

## Kapiolani Community College, HI

### ABSTRACT

#### **TITLE: Strengthening a Cultural Ecology of Learning and Teaching for Student Success**

Kapiolani Community College (the College), the second largest of ten public universities and colleges in the University of Hawaii (UH) system, provides high quality liberal arts and career programs serving diverse Native Hawaiian and multi-ethnic students and communities. From 1988 to 2008, the College experienced a solid growth in headcount enrollment from 5,372 to 8,221 diverse, multi-ethnic students. From fall 2005 to fall 2008, the enrollment of Hawaiian students increased from 789 (10.8% of total enrollment) to 1,042 (12.7 % of total). The College is nationally recognized for creating a new ecology of learning, linking classrooms, centers, campus, community, and cyberspace through integrated technology, increased student, staff, and faculty collaboration and engagement, and a sharp focus on student success.

With successful accreditation in 2006, new strategic planning for 2008-2015, and a growing commitment to a culture of evidence for improvement the College has identified one Title III Activity, **Renovating Centers and Linked Classrooms for a New Ecology of Engagement and Learning**. This Activity will address 5 institutional goals and 11 performance measures through 3 Major Component Objectives:

- 1) By 09/2010, six spaces and integrated functions within the Naio Building will be transformed to strengthen professional development support for 4 Communities of Practice (15-20 members each) and training for student peer tutors, mentors, and leaders in the post-renovation period.
- 2) By 9/2010, renovation in the Malama Hawaii Center will strengthen and reinforce the innovations in high-context teaching and learning that have been initiated by the faculty members of the Hawaiian Language and Hawaiian Studies disciplines at KCC, integrating the outside environment into instruction. This integration of curriculum, technology, and pedagogy will enable Native Hawaiian and other students to build stronger relationships with faculty, advisors, each other, and their surroundings through activities that are relevant to their lives and interests.
- 3) By 09/2010, five classrooms linked to high profile campus initiatives, Writing across the Curriculum, STEM (with a special focus on Mathematics), Learning Communities, Online Learning, and applied technology, will be renovated to support 4 Communities of Practice and greater active-collaborative learning, faculty student interaction, student effort, and academic challenge as measured by CCSSE in 2012 and 2014.

These objectives will help solve nine academic problems that contribute to high student attrition resulting in significant losses in tuition revenue for fiscal stability. In addition, these objectives will result in stronger integration of planning, research, assessment, improvement and budgeting processes in institutional management. While the renovations are underway, planning will begin for 4 Communities of Practices, uniquely defined for our campus, which will provide more opportunities for faculty, counselors and staff to work collaboratively to strengthen academic programs, fiscal stability, and institutional management. Overall, this investment by the USDE Title III, Part A program will have a significant and positive impact on the future of Hawaii, Hawaiian students and their communities, and the nation.