Promoting economic development through education

Leeeward Community College’s partnership with United Airlines and the State Department of Human Services in a federally funded “First to Work” program obviously impacts Hawai’i’s economy. This intensive customer service representative and reservationist training gives welfare recipients workplace skills and offers them entry level positions, helping to decrease welfare rolls.

The economic benefits of some other UH Community College programs may not be quite so apparent. For example, the statewide tour driver training and certification program, developed with the Department of Labor, might first appear to have minimal effect on our economy. Yet, if you consider that the travel and tourism professionals who take the course add significantly to the tourists’ experiences through their knowledge of Hawai’i’s landmarks, history and culture, this affordable, noncredit course is important to the state’s number one industry.

Actually, every facet of the UH Community Colleges’ educational effort impacts our state’s economic health in some way. And, in these tough times, awareness of the role the Community Colleges can play in improving the economy is important. From retraining displaced workers to creating programs in new career areas, the Community Colleges are finding solutions for Hawai’i’s businesses, industries and individuals.

Right now, at Leeward Community College, through a program developed with the Department of Human Services, welfare recipients receive remedial, computer literacy and telecommunications training and, upon completion of this six month training program, are placed in entry level positions with AT&T.

Two years ago, when Continental Airlines was looking for a location to build its $24 million wide-body maintenance facility, the Honolulu International...
In April, our UH Community Colleges joined their colleagues throughout the country in celebration of National Community College Month. I hope that everyone who reads this newsletter had the opportunity to witness at least one aspect of the multimedia coverage generated by and for our Colleges throughout April. Faculty, staff, students and alumni were on television, on radio, in the newspapers, on bus posters, in movie theater ads, in airport displays. “raising the profile” of our University of Hawai‘i Community Colleges. Individually and collectively, these efforts helped to spread the good news of how we serve students and—as a consequence—how we serve the state.

In this, our final newsletter for the 1997-98 academic year, we focus on one particular role which our Colleges play in service to the state – the promotion of economic development. As you will read, our Colleges are – and have been – involved in promoting the economic development of Hawai‘i in a variety of ways including tourism, agriculture, electronics and telecommunications, the marine industry, aeronautics, the garment industry, graphic arts, social services and allied health. Our impact on these fields is not limited to preparing well-trained and educated workers. While we take pride in this role that we play, and in our retraining of displaced workers, we also find that many of our programs are serving students who have already completed baccalaureate degrees and/or have worked in a chosen field for several years. Our state-of-the-art instruction provides such students with opportunities to upgrade their careers and improve the overall skill level of the state’s workforce.

Two recent presentations to our UH Board of Regents highlighted exactly this role. At the March Board meeting, held at Kapi‘olani CC, Assistant Professor of Art Jan McWilliams introduced four students who are enrolled in the computer animation courses made possible as a result of the UH Ma‘noa and KCC partnership with Square USA. Two of these students already held baccalaureate degrees and were seeking specialized training to upgrade their employability skills. A third student sought preparation for entry-level work in this field, while the fourth planned to continue beyond his associate degree to complete a baccalaureate program.

The following month, at the April Board meeting at Windward CC, Associate Professor Joseph Ciotti addressed the Regents with information about Windward’s program in Polynesian Voyaging, a two-semester course blending ancient and modern approaches to the study of the marine sciences. Supported by grants from Phi Theta Kappa, the National Science Foundation and NASA, this program attracts post-baccalaureate students, as well as undergraduates, who seek a truly long-range perspective on the evolution of Hawai‘i’s coral reefs and watershed system, and who realize that preservation of our marine environment is a key factor in the economic development of our state.

Our Community Colleges must remain flexible, progressive and responsive if they wish to continue their role of making Hawai‘i competitive in the global marketplace. This entails outwardly-focused efforts, such as the partnerships with business, industry and government cited throughout this newsletter. It also entails inwardly-focused efforts, such as flexibility in staffing, scheduling, and delivery of instruction. We are committed to both. Through such efforts, the Community Colleges will help Hawai‘i move into the twenty-first century.

