

# Cabrillo officials relieved at slight enrollment dip

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The bad news turned out to be not so bad for Cabrillo College, yesterday as it reported its spring enrollment was down by less than 1 percent from last year.

Cabrillo had been bracing for another significant drop in enrollment this semester. It would have been the third consecutive decline. But the blow turned out to be rather soft.

As of Thursday, the last day of in-person registration, the college reported a tally of 11,044 students. Last year at the same time that figure was 11,230, said Liz Irwin, director of marketing and communications.

The latest figures may indicate a "leveling off" of Cabrillo's declining enrollment, Irwin said.

"We see this as a fortunate situation," she said.

After classes start on Monday, students have two more weeks of late registration and enrollment is expected to climb during this period. Just how much higher it will go is not known, but it is not expected to be a significant increase.

Cabrillo's Watsonville satellite campus, the Watsonville Center, recorded a significant enrollment increase from the fall semester. Last fall there were 577 students attending the Watsonville Center, which at the time was at La Manzana Shopping Center.

This semester the Center moved to the more spacious old

post office building and registered 793 students. There are a couple of other locations in Watsonville where Cabrillo holds classes. The total number of students attending Cabrillo classes in Watsonville this semester is 845, Irwin said.

Last spring, fees at the state's 107 community college went from \$6 per unit to \$10 and a maximum fee ceiling was removed. Fees for students with a bachelor's degree went from \$6 to \$50 per unit. That semester, enrollment at Cabrillo fell by a little more than 12 percent, one of the biggest declines in the college's history.

Fees increased again in the fall, going from \$10 to \$13 per unit. Fees for students with degrees remained unchanged, however. That semester enrollment declined by nearly 11 percent.

✓ Cabrillo has plenty of company as other community colleges in the state are seeing similar downward trends in enrollment. A report from the community college chancellor's office issued earlier this month revealed that enrollment in the state's community colleges dropped by approximately 9 percent in the fall.

From the fall of 1992 to the fall of 1993, community colleges have lost an estimated 137,000 students, that's a 12.3 percent drop, the biggest decline since in 1978, the report said. It also estimated that more than half of the 137,000-student enrollment decline was made up of students with bachelor's degrees.

REFERENCE

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