Achieving Our Destiny: 2011-2015 Strategic Plan Initiative 5

Instructional Innovation

Achieving Our Destiny calls for transforming the teaching and learning environment at Mānoa. The continuing, rapid pace of advances in information technologies has created a digital infrastructure that can fundamentally alter the learning environment. Students now have access to vast amounts of information more quickly, and faculty and students have a wide array of tools with which to communicate and cooperate among themselves. Boundaries that previously isolated college classrooms from the rest of the world have been broken.

To transform and improve our teaching and learning environment, Mānoa must find ways to more fully and effectively deploy state-of-the-art digital and multi-media infrastructure as it becomes available. Given the fluidity and rapid pace of technological change, plus the variety of available technological options, instructional innovation requires commitment of resources and an environment that promotes experimentation with rapid prototyping and assessment. Instructional innovation also requires joint development of instructional facilities and faculty expertise. Mānoa needs classrooms and other learning spaces that facilitate and promote engaged learning and a faculty empowered to use innovative spaces and tools that facilitate engaged student learning.

This instructional innovation initiative will proceed in two stages. First, Mānoa will move to improve the generally poor conditions of classrooms and address inadequate classroom space concerns. Repairing and updating existing classrooms can provide immediate improvements to the learning environment and enable faculty members to begin introducing teaching and learning pedagogies that innovative learning spaces facilitate. Moreover, better utilization of existing classroom space and technology upgrades can be addressed quickly while new and renovated classrooms are being brought online.

Second, Mānoa will develop a long-range plan for supporting instructional innovation that includes integrated planning for renovation and building of new learning spaces, providing professional development for faculty, and offering innovation grants that allow faculty to experiment with new methods of instruction. Mānoa will provide faculty the resources and professional development necessary to experiment with and integrate digital infrastructure for instruction both on and off campus. A plan for the joint development of comprehensive instructional infrastructure and faculty development will include priorities informed by our academic mission and an implementation plan that will allow Mānoa to transform the learning environment to the advantage of our students and the State of Hawai‘i.