On December 6, 2000, the University of Hawai‘i Community Colleges unveiled the Pacific Center for Advanced Technology Training (PCATT) at the ITEC-Hawaii Technology Showcase at the Hawai‘i Convention Center.

PCATT is a collaborative endeavor of all seven Community Colleges and the Employment Training Center to design and deliver customized training in advanced technologies. From telecommunications and computer networking to biotechnology and digital media arts, PCATT courses will span the spectrum in offering training in new technologies.

Many people stopped by the booth at the trade show, expressing interest in the UHCCs latest collaborative effort.

As part of the announcement celebration, PCATT held a drawing to give away a free training course of the winner’s choice (valued at up to $500). The ITEC-Hawaii Technology Showcase featured more than 60 exhibitors showcasing their latest technologies through seminars and displays. National companies such as Sun Microsystems and AT&T were also in attendance. Many of the leading IT decision-makers in the region were in attendance, along with members of the Millennium Workforce Initiative, who presented reports on their year-long research into Hawai‘i’s workforce needs.
Welcome Back!

W elcome back to our ever-changing UH Community Colleges. I hope your holidays were restorative and you are now energized to welcome in a new semester and to embrace several exciting new initiatives.

First, if you have not yet heard, we have accepted a generous gift from the Robert and Betty Wo and the James and Juanita Wo Foundations in support of faculty and staff enrichment. According to Robert and James Wo, founders of C.S. Wo furniture stores, "We wanted to support the community colleges because of their commitment to teaching excellence and because they offer hope to people who desire to work toward a better life."

A system-wide committee headed by Louise Pagotto of Kapi‘olani CC is working to define the parameters of the project with the goal of fostering an environment that encourages new ideas, concepts, and practices that help students learn. Through the Wos’ generosity, we will be able to increase our effectiveness and give our teachers and support staff a new level of enrichment opportunities.

Another exciting announcement was made on December 6 at the Hawaii Technology Showcase at the Hawai‘i Convention Center. The Pacific Center for Advanced Technology Training, or PCATT, has become a reality. A system-wide committee headed by Don Bourassa of Honolulu CC has pulled together some of our colleges’ high-tech resources to create this new entity.

Our state leaders recognized the need for PCATT and supported our efforts with start-up funding last year. Courses in computer networking, digital media, biotechnology and e-commerce are just a few of the initial offerings. With the continued support of our colleges and the community, PCATT will be able to offer an educational environment that prepares workers for emerging industries and supports development of high-tech companies in the state.

Later this month, we also expect to receive the official accreditation report from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges. As I mentioned in a Stairway Conversation in October 2000, there were several recommendations made by the visiting accreditation team concerning ways our campuses could improve. These focused primarily on better communication, greater collegial involvement in planning, and better utilization of our institutional research data. Their recommendations, for the most part, were the same as those we had made to ourselves through the self-study’s planning agenda.

I am glad to see that our campuses are already implementing some of these recommendations. For instance, inter-campus communication to establish a system of program health indicators for our Liberal Arts program has begun, and a training program for staff in the collection and use of institutional research is in the works.

Time and again in their exit interview, the visiting accreditation team brought up the “resilience” and “energy” of the faculty and staff on our campuses. Recognizing the deep financial cuts and tough economic times we have faced, they praised us for our innovation, cooperation, and commitment to student learning.

This was gratifying to hear from our colleagues, although I think, deep inside, we were already aware of this special aspect of ourselves. The growing support we are receiving from the business community indicates that others also understand our unique value to the state.

So, as we begin this new year and focus our efforts on responding to the recommendations of the report, remember the wonderful qualities we bring to the table. Let us use our dedication and sense of leadership to achieve even greater things through our new initiatives.

Happy New Year!

Joyce S. Tsunoda
Senior Vice President, UH and Chancellor for Community Colleges

“The growing support we are receiving from the business community indicates that others also understand our unique value to the state.”
ETC offers MOUS training discounts

The Employment Training Center, as an authorized Microsoft Office User Specialist (MOUS) certification center, is offering discounts to students, staff and friends of the UH Community Colleges to help them in their career and professional goals. MOUS certification has set a global standard for desktop productivity across Microsoft® Office applications. This performance-based certification examination can validate productivity for academic institutions, staffing agencies, training organizations and individuals alike.

