UNIVERSITY OF HAWAIʻI SYSTEM
ANNUAL REPORT

REPORT TO THE 2008 LEGISLATURE

EARLY COLLEGE AWARENESS PROGRAMS FOR ELEMENTARY,
MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
SCR 67, HD1 (2007)

The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Students, UH Manoa; and the Hawai'i P-20
Initiative and Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs, UH System
December 2007
This report consists of two distinct parts— one, a response from the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa campus; two, a response from the University of Hawai‘i System and the P-20 Initiative.

I. College Awareness Programs—University of Hawai‘i at Manoa

Background

The University of Hawai‘i at Manoa needs to enroll the best students from Hawai‘i high schools in order to meet the needs of the state. As the research and teaching institution for the state we need access to the best minds in the state. We realize that these great students are spread across the state but too many do not have access to a college preparatory curriculum nor to the necessary information to successfully enroll at the University. We know that of 100 entering 9th graders only 11 will eventually graduate with a 4-year degree. We have many successful programs and activities within our campuses to help those students in greatest need. These efforts can be found in all areas of the university.

Types of Programs

The University of Hawai‘i at Manoa has a comprehensive set of programs and projects that serve high school and middle school students, teachers, administrators, and parents. These programs range from those that serve an entire cohort across the state to a group within a target school.

Our college awareness programs include:

1. Programs that provide academic support, parent involvement and mentoring to a target population funded by outside agencies.

2. Curriculum development training for teachers in specific academic areas.

3. Activities to establish networks of educators in areas of interest including careers, academic interests, target groups of students, and recruitment to specific areas of study.

4. Activities in a specific content area of interest that promote university study.

5. After school programs working with middle and high school to provide mentoring and tutoring services to selected high schools.

6. Teacher development programs using UH faculty or graduate students to improve the curriculum content knowledge of high school teachers.

7. Activities that provide information on improving student’s lives including their physical/mental health, improved nutrition, etc.

8. Academic support programs during the summer, after school, or in session.

This website provides all of the information on each program.
http://manoa.hawaii.edu/outreach/k-12/programs/students/
Elements of Success for College Awareness Programs

We have learned a great amount as we have operated and analyzed our college awareness programs. Both our experiences and a review of the literature regarding successful college awareness initiatives suggest that the elements for success for these programs include the following:

1. Motivational activities that provide the student an opportunity to witness the benefits of enrolling in challenging college preparatory courses. These activities include visits to university classrooms and research labs, speakers from careers that require university degrees, and opportunities for students to engage their peers from other schools. Examples of these types of activities are found within the UH Gear Up projects.

2. Information and services for going to college that provide the student and their parents the opportunity to begin planning for college as early as possible. Parents need information for financing college costs and which courses to take in high school to qualify for college admissions. Students need services to assist in developing successful application for college admission. Examples of these types of information and services can be found at www.gacollege411.org.

3. Academic support services that provide the student an opportunity to be successful in demanding courses. These services include tutoring by peers or college students either in person or online. Other services include summer instructional academies on college campuses. For example, we could design summer algebra academies to make sure that students master algebra by the end of the ninth grade in order to maintain their participation in the math and science sequences. Louisiana provides an online algebra course to any student who needs to pass algebra.

4. Parent participation that provides parents of participating students with the opportunity to collect information on college going, assist with college planning, participate in motivational activities, assist with academic support services, and evaluate the overall effort.

5. Teacher development programs that provide the teachers in the participating schools an opportunity to receive instruction through university programs using online methods, f2f methods, videoconferencing, or with direct exchanges with university faculty. UH Manoa already provides these services through the School of Education.

6. Faculty involvement that provides university faculty with the opportunity to participate in college preparatory program by offering instruction in their content areas, offering advice on program direction, evaluating program effectiveness, and conducting research on program elements. The Center for Educational Partnerships on the UC Irvine campus serves as a good example. http://focus.web.uci.edu/

One example of a successful program that features the approaches described above is UH Manoa GEAR UP.
The University of Hawai‘i at Manoa (UHM) GEAR UP Program works with students at Farrington High School. The program is designed to support early college awareness and preparation, by providing students with access to rigorous academic courses, financial aid information, and individual scholarship accounts.

GOALS

1. Prepare students to access opportunities for post-secondary education.

2. Ensure that parents value higher education, access resources, and support their children in pursuit of post-secondary education.

3. Assure that teachers and staff are prepared and committed to mitigate the negative effects of poverty on students and their access to higher education.

4. Establish a system to acknowledge academic achievement and to award financial assistance to GEAR UP graduates.

The Current Need

We need to analyze our efforts, recognize their successes and determine if there are additional efforts needed in order to meet the needs of state’s middle school and high school populations. We need to examine the degree to which additional coordination, cooperation, and collaboration would benefit the participants of our programs. We also need to determine which programs or elements of programs need to be expanded or duplicated in order to better serve high school and middle school students.

Before we proceed to the next stage the campus needs to accomplish the following.

