall, demand for real estate courses has dropped, likely due to the sluggish housing market.

Along with an increase of students on campus, there has been an increase of students studying online. Cabrillo's Internet course offerings have grown tremendously in popularity, primarily among people who are working full time.

People who are interested in taking online courses have another opportunity to study this fall. Cabrillo is offering 10 classes that allow students to earn a semester's worth of credits in eight weeks. The classes, which include public speaking, personal health, intermediate algebra, introduction to oceanography and appreciation of theater arts, run Oct. 22 through Dec. 15.

For information on online classes, visit Cabrillo's Web site at www.cabrillo.edu, then click on cybersession.

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