For more information on testing, fees and discounts, call Evelyn Sugihara at 844-2315 or e-mail: mous@hawaii.edu.
KAP CC GETS VALUABLE BOOK COLLECTION FROM DR. KWOK

Dr. Daniel Kwok, professor emeritus of history at the University of Hawai‘i, donated about 3,000 books from his personal library to the Asian language collection of the Kapi‘olani Community College Library. The books reflect his life’s teaching and research collection and are focused primarily on modern China, but also include subjects such as Chinese history, culture, political science and religion.

Dr. Kwok is chair and founder of the University of Hawai‘i Asia Fellowship Program for Journalists and past director of the UH Center for Chinese Studies. He was honored at a ceremony unveiling the collection at Kapi‘olani CC in December.

HON CC STUDENT INTERN AT LAWRENCE LIVERMORE LAB

Through a partnership between Alu Like, Inc. and Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) at the University of California, Native Hawaiian UH Community College students are reaping experiences of a lifetime. In 1999, Kaua‘i CC student Kristian Keahi participated in one of these technology internships and upon her return, was hired by Textron Systems Kaua‘i to work on a project at the Pacific Missile Range Facility. This fall, Edward Akana, II, a student in Honolulu CC’s Computer Electronics and Networking Technologies, is spending a semester at the LLNL to work on a hardware platform for the Lick Observatory on Mt. Hamilton in California. In his mid-term activity report, Akana noted that the auditors and head engineer for the project have given him the go-ahead for his project design. The next part of the project will be to develop the system and, if time permits, to get the system up and running at the Lick Observatory.

KAP CC STUDENTS RECEIVE POCAHONTAS FOODS SCHOLARSHIPS

Galen Hironaka and Van Shigemoto of Kapi‘olani Community College each received a $1,000 Pocahontas Foods scholarship. Mr. Larry Vogel, president of Y. Hata & Co., and Mr. John Smiley, director of sales, presented checks and plaques to the students in November at Kapi‘olani CC. Y. Hata & Co. is the local distributor for Pocahontas Foods. Hironaka and Shigemoto are both students in the culinary arts program at Kapi‘olani CC. As of the 2000-2001 school year, Pocahontas Foods USA has awarded 194 scholarships to students in the hotel restaurant management or culinary fields across the United States.

KAUA‘I CC STUDENT GETS RARE & DEAR SCHOLARSHIP

Rare & Dear, Inc. and Kaua‘i Community College announced that Gilbert Maerina is this year’s recipient of a $1,000 computer science scholarship. This annual scholarship was developed to recognize a Kaua‘i CC student matriculating to a four-year college in Hawai‘i to pursue a course of study in computer or information science. Maerina, of Kekaha, Kaua‘i, will attend UH-Hilo through the distance learning program offered by the University Center at Kaua‘i CC.

MCC STUDENTS REPRESENT HAWAI‘I AT MACY’S PARADE

This year, in honor of Hawai‘i’s reigning Miss America, the Macy’s Day Parade featured the Old Lahaina Luau, a float featuring hula dancing, floral surroundings and music. Among the 28 dancers performing on the float were four Maui CC students. These students were among 80 to 100 hopefuls who auditioned for the parts. By making the final cut, the four motivated dancers received an all-expenses-paid trip to New York, an appearance on a morning talk show, headlined halftime entertainment for a Knicks game and, of course, were in the parade.
Maui CC Telethon exceeds goals

The Sixth Annual Maui Community College Telethon on November 18 brought in $428,450 exceeding its goal by more than $75,000.

The fund-raiser, televised live over Maui CC’s cable channel 12 on Saturday afternoon and evening during breaks in the UH Warrior football game against Louisiana Tech at the Aloha Stadium, had a goal of $350,000. But the event picked up much more, including approximately $35,000 from phoned-in pledges.

One of the more significant contributions made during the telethon was a $100,000 gift by part-time Wailea residents William and Leona Rocha Wilson to establish an endowed scholarship fund.

MCC’s Library also benefited through a Paul Mitchell cut-a-thon, which featured ten hair stylists cutting hair throughout the afternoon and evening in a room neighboring MCC’s Media Center, where the telethon took place.

This year’s telethon was co-chaired by flo wiger, Maui CC’s dean of instruction, and Richard Kipper, chairman of the Provost’s Advisory Council. Because of its ongoing success, next year’s telethon is already in planning. Officials are hoping to hold next year’s event in the new Media Center now under construction.

