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UCSC presents plan for engineering school

By DONALD MILLER Sentinel staff writer

Formal plans for a new School of Engineering at UC Santa Cruz were presented to the University of California Board of Regents in Los Angeles Thursday, one of the final steps to be taken before next September, when the first classes in the new school will be offered.

Today at a press conference in San Jose, UCSC is to reveal the name of the donor whose name will grace the new school. The donor's gift is the largest private donation in UCSC's 32-year history.

The school already has received

a commitment of \$2 million from the UC Office of the President for the engineering school.

UCSC Chancellor M.R.C. Greenwood said the new school will have a close partnership with the hightech industry in Silicon Valley and Monterey Bay, and will link to engineering programs at UC Berkeley, Stanford, San Jose State University and Santa Clara University. The new school will offer programs in electrical engineering, computer engineering and computer science, plus in the future, software engineering, engineering management and molecular biotechnology engineering.

"The new School of Engineering at UC Santa Cruz is both timely and advantageous to the state," said UC President Richard C. Atkinson.

UCSC is already hiring faculty for the new school, which will eventually grow to 90 faculty, 500 graduate students and 1,200 undergraduates, according to plans.

"UCSC's School of Engineering will foster innovative and entrepreneurial research, both by the faculty members we will recruit and by the students we will educate," said Greenwood. "By focusing on several targeted areas of excellence, we believe that our engineers and computer scientists will become creative and important contributors to the economy of our future."

Greenwood and Patrick Mantey, dean designate of the new school, said they also foresee close links with the UC Monterey Bay Education, Science and Technology Center being developed by UCSC in Marina at the former Fort Ord military base.