

# Cabrillo College FOUNDATION

2024 ANNUAL REPORT

Megan tears up when she remembers the panic she felt when she could not find the \$100 textbook she had already purchased for nursing school.

It was never found, but Women's Educational Success (WES) was there for her with an emergency grant and she replaced the book and graduated in 2005.

She's been a nurse ever since, affirming, "I love serving the community I live in." She's repaid the kindness she received many times over as a donor to the WES program herself. (more on page 7)



# EXECUTIVE MESSAGE



Cabrillo College President Matt Wetstein, Cabrillo College Foundation Executive Director Eileen Hill, Cabrillo College Foundation President Ed Newman

The foundation is proud and inspired by the generosity of our friends that support students at Cabrillo College year after year.

“By supporting our students, we are not just investing in their individual success, but in the strength and vitality of our entire community. When we help students overcome obstacles, we empower them to transform their lives, uplift their families, and contribute meaningfully to our community. Together, we can create a brighter future for all.”

– Matt Wetstein, Cabrillo College President

## The Cabrillo College Foundation provided **\$3,177,953** to students and the college last year



**\$1,471,139**

**Faculty & Program Support**

supporting faculty, programs & departments



**\$1,440,800**

**Scholarships & Emergency Grants**

removing financial hurdles

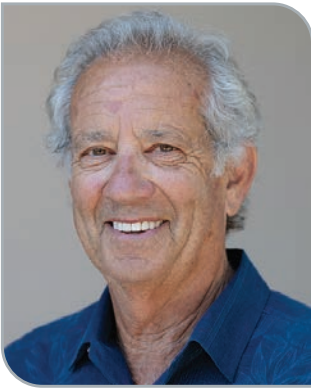


**\$266,014**

**Student Support Services**

for tutoring, paid internships & foster youth services

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS: WORKING FOR THE SUCCESS OF OTHERS



**"I believe that community colleges are an essential part of making our society one in which everyone has the opportunity to achieve their goals and realize their dreams. It is a privilege for me to be involved with Cabrillo College and especially the Cabrillo College Foundation as we work together to ensure that Cabrillo, its students, and its faculty all have the resources and the support they need to succeed."**

— Ed Newman, President of Cabrillo College Foundation

## Board of Directors

Our volunteer Board Members serve because of their belief in our mission and love of Cabrillo. You can't describe all that Cabrillo is in one word, but we asked them to try!



**Rob Allen**  
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Opportunity



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**Donna Ziel**  
Exceptional

## JOURNALISM: BUILDING ON SUCCESS



Ruby started at Cabrillo last year and began writing for Cabrillo's newspaper *The Voice*. "The idea of storytelling has always been interesting to me and I've always liked writing," she explains. After publishing several stories as an intern at Santa Cruz' *Good Times*, Ruby's skills impressed Journalism Instructor Brad Kava and he awarded her the "Rowland and Pat Rebele Scholarship for Journalism."

Her internship at Santa Cruz' *Good Times* helped inspire this talented student, "I like work experience more than sitting in a classroom," Ruby admits.

The Rebele Scholarship was started in 2006 by the late local legend Rowland 'Reb' Rebele, who wanted to ensure the future of journalism and would often attend journalism classes to share his experience and wisdom as a former newspaper owner. After the passing of Reb, the foundation was touched to hear from Comcast who wants to build on the success of this program and has committed funding to students who participate in journalism internships in our local area.



"As a global media and technology company that produces, distributes and streams leading entertainment, sports, and news through brands like NBC, Telemundo, Universal, Peacock and Sky, Comcast is delighted to support the next generation of journalists and content creators in Santa Cruz County. Comcast is dedicated to ensuring that everyone has the access, resources and opportunities to participate in today's digital economy. By supporting Cabrillo's journalism students, we hope to open doors for the future storytellers in our community."

