The Cabrillo Advancement Program (CAP) is an innovative program designed to encourage low income, at-risk students to attend college and transfer to four-year colleges and universities. It provides a support program and a college scholarships award to selected students in middle and high schools. This project is jointly sponsored by Cabrillo College and the Cabrillo College Foundation and has been in operation for four years. Scholarships are funded by a growing endowment fund of $250,000. Support Services include tutoring, counseling, home visits, Saturday academies, Summer Institute, college student mentor program and an annual Award Ceremony. A CAP coordinator and Cabrillo College counselor work with college and high school students, teachers, counselors, and parents in helping them further their education.

The program faces the challenge of rapid growth. In 1991 CAP served one school in the college’s service area. Today, services are being provided to five high schools and three middle schools. Scholarship funds have become available faster than support services can be provided and require additional support to launch them successfully at the high schools. CAP can provide a model for schools across the state and nation who are trying to make a similar commitment to help high-risk students.