Have a restful and restorative summer.

Joyce S. Tsunoda
Senior Vice President and Chancellor for Community Colleges
Airport area would not have been quite so appealing without Honolulu CC’s nearby aeronautics maintenance facility. Graduates of the aeronautics program will surely make up part of their anticipated staff of more than 100 mechanics when the facility opens this summer. In fact, Continental currently uses Honolulu CC’s facilities to conduct training courses for their technicians on a needs basis. According to Honolulu CC Provost Peter Kessinger, “This relationship has the opportunity to grow, and Continental will view the aeronautics program as a very valued-added entity in support of their Asian-Pacific rim activities.”

An important partnership has also developed between the Hawai‘i Fashion Industry Association, Honolulu CC’s fashion technologies program, and Gerber Garment Technology. With the help of a $100,000 grant from the State Department of Labor and Industrial Relations’ Employment and Training Fund, the creation of the Fashion Industry Training & Technology Center has become a reality. In response to the garment industry’s needs, the center will retrain workers in new manufacturing methods and offer state-of-the-art education to those seeking careers in the fashion industry.

Maui CC’s ECET (Electronics and Network Engineering Technologies) and Honolulu CC’s CENT (Computing, Electronics and Networking Technologies) are innovative educational programs developed to fill the computer industry’s growing need for skilled network installation, management and repair personnel. In fact, when AT&T approached University officials last year seeking help in developing a training program for their technicians, they found the program already in place with CENT and ECET.

These are just a few examples of how, through flexibility, accessibility and creativity, the UH Community Colleges can help diversify and grow new business in Hawai‘i.  

AT&T is planning to send about 60 of their technicians to attend course work in Honolulu CC’s CENT program, working towards their associate degree. The training program would occur at AT&T’s site as well as at Honolulu CC, and would be offered during the evening hours so that the students could finish the associate in science degree in about three years.

In April, an agreement was signed between the state, the 60 members of the Hawai‘i Fashion Industry Association, Gerber Garment Technology, a leading supplier of manufacturing equipment in the garment industry, and Honolulu CC. This new partnership will keep Hawai‘i’s fashion industry workforce up-to-date through training in new computer-based technologies being used by the industry. It’s a win-win situation for all. Gerber, by offering training in its state-of-the-art equipment, helps ensure its position as an equipment manufacturer, the garment industry is assured of a steady supply of workers with valid skills, the college gains a high-tech training facility, and the state benefits from the increased interest and efficiency in Hawai‘i’s largest manufacturing industry. Shown here, Professor Lillian Zane introduces the new computer-based garment marking system to a fashion technology student.
New Hale ‘Aina Foundation to support UHCC programs

Early this year, Honolulu Magazine and American Express® joined together with Hawai‘i restaurateurs to establish the Hale ‘Aina Foundation. Their goal was to bring Hawai‘i’s Hale ‘Aina Award-winning restaurants and other food-related businesses together to support and benefit the UH Community Colleges’ culinary programs.

Hale ‘Aina Award winners are some of Hawai‘i’s finest restaurants as elected annually by readers of Honolulu Magazine.

John Alves of Honolulu Magazine, Tom Mullen of American Express and a group of key Hawai‘i restaurateurs including Alan Wong, Roy Yamaguchi and Philip Shaw formed the Hale ‘Aina Ohana to manage the Foundation; other members of the business community, especially those in support of the restaurant industry, have also been invited to become members.

To raise Foundation money, the Ohana will hold events throughout the year. The first event, the Hale ‘Aina Celebrity Golf Tournament, is scheduled for May 11.

The Hale ‘Aina Foundation’s generosity and goodwill are greatly appreciated by the colleges. Their efforts will provide opportunities for Hawai‘i’s students, energize the culinary arts program’s faculty development and benefit the overall economic vitality of our state through a vigorous and respected food service industry. All UHCC faculty and staff are invited to participate in the Hale ‘Aina Celebrity Golf Tournament as a volunteer, participant or sponsor.