ETC chef “wows” Michigan students’ taste buds

Former Employment Training Center (ETC) counselor Tom Nishi, now working for Michigan State University in the Office of Minority Student Affairs, flew ETC Chef Diane Nazarro up to East Lansing in October to prepare contemporary Hawaiian menu items for a student reception called “Straight Out of Honolulu-Michigan Mix Plate.” Nazarro had no problem impressing the folks there with her culinary skills and, it is said, the Michigan students are now craving our unique Island cuisine.

Kap CC to host 6th annual on-line conference


The theme, “The Internet and Learning: What have we discovered and where are we headed?” has been selected to generate discussion about the Internet, its potential and how it facilitates, enhances or interferes with student learning and student services. The conference provides faculty, counselors, student services staff, administrators, librarians and others with an opportunity to share and dialog real-life experiences in an on-line environment.

The TCC On-line Conference, created in 1996 by Bert Kimura and Jim Shimabukuro of Kapi'olani CC, has grown in virtual attendance and has a regular following in cyberspace. The conference attracts as many as 1,000 participants from as far away as South Africa, Korea and Finland.

Kimura notes that TCC is one of the few conferences focused primarily on community college level education.

For those interested in submitting a proposal or registering on-line, visit the Web site at http://leahi.kcc.hawaii.edu/org/tcon2001. The proposal deadline is January 3, 2001. Early registration discounts are also available on-line.

For further information, contact Bert Kimura (bert@hawaii.edu) or Karl Naito (knaito@hawaii.edu).
Chinese teachers training at Hon CC

Honolulu Community College is the first undergraduate institution in the state and one of only two in the nation to be successful in bringing a group of Chinese teachers to the United States for studying and training at the non-graduate level.

Twenty participating teachers are at Honolulu CC specifically to learn about American teaching methods, to improve their English language skills and learn about American culture. According to Honolulu CC’s Beng Poh Yoshikawa, who was instrumental in bringing the group to the campus, “The program is proving to be a learning experience for everyone involved—our faculty and students, students and teachers at area high schools they have visited, and for all of us involved in this joint venture.”

The teachers for this program were selected to represent various regions in China and various fields of teaching. English skills were also a prerequisite. For many, it is their first time to travel abroad.

Jerry Cerny, Honolulu CC’s faculty development coordinator and teacher trainer, noted that, “Since arriving in September, the teachers have developed many impressions of our educational system, our people and our culture.”

One teacher in particular, Fion Wu Quinping, was impressed with the UHCC’s “open door policy.” She commented that “It is great to have a place for citizens to pursue the education they did not have the chance to receive, and more importantly, to start their lives all over again.” She felt that China would benefit from such an educational system. Others were impressed by the UHCC’s learning-centered practices, and were interested in learning about tutoring programs, placement testing, health services and other student services.

The teachers learned new student interaction techniques and assessment methods, and how to add interest to lessons through the use of stories, humor and teaching aids.

To try out their newly-learned skills, they visited Honolulu CC classrooms and area high schools, teaching students about culture and life in China.

The group will be at Honolulu CC through the end of the semester, then visit Las Vegas and San Francisco before heading back to China. A second group of teachers from China is scheduled to arrive in late January for a similar semester-long program.

Thirty-two students and three teachers from Kure National College of Technology visited Maui CC in October. This was a much anticipated visit because for more than two years the students of these “sister colleges” have been involved in an e-mail-based language exchange program.

“Every week my students of Japanese 201 correspond over the Internet with the students of Kure,” says Hiroko Deleon, Maui CC Japanese teacher who coordinated this program.

As part of their cultural exchange experience, Kure students have visited Maui CC twice. Last year about 60 Kure students came to the island and many stayed in the homes of Maui CC students, faculty, and staff.
New exchange program with Japanese college signed

In October, an agreement of international exchange between Nakamura Gakuen University and Junior College and Leeward Community College was signed on the Leeward CC campus. President Torao Yamamoto, Professor Keiko Yamafuji and Mr. Saburo Zaitsu traveled from Fukuoka, Japan for the ceremony. Chancellor Joyce Tsunoda, representing the UHCC system, and Interim Provost Mark Silliman were the signatories for Leeward CC. Sharon Narimatsu, deputy director for the State Department of Economic Development and Tourism and former Leeward CC provost, also attended.

The first exchange with Nakamura Gakuen will take place in February, when a group of about 35 Nakamura Gakuen students will spend two weeks at Leeward CC in a program of study, including English language, Hawaiian culture and the multi-ethnic character of Hawai’i.

President Yamamoto and Provost Silliman (above) also exchanged gifts among the two colleges.

