

Project Abstract

Kapiolani Community College (the “College”) proposes one project - “**Kulia: Advancing Indigenous Scholars for Success**” and two project activities to improve Native Hawaiian student re-enrollment and academic achievement. This project embodies the spirit of the College value *kulia*, creating meaningful curricula and learning experiences that serve as a foundation for all to stand and move forward. Kulia: Advancing Indigenous Scholars for Success is rooted in the motto of Queen Kapiolani, “to strive to reach the highest.” Kulia supports students to strive to reach the highest in their academic and career journey. This project will directly benefit the growing population of Native Hawaiian (NH) students by incorporating the Kaa Transformation Framework for faculty to indigenize student engagement and learning by creating authentic meaningful curriculum and by providing academic peer coaching and tutoring support. Kulia will directly address ANNH program guidelines through two project activities: (1) **The Kaa Professional Development Program** and (2) **The Kulia Scholars Program**. The project will address institutional strategic planning goals and performance measures through three project objectives: **1) Improve NH online course success rates by increasing the capacity of 5 faculty annually to create culturally relevant student engagement and learning experiences through the Kaa Transformation Framework**. Despite increasing NH student enrollment in online courses, the success gap in course completion between online and on-campus courses has increased for Native Hawaiian students. This program will provide professional development to close the success gap by assisting faculty in developing culturally-relevant online student engagement and learning experiences through the four themes of the Kaa Transformation Framework - Hua (catalyst for change, purpose) - Haalele (preparation for the journey, assessment of strengths/tools) - Huakai (The Journey - setbacks and victories) and Hoi (Final purpose of the Journey, leadership and giving back to community). Each year over the course of the project, faculty will participate in a summer institute and a sustainable community of practice to develop and implement their online curriculum; **2) Improve NH re-enrollment rates by increasing the capacity of 5 faculty annually through a culturally-relevant Faculty Mentorship program focused on Undergraduate Research Experiences**. The Kulia Scholars program will develop and implement faculty mentoring for students across academic degree programs through a mentoring relationship focused on undergraduate research experiences. NH students will directly learn from and build key relationships with faculty mentors, including sharing personal and professional stories, which guide NH students in their chosen field of education and profession; and **3) Improve NH re-enrollment and graduation rates through a culturally-relevant academic peer support program by annually increasing academic peer coaches and tutors to support NH students enrolled in online and on-campus classes**. The Kulia program will provide academic peer support for NH students through academic peer coaching on academic skills, financial literacy, health & wellness, and life balance to increase students’ self-efficacy and sense of belonging, and peer tutoring in mathematics and writing to support NH student course success, re-enrollment and graduation rates. This project addresses the Competitive Preference Priority through the Kaa Professional Development program by increasing the capacity of faculty to create authentic and meaningful online student engagement and learning experiences within a community of practice over the course of the project.