

Agrella leaving Cabrillo post

By DONNA KIMURA
Sentinel staff writer

APTOS — Cabrillo College President Robert Agrella announced Tuesday that he will leave his post to become president and superintendent of Santa Rosa Junior College.

President of Cabrillo for five years, Agrella was the unanimous choice of the SRJC Board of Trustees.

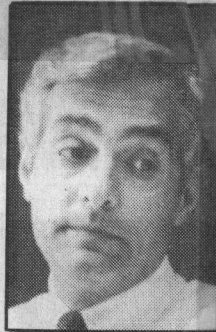
"The job offers personal and professional opportunities," he said.

Santa Rosa trustees offered him a four-year contract on Monday, but the terms of the agreement

have not been finalized.

Agrella, 46, will leave for his new post sometime between mid-July and mid-August. He will be replacing Roy G. Mikalson, who will retire on Aug. 31 after 19 years with the college.

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Robert Agrella

Agrella/ Picked to lead Santa Rosa Junior College

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"I feel very fortunate to have been at Cabrillo," Agrella said. "I learned a lot and have been allowed to work with outstanding people."

As the Santa Rosa college president, Agrella will be in charge of a central campus that serves 30,000 Sonoma County students. Cabrillo has approximately 14,000 students.

"It's a stable, quality, large college, and I'm looking forward to it," he said. "Cabrillo has been a stable, quality, mid-size college."

Agrella said he is also familiar with Sonoma County. His wife, Laurel Lorraine, is a native of Santa Rosa.

Cabrillo College Trustee Bridie Franich called Agrella's departure "unfortunate for us."

"He's been an excellent administrator," she said. "He's got talents you can't even teach."

In an annual evaluation released

this month, trustees praised Agrella for his work during the Oct. 17 earthquake, his affirmative-action efforts and his participation in soliciting funds for the college.

Cabrillo College will have a difficult time replacing him, Franich said.

A longtime board member, Franich said the college will conduct a nationwide search for a new president.

Before coming to Cabrillo, Agrella was college provost and vice president of academic affairs of the Pima County Community College District in Tucson, Ariz. He was president of Mendocino College in Ukiah from 1978 to 1980.

A native of Chicago, Agrella is also a director of the Santa Cruz Area Chamber of Commerce and on the board of directors of the Santa Cruz County Cultural Council. He and his wife have two children, Christopher and Ryan.