

**Cabrillo College Engineering Department
Alumni Testimonials**

“I just thought I would write to say how well I've been prepared up here. I just took my first Mechanics of Materials (Strength of Materials) midterm and got 29/30. The average was around 75%. I have been over prepared considering all the physics, engineering, and math courses from Cabrillo. I don't know what they teach in the physics up here, but everything we've done in my Dynamics class so far has been from physics. I just thought you would like to know I was doing ok up here. Thanks again for letting me use the tension tester this summer!!“

Erik McDonald, UC Berkeley

“I wanted to tell you how happy I am to be a part of Cabrillo Alumni. Phil Boutelle, Justin Machwicz, Adam Hickok, Brent Miller and I were just recently accepted into the GTI program to India. Once again, COE at San Jose State was none the less surprised to see where we all attended community college.

The educational experiences I gained from Cabrillo College gave me a strong academic advantage at San Jose State University. The integrity and work quality that was expected at Cabrillo College truly prepared me for university level courses. I loved being a student at Cabrillo College for two major reasons: The outstanding instruction provided by professors and the priceless camaraderie I developed with my fellow class mates.”

Amber Grant, SJSU

“Cabrillo's intimate setting and excellent instructors provided the perfect stepping stone for my return to school after 6 years in the workplace. The quality of my education was great and more than prepared me for my transfer to UC Berkeley.”

Jeremy Thompson, UC Berkeley

“I just wanted to see how you are doing and to thank you for everything you have done for me. I hope that everything's going well at Cabrillo for you. I can't thank you enough for the internship that you got me at Soquel Creek Water District. They are happy with me and my work and are offering me a part time job here while I go to school. I just wanted you to know that you are wonderful in your career and teaching abilities and that I am happy to have been taught by a great teacher. Take care and hopefully see you around.”

Salvador Zuniga, SJSU

“The technical and most importantly communication skills that were imparted to me at Cabrillo have set me apart from the crowd. I really have been better prepared than most of my fellow students. The base knowledge gained from Statics and most importantly materials has been a huge advantage. I also think that you should know the number of graduates you have had that have gotten involved with Engineers Without Borders. Because of this Dave, Phaidra, myself, and possibly Tony would enjoy giving a little talk to one of your classes towards the end of the year. If you are interested let me know.”

Chris Allen, Univ of Montana

“I miss my days at Cabrillo College and only now do I appreciate the immensely valuable attention I got from the professors/staff at Cabrillo. At the university level, you're on your own. The professors at Cabrillo are there purely to teach, and that is the most valuable experience a student can get: teachers whose only goal is to teach. Here professors are engrossed in research, which is both a blessing and a curse. Being around a research community is invaluable, especially as a graduate student.”

Yusef Messallam, Virginia Polytechnic Institute

“As a transfer student, I thought that I would have a difficult time once I started at San Jose Sate. Nothing could be further from the truth; I am one of the top students in all of my classes. In fact, most of the transfer students from Cabrillo are at the top of the class, and consistently get high marks from the instructors. The work we did at Cabrillo clearly prepared us for this transition.

There are many things that I loved about studying at Cabrillo, especially the close relationships I established with my instructors. I felt I was able to approach them for help or guidance at any time, and they were always eager to help me understand. I was left with the impression that my instructors at Cabrillo wanted to make sure that we did well in our classes and understood the material that they presented. Another great thing about Cabrillo was the resources available to students. M.E.S.A. and the Physics and Engineering Learning Center had tutors available all day, every day, free to anyone who needs help. For the toughest classes, those study centers were crucial to understanding the materials presented.”

Phil Bontelle, SJSU

“Cabrillo College gave me a solid background in math and engineering. I was fully prepared to tackle the optics and electromagnetic courses at UC Davis and go on to receive my B.S. in optical engineering.”

Kerry Highberger, UC Davis

“Cabrillo began my transformation from a mechanical thinker to a mechanical engineer. I owe much of my academic success and rewards to the passionate and patience instructors and academic councilors I met at Cabrillo. I loved the fact that between instructor office hours, MESA, the PLC, and my peers I had the resources necessary to make sense of the most challenging concepts. It was up to me to utilize these resources; I did, and it has been paying off in more ways than I expected.”