Star Poets 2000

Love lost and found . . . heartfelt moments . . . family issues and soul-searching questions . . . Those were the subjects of 26 winning poems in the first Star Poets 2000 contest from students in grades 3-12. The project, co-sponsored by Starbucks and Windward Community College, culminated in a reading and awards ceremony in November near the stage in front of Kahala Mall Starbucks.

Introducing students and reading one of their own pieces were writers Lisa Linn Kanae, Hina Kahanu, Jesse Lipman, Richard Hamasaki and Chris McKinney, winner of this year’s Elliot Cades award for emerging writers.

More than 300 poems were received islandwide and judged by members of Windward CC’s language arts department. The student winners received cash awards and their schools received book grants.

“The response from students and teachers was amazing,” said Windward CC Provost Angela Meixell (in photo at right with contestant). “Windward wanted to find a way to celebrate the voices of the next generation. We’re pleased to be a partner with Starbucks in this effort.”

The poems will be published in a Star Poets 2000 Journal that will be distributed to schools and sold through Starbucks in late January for $5 per copy. Proceeds from the sale will support future literacy projects sponsored by Windward CC. The journals also will help launch the Star Poets 2001 competition. Entry forms will be available at all Starbucks stores on O‘ahu after Jan. 15 and will be mailed to schools. Students in grades 3-12 are eligible to enter, and deadline for submissions is March 1, 2001. For information, call Libby Young at 235-7396 or 235-7333.

Honolulu Community College has been the long-established leader in the training of cosmetologists in Hawai‘i, and this fall, they launched their first evening program specifically for the training of "estheticians."

Estheticians are the professionals that pamper customers at the luxury day spas that are popping up all over the state. The program offers a quick route into the beauty industry and involves 600 hours of training, learning how to do facials, special make-up techniques, waxing, and eye brow arching. Classes run 5-9 p.m. Monday through Friday.
Servco partners with Hon CC autobody

Thanks to the generosity of Servco Pacific and the Toyota Motor Corporation, auto body students may now receive an educational foundation for a successful career with Toyota.

At a ceremony on December 1, Eric Fukunaga, President of Servco Pacific, Inc. and Mark Fukunaga, Servco Chairman, presented Honolulu CC with two new welders, support materials, repair manuals and supplies, and a plaque to signify this new agreement with Toyota.

Beginning as early as the spring semester, Honolulu CC will offer a Body and Paint – Toyota Technical Education Program (BP T-TEP), similar to the automotive repair training agreement set up several years earlier.

According to Bert Shimabukuro, division chair of the transportation and trade technologies at Honolulu CC, this new agreement became possible because of the college’s National Automobile Technicians Education Foundation (NATEF) certification in auto body repair last year. “NATEF evaluates technician training programs against standards developed by the automotive industry and recommends qualifying programs for certification. We hoped this sort of training partnership would develop upon our certification. Thanks to the hard work of Servco’s Technical Training Manager, Neal Tanaka, and the generosity of Servco and Toyota, we can now offer this program.”

Through the training partnership, students will have use of Toyota’s state-of-the-art training materials, tools, and curriculum.

Clerical Staff Council celebrates 25th anniversary

Leeward Community College’s Clerical Staff Council (CSC) celebrated 25 years of collaboration and camaraderie with a delightful program at the Honolulu Country Club in October, 2000. More than 60 past and present members and advisors enjoyed lunch and silver anniversary tributes from guest speakers. Attendees enjoyed reminiscing about the CSC’s achievements which include student scholarships, service projects, fund-raising projects, and numerous staff development initiatives. This ground-breaking group is looking forward to many more years of making LCC a better place for all.
ETC provides training for trainers

Employment Training Center staff recently hosted the trainers of Hawai‘i Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF) when they job shadowed ETC programs in October. The 13 trainers took part in live, interactive workshops at the HYCF facility. They also experienced teaching and learning taking place at the various facilities. The trainer’s feedback indicated that the experience helped them realize that they, too, could make a difference in the lives of their students at HYCF. Brainstorming and communication, along with management support, will continue to spark creativity among the trainers.

ETC is currently working on curriculum development to meet Department of Education standards and approval, which means the HYCF students may then be able to receive high school credit(s) for their training. The disciplinary areas are food service, basic plumbing, facilities maintenance, auto mechanics, grounds keeping, hydroponics, animal husbandry, fishery, and office technology. As part of the train-the-trainer concept, ETC goes through the initial process with the trainers who are professional technicians, as they develop written curriculum for their respective discipline(s).