The sky’s the limit...

Governor Ben Cayetano, UH President Kenneth Mortimer, Continental officials and many business and government representatives, were present at the topping off ceremonies for Continental Airlines’ new maintenance facility on April 17. At the ceremony, Continental also announced the first round of scholarship recipients from Honolulu CC’s aeronautics maintenance program. As part of their development program, Continental plans to offer scholarships to aeronautics students for the next five years. In addition, the airline is donating significant amounts of equipment and training materials to the aeronautics program. Scheduled to open this summer, the new wide-body aircraft maintenance facility brings a new industry to the state. It will also provide Honolulu CC instructors and students with firsthand knowledge and experience in large-scale maintenance operations.

HALE ‘AINA CELEBRITY GOLF TOURNAMENT

Monday, May 11, 1998
Hawai‘i Prince Golf Course
Tee off at noon
$200 per person
Threessomes will include celebrity chefs and restaurateurs such as Roy Yamaguchi, Peter Merriman, D.K. Kodama, Alan Wong, Sam Choy and many others.
Event includes a fun post-tournament party and great prizes. Post-tournament party only: $50 per person
For information, call Sharon Narimatsu at 956-9598.

The recipients of Continental Airlines’ scholarships received recognition and congratulations from state and UH officials. (l to r) Alfred Au, Honolulu CC Provost Peter Kessinger, Chi Chang Wu, Gerald Howard, Governor Ben Cayetano, Speaker of the House Joe Souki, Gregory Kingsley, Senate President Norman Mizuguchi, Edson Cabuyandao and George Read.
Two UHCC students named to national scholastic team

Proving once again the high caliber of students who attend UH Community Colleges and the quality of the education they receive, two Community College students have been selected to the All-USA Academic Team for Community and Junior Colleges: Cathy Wood of Kapi’olani Community College and Vicki Whitehead of Windward Community College. This prestigious award, sponsored by USA Today, the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society and the American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), recognizes the scholarly achievement of students in community, technical and junior colleges who show academic, career and cultural enrichment outside the confines of the traditional classroom. In addition, nominees must post a GPA of no less than 3.25 in all credit course work taken at their college.

Responding to the news of the award, Wood responded, “1998 has been very good to me. The All-USA Academic Team Award is a great honor which I was absolutely thrilled to receive. Then, last week I was chosen as a University of Hawai‘i Presidential Scholar—one of only ten in the state. This transfer scholarship offers me significant support in the completion of my degree.”

Before beginning her full-time studies at UH Mānoa in the fall, Wood hopes to serve as an intern in our nation’s capital this summer. Internships are often offered as part of the All-USA Academic Team scholarship and Wood has already been in contact with the US Agency for International Development in Washington, DC. According to Wood, “I hope to intern in the Asian department; however, they have never had a two-year college intern before.” Considering her skills and enthusiasm, Wood is surely to impress the department and open many eyes to the dedication and commitment of community college students.

Wood, a nontraditional student, studying international affairs, was named to the first team and attended the awards ceremony on April 27 in Miami Beach, Florida, at the AACC Annual Convention.

Windward CC’s Vicki Whitehead has been named to the second team of the All-USA Academic Team, and is a very active member of her community as well as her college. She is president of the Pacific Region Phi Theta Kappa and the Windward CC student government. She is a tutoring coordinator and a STAAR (Students Toward Academic Achievement and Retention) mentor. Whitehead is also chaplain of the all-enlisted club at Kāne‘ohe Marine Corps Air Station and mother of five. Whitehead stated, “When my husband retired from the Marine Corps in 1990, I realized it was time for me to start my career. Although I began by taking just a few courses each semester, mostly to prove to myself I could do it, I soon found I was driven, and really enjoyed achieving academic success.”