1. Update the compendium of programs at UH Manoa that provide services to middle school or high school students and teachers in order to increase the college-going rates of program participants.
2. Solicit input and consult with interested parties on what the campus can do to assist these programs to accomplish their objectives.
3. Solicit input from key school-base stake-holders (principals and counselors) to assess the need for these services/programs in area middle and high schools.
4. Solicit input and consult with interested parties on coordination and cooperation with UH system-sponsored programs that provide services to middle-school and high school students and teachers.
5. Sponsor meetings, retreats and dialogues among service providers to establish communication links leading to increased coordination and cooperation.
6. Develop a set of recommendations on creating additional college awareness programs that could be in the next Legislative budget request.
7. Establish additional and renewal partnerships with businesses and community organizations to increase their support for college awareness programs.
8. Establish a plan with goals and objectives to ensure collaboration, cooperation, and coordination between UH Manoa college awareness programs.

Finally, UH Manoa should consider the establishment of a University Mentors program whereby UH students would serve as tutors and advisors for high schools students in order to assist those students excel in their courses and receive timely information on college planning.
II. The University of Hawai‘i ten campuses and the Hawai‘i P-20 Initiative work together promoting early college awareness programs to help Hawai‘i’s youth to prepare for and apply for post-secondary educational opportunities. These programs, which exist across the state of Hawai‘i, aim to increase the participation of Hawai‘i’s underrepresented populations in colleges and universities.

In 2007, University of Hawai‘i System made a significant commitment to increase college access for all of Hawai‘i’s residents. UH joined 18 other university systems in pledging to provide "Access to Success" by closing the gaps by at least half in both college-going and degree completion that separate low-income and minority students from others by 2015. In conjunction with Access to Success partners coordinated by the National Association of System Heads (NASH), UH will work to identify roadblocks that suppress retention and graduation and re-examine and re-focus the ways financial aid resources are being utilized to assist target groups.

Current Efforts for Early College Awareness
Attached is a flyer that lists programs through the UH Community Colleges that targets students who are in high school and are interested in attending college in their near future.

The Hawai‘i P-20 Initiative initiated a community network, the Hawai‘i College Access Network (HICAN), which brings together programs that share the mission of improving access to higher education by unrepresented youth. The purpose of this network is threefold:
- to communicate and share information among programs to make service delivery more efficient;
- to inform practice to increase program effectiveness; and
- to advocate for resources and policy changes that will increase opportunities and support for students.

Participating programs affiliated with the UH include:
College Opportunities Program (COP), University of Hawai‘i at Manoa - is an entry-level summer and first-year academic college program designed to prepare selected Hawai‘i residents for a successful freshman year at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa (UHM).

Educational Talent Search Program - is designed to assist economically disadvantaged and potential first generation college students with entry into postsecondary education.

Foundation for Excellence Schools—The Century Program helps underserved youth to improve their grades, attendance, and citizenship, and take steps toward college. UH campuses participate in partnership with identified FES schools.

GEAR UP Hawai‘i - is a partnership of the University of Hawai‘i system, the State of Hawai‘i Department of Education, and community partners. GEAR UP Hawai‘i aims to increase the number of low-income students who make it successfully through the “educational pipeline,” to higher education.

Hawaii Association for College Admission Counseling (HACAC) - is the professional association of high school counselors and college admission counselors in Hawai‘i, one of 23 chartered, state and regional affiliates of NACAC. The national organization and the state and regional
affiliates are linked by joint programs (like the Hawaii College and Career Fair) and governance operations.

Hawai‘i Community College – GEAR UP Outreach - Services Include: Summer Bridge Program for Class of 2007; Student Outreach to high schools, including Hawaii CC campus visits; COMPASS preparation and testing; Peer Mentoring at high schools by Hawai‘i CC students; Financial aid awareness & information workshops; College Day and Open House events; Running Start enrollment for high school students, and Building Better Bridges Program

Honolulu Community College – GEAR UP Outreach - Services include: Career Exploration Expo; Financial aid awareness initiatives; College awareness outreach and campus visits; Financial aid and scholarship counseling; Student-to-student peer mentoring program; English, Math, Study Skills and College prep workshops; Running Start classes; High school to HCC & Pearl Harbor apprenticeship recruitment event, and COMPASS prep and testing

Kapiolani Community College – GEAR UP Outreach - Services include: COMPASS prep and testing; Campus visits; Recognition for graduating Seniors; College prep events with motivational speakers, and Student Advisory Board at high schools to assist with GEAR UP activities

Kauai Community College – GEAR UP Outreach - Services include: Parent Nights; COMPASS testing; College Readiness Summer Academy, and Kauai Literature Festival

Kua‘ana Native Hawaiian Student Development Services at UH Manoa - reflects the belief that higher education is a major factor in ensuring a better future for Hawaiians as individuals and as a people. Kua‘ana focuses on encouraging and facilitating the entry of Hawaiian students into UH Manoa and supports them in fulfilling their academic expectations through the development of new programs and the use of existing resources.