Tony Cacace, SJSU

“I loved my experience at Cabrillo, especially in the engineering department because I felt supported both academically and personally. I developed into a very successful, hardworking student at Cabrillo because although the curriculum was challenging I had all of the resources I needed to succeed and I was surrounded by students and teachers who cared about learning as much as I did. The thing I love most about Cabrillo is the teachers. Cabrillo employs some of the most exceptional teachers I've ever had. I'm so glad I completed my undergraduate coursework at Cabrillo because every subject was taught by an experienced, knowledgeable and passionate teacher. All of my Cabrillo teachers have helped me tremendously in my academic career and I am forever grateful for their support and encouragement.”

Katy Griffin, SJSU

"I was thinking about Cabrillo earlier today for some reason, and I got a nostalgic feeling. I just wanted to drop a line and let you know that there are students out here who appreciate what you (and other teachers) did for us. I definitely would not be here today without the dedicated teachers at Cabrillo."

Brian Gonzales, UC Berkeley

"What the engineering department at Cabrillo has done for me...To have hope that one can change careers while working and raising a family; to have hope that one can be the first in one's family to attend and graduate from college; to have hope that one can have access to knowledge that has an immediate impact on one's ability to live and work here; to have hope that one can leave one's past behind and look to the future-these are hopes that should be enjoyed by all and not just by the well-to-do and well-connected."

Mike Hopper, SJSU

"The Engineering Program at Cabrillo College was an invaluable experience for me as a re-entry student. The high quality of the instruction, the variety of the coursework, and the richness of the Cabrillo experience is something I will never forget. In addition, I found that after I transferred to San Jose State University I was substantially better prepared for the advanced coursework in than any of my classmates (from other colleges). In fact, this topic came up over and over again.

The engineering students from the Cabrillo Engineering program became an elite group at SJSU. We were sought after to join group projects and to attend study groups. It was clear to everyone that we were well prepared, better equipped, and more than ready for everything our professors threw our way. We were leaders in our class and were routinely asked where we were from by the other students, as well as the faculty and the administrators. We thrived, and we stood out in the crowd."

Beth Minford, SJSU

"I graduated from Cabrillo in 1999 with an Associates of Science in Engineering, and subsequently transferred to the University of California, Santa Barbara where I graduated second in my Mechanical Engineering class with highest honors and a 3.89 GPA. And I did it all in two years, despite the bureaucratic headache offered to me by the UC system.

I owe all credit for my educational, and professional, successes to Cabrillo, specifically its faculty and staff. Not only was I adequately prepared for my upper division course work, but I was exceptionally prepared. The echelon of lower division, foundation coursework exhibited at Cabrillo would have been impossible to find anywhere else, including our state's prestigious university systems. Having a solid foundation in Math, the Sciences (especially Physics), and basic Engineering is mandatory for the success of any upper division Engineering student."

Chris Jackson, UC Santa Barbara

"I was only 15 when I began attending Cabrillo Community College. I had no real direction and no future goals. However, Community College allowed me to take classes in a wide range of topics that interested me and through this process I found the engineering program. The professors and staff in this program helped me to narrow my interests and apply them towards a goal. Currently, I am a junior transfer student in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science department at the University of California, Berkeley, and I owe a great deal of my success to Cabrillo and its amazing program and classes."

Celene Lehrer, UC Berkeley

“Cabrillo's engineering program had a huge impact on my overall education. First of all, it offered a more intimate learning environment than most 4-year schools, and one-on-one help from instructors was extremely accessible. Cabrillo also gives students a running start for wherever they are transferring to... Once I transferred to Cal Poly (SLO), and my peers would find out I had transferred from Cabrillo, the common response was "Oh, I've heard that's an excellent school!”

Amy Turner, CP-SLO

“While attending Cabrillo Community College, I struggled to make ends meet. Yet, regardless of my financial status and limited resources, Cabrillo provided me an exceptional education in Math, Physics and Engineering. This background helped me successfully complete a B.S. in Civil Engineering from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. Furthermore, the skills I gained at Cabrillo continue to serve me everyday as a member the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.”

Teresa Morales, CP-SLO

“Because I am writing you from the seventh floor of the beautiful Geisel Library at UC San Diego, I don't have to look very far for a reason to appreciate Cabrillo College's role in my academic success. I never would have been accepted into the Jacobs School of Engineering at UCSD, which boasts an average incoming GPA of 4.10, without the transfer priority granted to me by attending a California Community College; namely Cabrillo College.”

Lucas Fornace, UCSD