Upon graduation, Whitehead plans to attend Chaminade University as an English major focusing on secondary education.
Outstanding young person of the year

Windward CC student Rolinda Pires has helped more children in her 30 years of life than many people manage in a lifetime. She has been a foster parent to 14 children as well as a mom to her own three teenagers currently living with her. “The rewards are unbelievable,” she says simply. “I’ve always loved children. I like their natural excitement, their pure enjoyment. I like seeing them succeed.”

For her work as a foster parent, Pires has been named one of the Hawai‘i Business Jaycees Three Outstanding Young Persons of the Year. Her name has also been forwarded to the national Jaycees committee that chooses one winner from each of the 50 states.

Pires is studying to become a social worker and has plenty of ambitions for her career. She says under the current system, young people are sometimes cut off from benefits at age 18, just when they may need them the most—especially to start college and embark on a path to higher education. “I’m going to start the Ka‘uhane Foundation,” she explains, “to provide for five or more children and take them into the college-level years.”

Kapi‘olani student named Presidential Scholar

Kathryn T. Smith of Kapi‘olani CC has been awarded a Presidential Scholarship. This prestigious scholarship, valued in excess of $16,000 is awarded annually to ten exceptional Hawai‘i college students with a 3.7 GPA or higher who plan to attend UH Mānoa. Smith, the mother of two boys, and a small business owner for 24 years, is a member of the Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society. Her future career plans include applying to the William S. Richardson School of Law after completing her BA degree from UH Mānoa.

VITA time on the Big Island

The Volunteer Income Tax Assistance program (VITA) helps hundreds of elderly citizens, low-income recipients and other community members to prepare their income tax forms. The tax form preparers, students from the Hawai‘i Community College accounting program are also the benefactors, receiving valuable learning experience and helping their neighbors and other community members.

The students do not charge for the preparation of the forms, and all materials for the program are supplied by the Internal Revenue Service.

While most of us were enjoying our Saturday mornings, Beth Sanders, assistant professor, and Joni Onishi, associate professor, along with the students, worked long hours assisting Big Island residents with those dreaded forms. When asked if they had their taxes finished, both faculty members quickly said, “I always get the four-month extension.”
International agreement signed with Canadian college

Kaua‘i Community College has entered into an educational partnership with Bow Valley College by signing an agreement on April 13 on Kaua‘i. This is the first official agreement with an institution in Canada for the UH Community Colleges. The signing ceremony itself was attended by about a dozen faculty and administrators and some DOE guests, as well.

Bow Valley’s President and CEO Sharon Carry said, “Initially we intend to cultivate staff and student exchanges through edcuulture programs, especially between First Nations and Native Hawaiian students, but there are many mutually beneficial opportunities possible with this agreement.”

Following the signing, Kaua‘i CC Provost Peggy Cha stated, “There are many exciting possibilities in this agreement. Bow Valley College’s experience with educational products to deal with assessment of adults with learning difficulties is of particular interest to the community colleges.”

This new partnership will benefit and enhance both institutions in terms of internationalizing their programs and environment through student and faculty exchanges.

Maui CC student wins essay competition

Reychelle Ayau, a student at Maui CC at Moloka‘i, is the recipient of an award for writing her winning essay entitled “My Favorite Hawaiian Place Name” in the annual Grove Day Writer’s Prize sponsored by the Program to Preserve Hawaiian Place Names. The annual contest, established in memory of the late A. Grove Day, Professor Emeritus of English at the University of Hawai‘i, is a statewide competition open to all college students. Ayau’s essay presented a humorous “debate” over the correct pronunciation of Moloka‘i and her grandmother’s explanation that *molo* means “twisting” and *kai* means “sea.”

