Welcome back to the Fall 2021 semester! Here are a few highlights from Arts & Humanities, Language Arts, Math & Sciences, Social Sciences, the Kīpuka, Native Hawaiian Center at Pu‘uloa, and the Office of International Programs.

Despite the challenges of having to put so much of our instruction and services online, there have been some notable successes, particularly in terms of degree awards compared to last year. For example, this past spring there was a 29% increase in the AA in Liberal Arts degrees, a 29% increase in the AA in Hawaiian Studies, a 9% increase in the AS in Natural Sciences, and a 49% increase in the AS in Teaching (AST).

In the Teacher Education Program (TEP) Jeffrey Judd, Christina Keaulana, and Brian Ichida led Leeward to be the first community college in the nation to receive a full seven-year accreditation from AAQEP (Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation) for the Alternative Certification for Career and Technical Education (CTE) and the Advanced Professional Certificate in Special Education (SPED). In other TEP news:

- The 3+1 Leeward CC-Chaminade BS in SPED was approved by the HSTB to license teachers in Pre-K-3 Special Education — which currently has 90 students in the program.
- Leeward CC’s SPED programs were approved for a renewed UH-HIDOE Special Education Stipend that provides full tuition for any candidate who commits to teach special in a HIDOE school - awards of $389,307 have so far supported 64 licensed HIDOE SPED teachers.
- With 6 CTE Licensure grads this past spring and 11 more ready for the fall, 12 new candidates are entering the program from Hawai‘i Island, Kaua‘i, Maui, Moloka‘i, and O‘ahu.
- In addition to coordinating the AST program, with almost 400 majors, Kale‘a Silva has enrolled over 60 students in the Culturally Responsive Teaching Certificate (CRT) program. Last spring 20 students completed that certificate, supported by over $50,000 in scholarships.
- Christina Keaulana secured a $50,000 grant, "Closing the Student Achievement Gap in Hawai‘i: Designing Place-Based Professional Development to Support Culturally Responsive Teaching," to support Christina and Kale‘a’s development and delivery of six professional development CRT courses. In partnership with the Hawai‘i State Teachers Association those courses focused on culturally responsive teaching practices for Hawai‘i public school teachers--reaching over 200 teachers state-wide and strengthening community partnerships with various DOE complex areas throughout the islands.
- As the incoming TEP Coordinator, Michael Cawdery brought in $210,000 from the Governor’s Emergency Education Relief (GEER) fund to conduct a workforce needs assessment leading to an innovative design for "teacher-in-training" pathways to reduce
turnover and attrition in the HIDOE schools. Intended project partners include Waipahu High School, Kūlia and Ka Lama Education Academy, UH Maui College, and Hawaiʻi CC.

From **Math & Sciences**, 7 students participated in this summer's **INBRE** and **B2B** undergraduate research programs under the supervision of **Kabi Neupane** and **Helmut Kae**. This year was the first for a cross-campus partnership with **UH-West Oahu**, which provided students the opportunity to visit both campuses, and present their work to a group of peers and faculty from both campuses. The work culminated with the Leeward CC Undergraduate Research Symposium, where student researchers from both campuses shared the efforts of their summer's work. For the **Pre-Engineering Education Collaborative (PEEC II)**, 9 students participated this summer, where they completed calculus online and engineering research in person. **Bryson Padasdao** and **Jennifer McFatridge** advised students with the research projects, which included developing a digital hand dynamometer as well as a motion capture suit. A poster and video of their research will be presented at a system-wide online symposium in mid-August.

From **Arts & Humanities**, the **Theater** program led by **Loretta Chen** hosted Leeward CC’s **Virtual Pau Hana** featuring students from both the Pearl City and Early College at James Campbell High School. Students commemorated the end of their semester by musing on the theme, “Let’s Get Real” based off an engaging bystander training provided by **Lexer Chou**. Students also got to showcase their talents and digital theater creations to St. Andrew's Priory and to the Department of Public Safety. Through a partnership with **Kaiser Permanente’s West O‘ahu Medical Office at Kapolei**, Leeward CC students and faculty will be able to display their artwork at Kaiser Permanente’s newest state-of-the-art facility. **Mike Harada** was the first to exhibit his prints when the clinic opened in April 2021. Articles on that can be found at **UH News** and **Pacific Business News**.

The **Kipuka, Native Hawaiian Center at Puʻuloa**, which supports all of our Leeward CC students, is the recipient of a grant from Kamehameha Schools to support our **Kahua Hoʻomau Ola** (13th Year) Initiative. In addition, **Auli Silva** secured a 5-year $1.3 million US DOE **Native Hawaiian Career and Technical Education Program** grant which will support Native Hawaiian students in pathways to in-demand and living-wage careers such as **Cybersecurity, Digital Media, Information & Computer Sciences, Natural Sciences, Sustainable Agriculture, Pre-Engineering, and Transfer Business**. As part of June’s **Hawai‘i Papa O Ke Ao** Cultural Webinar series **He Ukana Aloha Kā Kīlauea**, which features music, dance, storytelling and a cooking demonstration through the Office of the President of the University of Hawaiʻi, Leeward CC’s current and alumni faculty, staff, and students were showcased in **Awawaleiākea (Puʻuloa)**.

The **Office of International Programs** resumed its short-term program in June 2021 by hosting a group of 9 students and 2 chaperones from Wabash High School in Wabash, Indiana. This group of Japanese language students had planned on visiting their partner school in Yokohama, Japan in 2020 but the trip was suspended due to the pandemic, so the group decided to visit Hawaii because of its strong connection to Japan. These students participated in several
educational activities such as visiting Hawaii’s Plantation Village, the Byodo-in Temple, and volunteering with a local non-profit organization.

Thank you to all of the Arts & Sciences division chairs Jim West, Kathryn Fujioka-Imai, William Albritton, Eiko Kosasa and program coordinators Eric Matsuoka, Jenny Watada, Brandi Reyes, Ann Inoshita, I-Chia Shih, Mike Bauer, Jeff Judd, Luʻukia Archer, Momi Kamahele, Jeremiah Boydstun, and all the faculty and staff for their great work and commitment to student success!