Leeward Community College – GEAR UP Outreach - Services include: Attitude Becomes Commitment-recruitment and technical assistance for early registration; Campus tours; College and Career Fair; College kick-off dinner; Discover LCC day; Financial aid outreach; First Year’s Club-peer support for Freshmen; Peer Counseling; Running Start classes; Youth Leadership Conference for college prep; Parent Hui- peer support; Counseling, and OAR-Orientation/Advising/Registration.

Maui Community College – GEAR UP Outreach - Services include: COMPASS prep and testing; Campus visits; Financial aid awareness workshops, and Counseling

Na Pua No'ea - Center for Gifted and Talented Native Hawaiian Students at the UH system raises the achievement and career aspirations of students in grades kindergarten through UH freshman. Na Pua No'ea provides services through its offices on all islands at UH-Hilo, UH-Manoa, Maui CC, Kauai CC, Molokai Education Center, Lanai.

Native Hawaiian Career & Technical Education Program - Kauai Community College - provides credit courses, work experience and internships related to a student's major, counseling, financial aid information, and referral to appropriate outside resources for students with vocational educational majors and others.

Native Hawaiian Student Center—Kipuka—University of Hawaii at Hilo – increases Native Hawaiian access to higher education through the provision of comprehensive support programs
and services to promote academic excellence, spiritual well-being, and the enhancement of cultural and leadership development.

Native Hawaiian Title III Program—Honolulu Community College - focuses on increasing access to higher education for native Hawaiian students

Office of Multicultural Student Services—University of Hawai‘i at Manoa - conducts outreach activities encouraging under-represented groups and underserved communities to seek higher education, and promotes the development of information and resources related to Hawai‘i’s multi-ethnic groups.

Pacific Financial Aid Association (PacFAA) - is a trade association representing the practicing Financial Aid professionals in Hawaii and the Pacific Islands. PacFAA sponsors College Goal Sundays statewide in the Spring to assist families in completing their FAFSA financial aid forms, as well as conducts Financial Aid Nights at local high schools statewide to provide families and students with information about the financial aid process.

Palolo Pipeline Project – helps residents of Palolo Valley obtain a better education through cooperation and utilization of energy and resources of all partners involved.

Running Start - is a statewide program that provides an opportunity for academically qualified juniors and seniors to enroll in college classes through the University of Hawai‘i system as part of their high school coursework, earning credit toward college degrees and high school diplomas.

School and College Services—UH Manoa - provides information about college enrollment and UH campus tours to high school and community college students interested in pursuing higher education at UH Manoa.

Service Learning and Hawai‘i Pacific Islands Campus Compact - connects faculty and students with community organizations in partnerships which provide students with learning and service opportunities in real world settings and enable community organizations to fulfill their missions and meet their goals with the aid of these student volunteers.

Student Equity, Excellence & Diversity Program (SEED)—UH Manoa - administers scholarships and programs for entering and continuing UH students who are from groups underrepresented and underserved.

TRIO—Student Support Services Program - provides counseling, tutoring, mentoring, and grant aid to disadvantaged students.

Upward Bound - is a free college preparatory program at University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, Leeward Community College, and Windward Community College designed to increase college going rates among Hawai‘i’s low income high school students who are among the first generation in their families to graduate with a college degree.

Recommendations to Improve Early College Awareness

In September 2007, the Federal government passed the College Cost Reduction and Access Act, which included Section 801, the College Access Challenge Grants, which provides for
matching grants to states to improve access to college. The grant administrators encourage states to coordinate efforts by organizations that promote early college awareness. Unfortunately, the grant only provides for 6 percent of the grant to be used for administrative purposes.

We recommend that more coordination take place amongst early college awareness programs so that efforts are not duplicated and more youth are exposed to these programs. We recommend the establishment of a new position for a central coordinator who can unify the organizations as well as coordinate implementation of the Federal College Access Challenge Grant.

We also recommend the creation of a state scholarship for needy Hawai‘i students to attend any institution of higher education in the State of Hawai‘i, targeting students in their middle school or early high school years. This scholarship would complement the existing Federal Pell grant for the neediest students; the Federal Academic Competitiveness Grant for Pell-eligible students who complete a rigorous high school curriculum; the State of Hawai‘i B Plus Scholarship for Hawai‘i public school graduates attending UH who complete a rigorous high school curriculum and have a 3.0 grade point average, and institutional aid provided by UH and other colleges and universities. The new state scholarship would provide a significant incentive for young students, who may think they cannot afford college, to prepare for college and to enroll in college. The new Federal College Access Challenge Grant would aid and supplement our state’s efforts by encouraging Hawai‘i’s youth to complete their Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), by providing critical information to students and their families about grants and scholarships, and by providing training to academic and financial aid counselors from middle school through college.
Eligibility Requirement

- Full time student in Grade Levels 6-12
- Either a GEAR UP Scholar or attending a GEAR UP School
- Students of Native Hawaiian ethnicity
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