To celebrate the 50th anniversary of Sri Lanka’s independence, President Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga held a state banquet attended by 265 guests, with Prince Charles as the guest of honor. To make the celebration truly special, Kapiʻolani CC Assistant Professor in culinary arts Kusuma Cooray was invited to coordinate all culinary preparations for the banquet. Delectables such as curried tiger prawns and special chicken surrounded with cadju curry pleased palates and impressed guests. Cooray, at right with Sri Lankan President Kumaratunga in the above photo, commented, “I am proud to have represented Kapiʻolani CC and Hawaiʻi at this very special occasion. It was an honor for me to head the team of chefs that produced this exquisite banquet in Sri Lanka.”
In July 1986, Paquito “Pat” Omandam, Jr. was in his final weeks of a four-year adventure with the US Navy. The first officer of the aircraft carrier came into his office and made a personal pitch for his reenlistment. “How about another tour?” asked the USS Carl Vinson Commander, aware that, as a recently promoted second class petty officer, Omandam might be willing to serve another four years. Luckily for the Honolulu Star-Bulletin and Hawai‘i’s readers, Omandam’s reply was “Sorry, I want to get my college degree and I’m already enrolled at Leeward Community College.”

After port of calls in more than a dozen countries and a once-in-a-lifetime cruise on the USS Coral Sea in 1983, when he literally sailed around the world in six months, Omandam’s naval career would come to an end.

According to Pat, “It was time for this yeoman to trade in his dress whites for casual clothes, a backpack of books and full day of classes.”

At Leeward, Omandam was drawn immediately to the spacious layout of the campus, the diversity of its student body and the dedication of its faculty. His experiences, though quite different from his worldly travels, had as profound an effect on his career decisions. Omandam recalls, “Merrill Harrison, my trusty Journalism 101 instructor, often shared his experiences in the Army press corps with the class, taking pride in displaying his worn press pass for students to ogle. It seemed like Harrison treasured that pass like a badge of honor, a token of a memorable career he hoped to inspire others to follow.”

After taking a beginning course in Hawaiian language at UH Mānoa in the summer of 1987, Omandam continued his studies with Naomi Losch at Leeward in the fall. He said, “Kumu Losch allowed her Hawaiian language class to relive the travels of Queen Kapi‘olani taken more than a century ago. I found myself translating excerpts from Kapi‘olani’s personal diary, not only expanding my grasp of this land’s native tongue, but comparing her encounters to mine and experiencing her travels as if I had lived in that time.

“Kumu Losch’s experience and warmth allowed the class to bond—so much so that we honored her with a gift certificate from her favorite specialty shop of “na mea li‘i li‘i” or miniatures.

Outside the classroom, Omandam spent countless mornings at breakfast in the cafeteria or catching up on his reading at the library. After two years, he graduated from Leeward with a 3.8 GPA and gained not only the foundation, but the confidence to reach his next educational goal—a bachelor’s degree. Omandam says, “Some of my fondest memories are the times spent overlooking the makai end of the campus in the west lochs of Pearl Harbor. There the sunlight added dignity to the mothballed naval ships that waited in peace, for war. Like those ships, my active duty days are long gone, but with a strong core of education from Leeward, this Kalihi-born husband and father continues to serve the public as a reporter for the Star-Bulletin.”

Omandam has been with the Honolulu Star-Bulletin for more than ten years, hired as a night clerk while still a student at Leeward. He has worked in several areas, taking assignments such as City Hall, Hawaiian affairs and education. During this legislative session, Omandam’s working at the Capitol bureau, keeping constituents informed of our lawmakers’ actions and decisions.
Despite obstacles she’s tops in her profession

International Secretary of the Year in 1991 and state president of Professional Secretaries International in 1989 and again in 1998 are some of the prestigious honors earned and roles assumed by Gwen Nicolas CPS, ALS. For this soft-spoken, part-Hawaiian woman from Hilo, attaining these goals and accomplishments was a long road requiring dedication and commitment.

Nicolas initially wanted to study engineering after high school, but was advised to learn clerical skills since she was in poor health, having spent two and a half years in the hospital during junior high school recovering from tuberculosis. Nicolas has never regretted the decision to become a secretary.

Her early training began at Hawai‘i Technical School, now Hawai‘i Community College. In particular, Nicolas credits Ayako You, retired Hawai‘i CC instructor, with her success and her positive outlook. Nicolas says, “Mrs. You inspired a sense of determination that has carried me through some very difficult periods in my life.”

