



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII®

# KAPI'OLANI

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

## Strengthening Community College Partnerships, Peer Mentorship, and Experiential Learning

Five-year collaborative with Chaminade University

Campus Lead: Nāwa'a Napoleon

**ANNH Title III Part A  
Discretionary Grant Application  
CFDA 84.031W**

Kapi'olani CC is partnering with Chaminade University to expand transfer pathways to four-year degrees through shared faculty development initiatives, enhancement of learning spaces, and establishing a Ka Hiki Mai Scholars Program. This collaborative will create program-to-program transfer articulation agreements to offer new educational opportunities for students.

Performance period: 60 months; 5 years  
10/1/2019-09/30/2024  
Federal Investment: \$2,204,718

## **Abstract**

### **Strengthening Community College Partnerships, Peer Mentorship, and Experiential Learning**

The overarching outcomes of this proposal are improved retention and graduation rates at both Kapi`olani Community College (KCC, the partner institution) and the four-year Chaminade University (CUH, the lead institution) via clear and articulable pathways from a two-year to a four-year degree, a scholars program, shared faculty development initiatives, and enhancement to learning spaces. In the main, the activities in this proposal speak to the importance of creating institutional readiness for CUH to receive transfer students from KCC, and for CUH and KCC to prepare students for persistence and completion at CUH. The successful partnership between CUH and KCC will address common institutional problems and goals, and will help realize a new group of largely first-generation, Pell-eligible, and minority students gain the full potential of a quality education.

KCC and CUH will partner to create clear, program-to-program transfer articulation agreements that makes it clear to students what they need to complete in order to earn their associate's and later bachelor's degrees at each respective institution. Part of this partnership includes a scholars program, the *Ka Hiki Mai* Scholars Program, that will offer structured support for transfer students. The scholars program ensures that students are given multiple opportunities to successfully experience a four-year institution, ensuring that they can realize themselves in that type of institution. Financial literacy credentialing will be a requirement for scholars in the program, and additional financial literacy workshops will be offered to potential scholars and their families. Developing and strengthening the program-to-program articulation pathways and the scholars program will provide a much needed roadmap for students. Students will not need to guess how many credits they need to take at the receiving institution (CUH) nor what they need to take at the sending institution (KCC), reducing time and debt to degree. The pathway becomes paved, in essence, and students know how to follow the trail.

The development and use of active learning pedagogies, appropriate to different audiences and modalities, is also key to student engagement and the development of skills that are transferable to the workforce. CUH and KCC will engage in shared faculty development initiatives that focus on active learning, culturally-sustaining pedagogies, and creating engaging online courses. Additionally, we aim to create physical and virtual classroom spaces that accommodate and elevate such pedagogies. Both institutions are poised to move to the next level of student learning and provide 21st-century spaces for 21st-century learners.

Over the five years of the grant, our goal is to increase the fall-to-fall retention rate to 80% and the six-year graduation rate to 62% for CUH students, and to realize a 68% or higher retention and 62% three-year graduation rate for KCC students in the scholars program.