Kaua‘i CC to get two new facilities

In response to growing economic and workforce development needs, Kaua‘i Community College is moving ahead with two new learning centers on its campus. A pre-construction blessing was held in mid-October for the two new facilities, and construction is now under way.

State and county economic leaders want Kaua‘i to pursue more business and employment in high-tech industries as a way of diversifying the local economy.

The small but steady growth of high-technology industries on the island, has helped spur the need for a new 14,025 square foot technology center on the campus. The building will house classes and projects in energy technology, biotechnology, computers and multimedia. The technology center is expected to be finished within the next 18 months.

An expansion of the college’s culinary arts center that will nearly double the size of the existing facility, is the second project that is now in progress.

The new facility will be able to accommodate more students and provide upgraded teaching facilities. Food preparation is an important part of Kaua‘i’s service and hospitality industries, and Kaua‘i CC is the primary training provider for people seeking careers in those fields.

Kaua‘i CC is an integral part of the island’s economic structure and, through these new facilities, will be able to offer increased capabilities in helping people learn new skills and explore potential careers.

UHCWH receives funding for permanent site

Gov. Benjamin Cayetano approved $1,438,000 in funding to design the first increment of the University of Hawai‘i Center at West Hawai‘i (UHCWH). The Center will be located at Kalā‘oa and situated mauka and about a mile above Kona International Airport. Phase one, which will use 35 acres of a 500-acre lot that is currently being subdivided, is scheduled for completion by 2005. The remaining 465 acres will be used for future expansion.

The initial site will include three buildings: the Library/ Learning Resource Center, Hospitality Program and a temporary Operations/Maintenance Building. The Center will house Hawai‘i Community College’s West Hawai‘i programs and the UHCWH, which delivers bachelor’s and master’s programs for the four-year UH system institutions.

Kathy Damon, director of UHCWH, said, “The central location of the campus will make it accessible for students from all parts of the western side of the island. It will help students avoid the long commute to Hilo and will target an enrollment of about 750 students.”

An important priority of the West Hawai‘i campus will be to “maintain its distance learning capabilities to allow students to access bachelor’s, master’s and other degree programs offered at other UH campuses,” Damon added.
In many areas of life, the surface is not really important—but when the topic is tennis courts, the surface is what matters most. After a complete resurfacing, Leeward Community College’s tennis courts, once crumbling and unused, have returned to life.

A Grand Opening of the resurfaced courts was held in October, with a reception honoring the individuals and organizations whose generosity made the “rebirth” possible—the Jhamandas Watumull Fund, ASUH-LCC Student government, LCC’s Office of Continuing Education and Training, and the O‘ahu Tennis Association (which donated wind screens).

The driving force behind the restoration was Mr. Gulab Watumull, a lifelong tennis player and businessman (shown here with his wife, Indru). The Watumull’s generosity was matched by on-campus resources to complete the project.

At the opening ceremony, students, faculty and staff participated in warm-up drills, a beginners’ clinic, a team challenge, and hits for prizes. As a follow-up, the U.S. Tennis Association (Hawai‘i Pacific Section) and the O‘ahu Tennis Association have agreed to hold future clinics, give lessons, and assist in other ways.

Kaua‘i CC summer academy stimulates interest in health careers

Kaua‘i Community College held a three week health academy last summer, targeting middle school youth. Through the collaborative efforts of Area Health Education Center (AHEC), Na Lei Wili, Kaua‘i CC, and the Quentin Burdick Rural Health Disciplinary Training Grant, the focus was to interest children in a health occupation career.

The summer program was a response to an identified community need. Fewer and fewer of Kaua‘i’s children in recent years are choosing an academic future or career in health-related occupations. Subsequently, these career roles are being filled by Mainland applicants.

After a needs assessment was done, team building activities were developed. Canoe paddling and water safety classes, tours of local hospitals, a variety of speakers, harvesting salt at a salt pond, stress reduction (acupuncture, breathing exercises, humor), CPR and a smoking cessation programs were included. The use of both teen and young adult mentors was also a very successful component to the program.

The program achieved its goals, as evidenced by the feedback from both the keikis and their parents. There were 18 children in the program. Initially, only two had identified a career goal from the health care industry. At the end of the academy, 15 children had identified a health occupation as a future career goal. Plus, the youths requested that an ongoing alumni be formed.