She also credits instructor Fumie Fujitano with her victory in a statewide speech contest held at Maui CC and says speech training gave her the confidence to speak in public, an important skill considering her many leadership positions.

After leaving Hawai‘i CC, Nicolas was encouraged to apply for a job at Realty Investment Co. Ltd. (now called HSC, Inc.), where she has worked ever since. She has been president Richard Henderson’s secretary for 22 years, including the period when he served several terms as a state senator.

In the fall of 1994, tragedy occurred in Nicolas’ life when her only son Timothy (23) was murdered by two hoodlums looking for a few dollars. This heinous crime shocked everyone. Nicolas was overwhelmed by and grateful for the tremendous outpouring of support from across the state. The murderers have now been jailed for life and Nicolas says the sentencing has helped bring closure. She also feels she is more fortunate than many others who have faced similar situations and have not seen justice done, or are still haunted by unsolved crimes or missing children.

A perennial learner, Nicolas successfully completed the rigorous Certified Professional Secretary examinations in 1989 and the Accredited Legal Secretary examinations in 1995. In addition to many professional courses, she has completed the fashion technology program and has taken classes in early childhood education, business law, flower arranging and more. She has also served on many advisory boards for Hawai‘i CC.

Membership in Professional Secretaries International has opened many doors for Nicolas to develop her leadership skills. She is a charter member of the Hilo Chapter and has held all offices at the state and local level several times. She is currently in her third term as state president, which attests to the respect she engenders from her more than 250 colleagues. According to Jean Eckert, retired secretary from the West Hawai‘i PSI chapter, “She is a beacon for members, through her leadership, camaraderie, and her continual hounding ‘You can do it!’”

It is not surprising that Nicolas is often known to say, “Mistakes are never failure. Failure is not a negative; it is a positive and only a temporary stumbling block.” She has experienced stumbling blocks, but she continues to have a positive attitude about her personal and professional life.
When Theresa Morales heard that the Miss Universe Pageant might be coming to Hawai‘i, she decided it was a once-in-a-lifetime learning opportunity. As a student in Leeward CC’s TV Production program, involved in an internship with KITV, Morales already knew the value of the hands-on experience of internships. She thought working on production of a multi-million dollar pageant might give her insights into TV production she never imagined. She was right.

Morales contacted Al Masini, creator of “Entertainment Tonight,” “Lives of the Rich and Famous” and several other syndicated shows. Masini, who was instrumental in bringing the pageant to Hawai‘i, agreed to meet with Morales and soon offered her an internship. Morales reports she is “as busy as ever, and learning quite a bit about the other side of the production business such as sales, legal rights, contracts, etc.” Masini also called on Morales’ TV production class to give a critical review of the recent Miss USA Pageant. “He valued our opinions and wanted to see what we liked, didn’t like and would do differently if we were producing the show.” After the Miss Universe pageant in May, Morales believes her pace will slow a little, but not much. “I still have my internship at KITV, and I plan to go on to UH Mānoa upon graduation from Leeward.”

SELF-SUSTAINING EDUCATION:

Students build and sell model home

Maui CC’s carpentry technology program has begun construction on a 1,008 square foot home that will be available for auction upon completion. The three-bedroom home being built on campus offers students a unique opportunity to learn the home-building process from the ground up and gives potential owners the chance to own a closely-supervised model home. When completed, the house’s estimated value will be about $45,000.

Carpentry Technology Instructor Wally Matsuda stated, “The model offers students a rare combination of study and work, with the instructor acting as their working foreman.”

The model home practicum is made possible by the support of Maui CC’s administration, the carpentry program’s advisory committee and GYA Architects who contributed the building plans. Matsuda adds, “The program is self-sustaining because the auction of the completed house gives us the funds for our next hands-on project. Funds for this project were generated from the construction and sale of previous live jobs by students. Students also develop an understanding of the economics involved in the field.”

From airports to bookstores, there were banners hung, events planned and entertainment provided to promote Community College Month. April turned out to be a wonderful celebration for all the campuses.

