MEMORANDUM

TO: Howard H. Karr  
Chairperson, Board of Regents  

VIA: MRC Greenwood  
President, University of Hawai‘i  

FROM: Leon Richards  
Chancellor  

SUBJECT: Establishment of an Advanced Professional Certificate (APC) in Information Technology at Kapi‘olani Community College  

SPECIFIC ACTION REQUESTED:  

It is requested that the Board of Regents approve the Advanced Professional Certificate in Information Technology at Kapi‘olani Community College.  

RECOMMENDED EFFECTIVE DATE:  

Fall 2010.  

BACKGROUND:  

Pursuant to Board of Regents Policy 5-1, the Board of Regents has the authority to approve new degree programs upon the recommendation of the President.  

Kapi‘olani Community College (KapCC) proposes to develop an Advanced Professional Certificate (APC) in Information Technology (IT), which will provide a pathway for students in Kapi‘olani’s IT program, graduates of similar programs and incumbent workers to expand their IT skill sets, thereby making them more competitive in the labor force, as well as provide a pathway to a Bachelor’s of Applied Science degree at UH West O‘ahu. Additionally, the APC and BAS will support the State’s workforce needs.  

According to data from the 2nd Decade Project, East and Ewa O‘ahu will have the two largest increases in population in the state (projected at 54,315 and 72,721 respectively through 2020). In addition, each area is identified as having either a very high or high need for post secondary education. Furthermore, the University of Hawai‘i community colleges provide the state with entry-level workers in the IT field through Associate in Science (AS) degrees in IT and CENT (Computing, Electronics and Networking Technology), and the demand for these workers seems to be met through 2012 (projected vacancies=96/projected annual UH graduates=93). However, there is a serious projected shortfall of graduates in computer-related fields for positions requiring a bachelor’s degree (projected vacancies=395/projected annual UH graduates=139).  

This APC in IT program will provide 3rd year IT technical training aligned with the guidelines established by the Association for Computing Machinery (ACM) for IT baccalaureate programs and will build on the foundation of Kapi‘olani’s current Associate in Science degree, with its focus on the major components of IT: programming, networking, and databases. The APC will enhance students’ skills and knowledge in
programming and networking, establish a focus on Web systems, and integrate elements of human-computer interaction.

Students who complete either Kapiʻolani’s A.S. in Information Technology degree or a comparable degree at another community college will qualify for entrance to this Advanced Professional Certificate in Information Technology. In addition, industry workers with adequate experience will be able to apply through a process whereby their prior life experiences are assessed for verification of skill attainment for entrance to the APC equivalency (LEAP, Life Experience Assessment Program). Graduates of the program will find employment in business environments requiring web applications, programming with database connectivity, and server installation and network security.

**ACTION RECOMMENDED:**

It is recommended that the Board of Regents establish the Advanced Professional Certificate in Information Technology at Kapiʻolani Community College, to be effective Fall 2010.

Attachment

C: Secretary to the Board of Regents