— Joan Hammel, Senior Director, Public Relations, Comcast

## ENGINEERING ABROAD

Cabrillo College is one of the only community colleges nationwide to offer an engineering-based study abroad program. This opportunity allows students to see themselves as engineers before graduating and has proven to solidify classroom concepts, build confidence while problem solving, connect with fellow students in a collaborative manner, and reduce dropout rates while driving further educational achievement.

This year, 12 students provided assistance in the local community of Providencia de Dota in Costa Rica. Their goal was to help transform their conventional coffee farms using organic/permaculture methodologies, while gaining hands-on experience, exploring a new culture, and learning through service. The program is made possible in part from private donations to the foundation and student fundraising.



“This was the reason for why I wanted to become an engineer, to work alongside other people to achieve something impactful that will hopefully lead to others doing the same.

I hope, as an engineer, that I’ll be able to motivate people the same way this program motivated me to keep moving forward and to create meaningful effects in more communities.”

— Yolotzin  
Student delegate  
in Costa Rica  
(pictured center)

**We have awarded nearly \$1.5 million to nearly 1,600 students.**



**This scholarship represents a pivotal moment in my educational journey, offering much-needed financial assistance and validation of my efforts.**

Growing up in Marina, CA, and facing various challenges, including a period of incarceration and personal loss, I have always strived to defy the odds and pursue my dreams. Receiving this scholarship is not just a financial boost, but a recognition of my resilience and determination to create a better future for myself and my family.

I am excited about the opportunities that lie ahead at Cabrillo College and beyond, and I am determined to make the most of this scholarship as I strive towards a brighter future.

Yefry

*Rebecca J. Garcia Chicano Latino Affairs Council (C/LAC) Scholarship*



**When I received the news, it was a godsent gift, and I immediately cried. I felt like a huge weight had been lifted off my shoulders and was hopeful about my future again.**

Additionally, I am grateful to you because I can continue to focus on the Dental Hygiene Program instead of worrying. I will put all my energy into successfully completing the program and give back to my family and community.

By the time I graduate, not only will I have accomplished my goal, but I will also educate my community and provide my services so they can have better oral health.

Erica

*High Achievers Scholarship*

## Every scholarship makes an impact.



**When I was 16 years old, my family left Afghanistan because we knew that women would no longer be allowed certain freedoms. At that time I did not know what would happen, but I kept on believing that we would find a better life.**

The scholarship that you have provided will help me achieve my goal of earning an associates degree in criminal justice or political science at Cabrillo College. With the help of scholarships like this, I believe that I will be able to reach for the stars and achieve my goals. Thank you again for your support.

Najia  
*American Dream Scholarship Recipient*



**This program has proven to require an outstanding amount of work so I have found it difficult to support myself. Your contribution means more than you know.**

I always knew I wanted to be a nurse since my brother became paralyzed at 17 years old. The road through that journey has been challenging to say the least, and being his primary caregiver for 5 years guided me to where I am today. I'm in a nursing program that I love and have been pouring every bit of myself into it. It's people like you that make lives like mine possible.

Thomas  
*Mary and David Hopkins Endowed Nursing Scholarship*

## CABRILLO ADVANCEMENT PROGRAM (CAP)



**As a First Generation College Student, Sissi is grateful that the Cabrillo Advancement Program (CAP) was available to her, “CAP gave me some sense of hope that I would be able to go to college even though my parents can’t afford it.”**

CAP Summer Institutes offer students a sample of college classes and programs that Sissi credits with helping her learn about other supports available like financial aid and even the art of fingerprinting. She is now heading to UCLA to pursue a career in criminal law.

CAP starts working with students in sixth grade to help guide students like Sissi toward the possibility of higher education. Every student in the program is offered tutoring, Summer Institutes, and a scholarship to attend Cabrillo.



## WOMEN'S EDUCATIONAL SUCCESS (WES)



“Cabrillo provides students with career opportunities and WES helps keep those dreams alive by providing emergency funds to students who might otherwise drop out. We all thrive when students’ dreams are kept alive!”