Congratulations to everyone who helped make National Community College Month a success. Shown here are (top) Honolulu CC counselor Laurie Toma talking with an interested passerby at Borders Books & Music, and (bottom) Kaua‘i CC Hawaiian studies instructor Dennis Chun and student Kaipo Dabin entertaining at Kaua‘i CC’s airport display.
Upcoming events…

TALENT 98

UH Information Technology Services in partnership with the Community Colleges and Office of Faculty Development and Academic Support is sponsoring a conference on issues surrounding the design, creation and delivery of internet-supported course materials. This TALENT (Teaching and Learning with Electronic Network Technologies) conference will help faculty understand and assess the various new multimedia and interactive technologies available in developing instructional materials. Whether or not you are registered to attend the conference, all faculty are urged to attend the presentations by the two special guest speakers for the conference. On July 7, from 9 to 11 a.m. Dr. Jon Dorbolo, Oregon State University professor and developer of InterQuest, a Web and listserv based philosophy course, will speak, and on July 8, from 9 to 11 a.m., Director of the New Media Center and Information Technology Consultant Susan M. Gautsch, of California State University, Long Beach, will address the audience. Both presentations are free and will be held at Kapi‘olani CC Nai‘o #206. Call Hae Okimoto at 956-3504 for more information.

Great Teachers meet at Volcano

The Tenth Annual Hawai‘i National Great Teachers Seminar, organized by Leeward Community College will be held Sunday through Friday, August 9 to 14, 1998 on the Big Island. In spite of what the name might suggest, the seminar is not so much an assembly of “great teachers” as it is a group of dedicated educators in search of the “great teacher” within themselves. In the past ten years more than 493 teachers from 20 different states and seven countries have benefited from this unique inspirational seminar. At this conference, there are no experts or keynote speakers. It is based on the principle that teachers are the experts in teaching and learn best from one another. David Gottshall, founder of the National Great Teachers Seminar and Larry Fujinaka, professor of psychology at Leeward CC will co-lead the seminar, assisted by experienced faculty facilitators. For more information about this high energy retreat and faculty development opportunity, call Larry Fujinaka at 455-0374.

It’s commencement time

Congratulations and best wishes to all UH Community College Spring 1998 graduates. Commencement exercises are scheduled as follows:

**Hawai‘i CC**
May 15, 1998
7:00 p.m.
UH Hilo Gym

**Honolulu CC**
May 15, 1998
5:30 p.m.
Waikiki Shell

**Kapi‘olani CC**
May 13, 1998
6:00 p.m.
Waikiki Shell

**Kaua‘i CC**
May 15, 1998
6:00 p.m.
War Memorial Convention Hall

**Leeward CC**
May 15, 1998
6:00 p.m.
Tuthill Courtyard

**Maui CC**
May 17, 1998
1:00 p.m.
Maui Art & Cultural Center

**Windward CC**
May 16, 1998
1:30 p.m.
Windward CC Campus (behind Hale Na‘auao)
Pacific Region Phi Theta Kappa chapter members and advisors were honored at the 80th annual Phi Theta Kappa International Convention in Nashville, Tennessee on April 2-4, 1998. The Hallmark Awards Ceremony is a highlight of the convention, and the Pacific Region was proud to have been a part of it by receiving awards for: Kathy Smith, Chapter President, Alpha Kappa Psi, Kapi‘olani CC—Distinguished Chapter President; Tina Ioane, Regional Officer, Alpha Kappa Iota, Honolulu CC—Distinguished Regional Officer; Kate Acks, Advisor, Psi Sigma, Maui CC—Giles Distinguished Advisor; Michael Bauer, Advisor, Alpha Lambda Gamma, Leeward CC—Paragon Award.

The members and advisors were nominated by their chapters and the regional coordinator and compete with hundreds of entries from other Phi Theta Kappa chapters. The convention was held at the Opryland Hotel and was attended by 3,700 Phi Theta Kappa members, advisors, and alumni.

Tina Ioane was recognized as a distinguished regional officer.