Since the alumni group formed, the children have participated in a Women’s Health Fair, a Bike Safety Program, and a Safety Walk as part of the Week Without Violence program. Upcoming activities include staffing a first aid booth at the Taro Festival in Hanalei, and a Santa Claus run which is a fund raiser for the American Cancer Society.
On December 4, Dr. Andrea Leskes, Vice-President for Education and Quality Initiatives at the Association of American Colleges and Universities, informed Dean Leon Richards that Kapi‘olani CC has been selected as a “Greater Expectations Leadership Institution.” As one of only 14 colleges and universities selected nationwide, Kapi‘olani CC will be “at the AACU table” for multi-year discussions that “articulate the aims of a 21st century liberal education that is responsive to the external environment and appropriate for the diverse student body now attending college.”

According to Kapi‘olani CC Professor Bob Franco, chair of the social sciences, “More than any other award this college has received in the last 15 years, this award recognizes the entire college, not just a specific emphasis or program. It was a very rigorous site visit and even more rigorous competition—but WE DID IT!”

Kap CC named AACU leader college

Charitable gift annuities an excellent way to give

Are you one of the many UH Community College supporters who would like to receive guaranteed income in exchange for your gift? If you are, you might consider a University of Hawai‘i Foundation Charitable Gift Annuity. This is an excellent time to participate. Part of the income you receive may be tax free and you can avoid an immediate capital gains tax when contributing appreciated securities.

During the past several years, the simple and straightforward gift annuity program has attracted many participants because it offers excellent returns and generates significant tax savings. Many UHCC supporters have also found the gift annuity an ideal way to lock in stock market gains.

Find out how a charitable gift annuity can save on your taxes, provide income for your needs, and support community college students, faculty and programs. For more information, please call the Office of Planned Giving at 956-8034, or e-mail: giftplanning@uhf.hawaii.edu.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Kaua‘i Concert Association presents The Baltimore Consort
Friday, January 12, 7:00 p.m., Kaua‘i CC Performing Arts Center. For ticket information, call 245 SING.

American Indian Dance Theatre
January 20, 8:00 p.m., Leeward CC Theatre, Tickets: $22.50/$18. Experience what critics worldwide describe as “sheer spectacle with a transcendental spirituality.” For information, call 455-0385. Order tickets on-line at: http://alaike.lcc.hawaii.edu/theatre/tickets/Tickets.html

Kaua‘i Community College Chamber Players Concert, Kaua‘i CC Performing Arts Center, Monday, January 22, 7:00 p.m. For information, call 245-8270.

Smuin Ballets SF
January 27, 8:00 p.m., Leeward CC Theatre, Tickets: $25/$20. An unsurpassed evening of intimate song and dance guaranteed to sweep you away. For information, call 455-0385. Tickets may be ordered on-line at: http://alaike.lcc.hawaii.edu/theatre/tickets/Tickets.html

Career Success—A celebration of Career & Technical Education, February 17 and 18, 10:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. Center Stage, Pearlridge Shopping Center, Uptown.

Hawaii Youth Symphony
Monday, February 19, 7:00 p.m., Kaua‘i CC Performing Arts Center For information, call 245-8270.

Excellence in Education Conference
March 2, 7:30 a.m.-4:00 p.m. See article on page 4 for details.
The University of Hawai‘i Board of Regents recently accepted a $1 million pledge from the Robert and Betty Wo and the James and Juanita Wo Foundations in support of the UH Community Colleges. The University will establish an endowment that will provide support for faculty and staff enrichment programs in the UH Community College system.

The plan is to build a program that encourages faculty and staff to become ‘champions for teaching and learning.’

According to James and Robert Wo, whose family owns C.S. Wo furniture stores, "A good teacher affects the lives of multitudes of people, helping them to determine and achieve their goals. My brother and I wanted to support the Community Colleges because of their commitment to teaching excellence and because they offer hope to people who desire to improve themselves and work toward a better life."

The Wos’ gift, in support of faculty enrichment, will also help raise awareness of the status and value of teaching in higher education.

"Community college students comprise the most diverse group of students in higher education in Hawai‘i, ultimately making community college teaching one of the toughest jobs within the UH system," says Louise Pagotto, assistant dean of instruction at Kapi‘olani CC and project lead for the system. “Great teachers have the ability to transform students’ learning experiences and provide them the means to lead quality, productive lives.”

This is one of the largest gifts ever made to the UH Community Colleges and the first of its kind in support of teaching and learning in public higher education in Hawai‘i.

The endowment will be fully funded by the year 2006. Start-up funds will be made available to the Community Colleges for the first two years of the project, after which the project will be funded by the interest of the endowment.