— Peggy Flynn, WES Co-Chair

“Such a small amount of money made such a huge difference,” recalls Megan (see cover) about the \$100 she received in 2004. She’s worked at Dominican Hospital since she graduated in the ICU and PACU. “I always intended to give back,” she shares and she has given generously to the program that had her back when times were tough.

The WES program is led by a team of volunteers who campaign annually to ensure that there is more money to award each year. This year WES is awarding \$125,000 to students. Students needing help receive up to \$1,000, usually in less than a week, and this can often help them stay enrolled and on track with their education!

**The Sharanam Foundation and the Wedeen Hammer Locatelli group matched all gifts of \$250 or more up to \$20,000 this year!**



### WES Committee Members:

**Left to right:** Gail Pellerin, Ginny Solari Mazry, Rose Odland, Martina O’Sullivan, Kristin Wilson, Edna Elkins, Marni Williams, Corrine Flanagan, Angie McClellan (co-chair), Lynette Cleland, Robin Gaither, Peggy Flynn (co-chair), Angela Chesnut

**Not pictured:** Eva Acosta, Shannon Brady, Kathryn Cowan, Cynthia Druley, Chris Eckstrom, Cynthia FitzGerald, Amy Ivey, Gwen Kaplan, Jessica Locatelli, Chris Maffia, Krista Snelling, Rachael Spencer

## FACULTY GIVES

The Cabrillo College family of faculty and staff are always touched by the fortitude and dedication of our students. Many of them find ways to start their own scholarships to lighten the load for students.



“With my wife and I both being educators, we see the lack of resources out there,” explains Rudy on why he started a scholarship.

Over the years, Rudy has observed that funding can be unreliable, “so we reached out to the foundation and asked about starting a fund that would always be there for students. It is a pretty easy process and we look forward to having something that is going to be there for many, many, many years to come.”

— Rudy Puente, Cabrillo College Counselor  
*Rudy Puente Endowed Scholarship*



“Terry’s passion for teaching came through in his classroom presentations, exciting his students about biological psychology. We both believe that education opens doors that otherwise might stay closed. With this scholarship in Terry’s name, I hope to give the opportunity to a student to share their excitement for their subject matter and open doors for future students.”

— Nancy Fetterman, Cabrillo Math Faculty (retired) and widow of Terry Fetterman, Cabrillo Psychology Faculty  
*Terry Fetterman Endowed Scholarship*

"In kindergarten a half century ago I found my vocation. I've come a long way from Kansas, where summers I lassoed my sister and the neighborhood kids to read stories and produce original plays. After I received my degrees, I spent the best years of my professional life teaching English at Cabrillo College, where I was proud to be among dedicated colleagues who truly worked tirelessly for student success.

When I watched my husband Paul work full time, taking night classes for six years to earn his AA, I decided to "give back" on behalf of both of us.

Following his death in 2012, I used my RMD to set up a scholarship in his honor. I continue this tradition; and every year thank you notes from the student recipients make my heart sing."

— Kathryn Cowan, Cabrillo English Faculty  
(retired)  
*Paul Shephard Endowed Scholarship Fund*



"Scholarships were the key for me to getting a college education, so I know first-hand how important they are. To offer one especially for Watsonville students helps secure the legacy of the Watsonville Center: access to higher education's transfer and career paths at Cabrillo College for our deserving, capable and hard-working community. To have a named scholarship that will benefit students for years to come is an immense honor, and an ongoing promise to future generations to believe in their potential and help them attain their goals."

— Rachel Mayo, Dean of Cabrillo's Watsonville Center (retired)  
*Rachel B. Mayo Leadership and Visión Endowed Scholarship*



## HERITAGE CLUB: ENSURING FUTURE SUCCESS & OPPORTUNITY

**Julie Thiebaut reflects on her intense career in financial services, when she lived in Chicago, and Taiwan for a brief time, and oversaw 800 people in her thirties. She retired at 40 thinking she just needed a break, but leaned into her new “retired” life and never looked back. She fell in love with Cabrillo wine education classes and with her group of four friends got a kick out of being the star students.**

She got involved early with the Women’s Educational Success (WES) program and says, “This town is pretty amazing. So many things succeed because a lot of people really care and are involved. Santa Cruz County has a lot of women who are into philanthropy for the right reasons.” She has put Cabrillo in her estate plans and wants her legacy gift to go to students who really need the help and notes, “You can make more of an impact with your money at a smaller school like Cabrillo.”



## FACULTY GRANTS: FUNDING GREAT IDEAS FOR BETTER LEARNING

Another way our community supports Cabrillo is through our Faculty and Staff Grant Programs. Last year, we awarded \$127,105 to fund 26 projects including “Virtual Reality Simulation in Nursing,” which involves integrating VR technology into nursing education programs to create realistic and interactive scenarios that mimic clinical situations, healthcare settings, and patient interactions.

Students wear headsets designed to immerse them in a simulated, three-dimensional, computer-generated environment. These headsets are equipped with screens, motion sensors, and audio components to create a highly realistic and interactive learning experience. In nursing education, VR headsets facilitate various educational activities and simulations.

“Virtual reality (VR) is revolutionizing nursing education at Cabrillo College by providing immersive, hands-on training experiences in a controlled environment. Students can improve their decision-making skills, and respond to realistic patient scenarios without any risk to real patients. This technology enhances learning by offering repeated practice opportunities and immediate feedback, which helps build confidence and competence in nursing students.”

— Jenna Zeller  
Cabrillo Assistant Nursing Director



## PRESIDENT'S CIRCLE



"The scholarships and support programs provided by the foundation are invaluable for Cabrillo students. It's truly an honor to contribute through the President's Circle, knowing that my investment in Cabrillo creates a ripple effect, benefiting countless students and amplifying their opportunities for success."

— Mike Allard, President's Circle Co-Chair

The President's Circle is a treasured community of alumni and supporters whose annual contributions of \$1,000 or more have a significant and vital effect on our students.

Annually, members of the President's Circle play a pivotal role in sustaining the Cabrillo Foundation's operations and empowering the foundation to secure funds for scholarships, faculty, and programs at Cabrillo.



### President's Circle Committee Members:

**Pictured front row from left to right:** Freny Cooper, Eileen Hill, Mike Allard (co-chair), William Ow (co-chair), Pegi Ard, Peggy Flynn, Jim Baker, Theo Wierdsma, Kristin Fabos, Caitlin Bonura. **Second row:** Paula Fischer, Lee Duffus, Ed Newman. **Back row:** Duf Fischer, Julie Thiebaut, Karen Cogswell, Matt Wetstein, Diane Koenig, Annie Morhauser. **Not pictured:** Kalena Allard, Claire Biancalana, Owen Brown, Linda Burroughs, Marilyn Calciano, Kathryn Cowan, Jan Furman, Jackie Heald, Kent Imai, Julie Lambert, Vance Landis, Bill McGowan, Mary McGowan, Fred McPherson, Erica Ow, Cam Primavera, Karen Primavera, Ron Sekkel, Trevor Strudley, Ginny Solari Mazry, Rachael Spencer, Rachel Wedeen.

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**As brave student veterans transition from military service to pursuing their education, they face a range of challenges that can impede their progress. The cost of technology for school, textbooks, and even rent can make the shift to student life seem overwhelming.**

A grassroots fundraising effort by students and volunteers has created an endowment to provide relief. It's just getting started, but already several students have benefitted including recent Cabrillo graduate Thomas, who transferred to Yale last year to pursue a medical degree.

"The Cabrillo College Student Veterans Endowment was an integral part of my success. Without their support, I would not be in the position I am in today. I will always be grateful to the donors, faculty, and staff at Cabrillo College for helping support my dreams and allowing me to reach my full potential."

– Thomas, Veteran, Cabrillo Alumnus, and Yale College student