State partners with CCECS in workforce training initiative

by Ken Hupp

The College of Continuing Education and Community Service (CCECS) at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo has been awarded a contract from the State to provide training programs to strengthen and diversify Hawai‘i’s workforce.

CCECS was recently approved as a vendor for the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations Employment and Training Fund (ETF) Program, whose goal is to provide and/or enhance the occupational skills and knowledge of currently employed workers and other individuals eligible for the program’s services. Qualified employers can send their employees to receive approved training for just half the cost of each course, while the ETF program picks up the other half.

Maintaining current job skills and becoming more versatile has become critical in today’s economy, which emphasizes productivity. Those factors take on added urgency during an economic downturn when the skills of unemployed workers can become out-dated and create additional barriers to re-entering the workforce.

“UH Hilo is pleased to be part of this effort to ensure that currently employed workers have access to the training they need to keep their skills up-to-date,” said Chancellor Don Straney. “Through higher education, community partnerships, along with knowledge and technology transfer, employees can gain the tools they need to remain employed and to advance within their respective fields.”

ETF encourages its vendors to provide training programs for specific businesses to create a more diversified job base, and for employers in high-growth occupations or industries with critical skill shortages. The program also targets training and re-training programs for maintaining current job skills and becoming more versatile has become critical in today’s economy, which emphasizes productivity. Those factors take on added urgency during an economic downturn when the skills of unemployed workers can become out-dated and create additional barriers to re-entering the workforce.

Language programs prepare students for meaningful work here and throughout the world

by Chancellor Don Straney

Last month, the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo celebrated the dedication of Hale‘ōlelo, the beautiful new building for Ka Haka ‘Ula O Ke‘elikōlani College of Hawaiian Language. Hale‘ōlelo is testament to the strength and success of Hawaiian language revitalization efforts, which began in the 1980s. The growth of Hawaiian language speakers has strengthened our communities and island culture as a whole. The College and its myriad outreach programs are now internationally recognized as an educational model to other peoples throughout the world struggling to save their indigenous languages.

The importance of students speaking other languages in addition to English cannot be over emphasized. Looking beyond our shores, the world is now an interconnected global arena for business and culture. The Pacific Rim, in general, is a major site of development, from call centers in the Philippines to large-scale smart-phone manufacturing in Korea. To provide our students with access to opportunities and to be able to do business with foreign companies here requires our willingness to at least be familiar with some of other people’s languages and cultures.

An important way to strengthen international
recently unemployed workers, those likely to be unemployed, residents facing employment barriers who are otherwise unable to qualify for federal or state job training programs, and employees in need of specific skills to improve career employment prospects.

Becoming an ETF vendor was a natural development for CCECS, which already provided a wide variety of courses to enhance the skills of incumbent workers, including several which have been approved for the program. Classes available for sign-up during the first quarter of 2014 include: Aging with Grace Lecture Series; Basic Grant Writing; Farm Business Management; Step Up to Supervisor; The Outstanding Receptionist; and Tsunami Preparedness.

As CCECS expands its offerings, Interim Dean Farrah-Marie Gomes is working with the University’s degree-granting departments and colleges to develop new non-credit professional development classes to enhance the skills of incumbent workers.

“Initiatives like this highlight the outstanding quality of our faculty as they share their expertise with members of the community who are eager to learn,” Gomes said. “So our role as an ETF vendor aligns nicely with the CCECS mission of providing quality, continuing education throughout the island.”

The partnership also provides the departments and colleges with an additional resource that could help them maintain or even expand operations to better serve the community. Tuition and fees make up an increasing portion of the University’s income base, revenue sharing plans have emerged as an important new financial stream to meet rising operating costs.

CCECS instituted a program to share revenues from summer courses with the various departments and colleges in 2012 and is extending that plan to include the non-credit and professional development courses offered under the ETF-CCECS partnership.

“This is a classic ‘win-win’ situation,” Gomes said. “The more non-credit and professional development courses the colleges and departments offer, the more client employees they help, and in turn, the more they help their respective bottom lines. And the best part is that everybody benefits for the right reasons.”

(Ken Hupp is a public information officer.)

business in the islands is to encourage our students to be proficient in a language other than English. A local workforce that could speak secondary languages could help broaden our appeal to those to the east of us (who are mainly Spanish speakers) and to those west of us (Japanese, Mandarin, Tagalog, and Korean). It would also make us a more foreign-friendly destination of choice for tourists from these places.

I’m probably stating the obvious, but knowing another language is also coming to know one’s own while developing an empathy and understanding for a completely different place and set of people. Speaking Japanese, for example, gives our students and faculty the opportunity to have conversations with all kinds of Japanese nationals who pass through the islands – professionals, educators, business professionals – and the ideas they share are often of great professional value to UH Hilo’s teaching, learning, and research activities.

Our Humanities Division has created opportunity-rich educational experiences in language and culture courses. As China’s influence expands on the world stage, students enrolled in UH Hilo’s Chinese Studies program are gaining valuable insight into this emerging superpower. Our Chinese Studies is a multi-disciplinary program with a core focus on language. The program also features a wide range of coursework and research opportunities to provide students with a broad understanding of China’s various dimensions, including culture, society, art, political science and history, in addition to its language.

The program has primarily attracted students enrolled in Chinese language and culture courses, but it also is of interest to students from other disciplines, such as business majors, given China’s economic muscle, and the State’s role in the Pacific region. The Hawai‘i Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism has established offices in mainland China and Taiwan, while numerous non-profits are being launched to facilitate this area of growth in Hawai‘i’s economy. That opens the door to a wide range of opportunities for business and non-business majors alike.

Our Filipinos Studies program is currently expanding their reach to the public. Unlike other languages, there are many native speakers of Tagalog and Ilocano in the community, so the program is engaged in a variety of outreach programs to offer students taking the language (Tagalog) with members of the community. The program also includes cultural classes, such as Filipino folk dance.

Giving our students a comprehensive worldview is essential to preparing them to succeed in the 21st century, where more and more aspects of everyday life demand a global perspective. Strengthening our language programs is one of the many ways in which UH Hilo is preparing students for meaningful work here and throughout the world.

Aloha,
UH Hilo presents
International Nights 2014!

The UH Hilo International Student Association presents International Nights 2014 on Friday, February 7 and Saturday, February 8 at 7:30 p.m. in the UH Hilo Performing Arts Center. This annual event features performances from around the world and is a favorite among students, the community, and visitors.

This year’s shows feature performances from Samoa, the Philippines, Solomon Islands, Germany, Micronesia, Japan, Tahiti, Kiribati, China, Tonga, West Africa, Palau, Timor-Leste, the Marshall Islands, and the United States.

Tickets are $10 general admission and $5 for students, children, and seniors. Tickets may be purchased at the UH Hilo Box Office from 9-1 p.m., Tuesday-Friday, or at the door. Advance ticket purchase is recommended. For ticket information, call 932-7490.

For more information, visit http://hilo.hawaii.edu/international/IN.php.

UH Hilo honors individuals with special awards

Chancellor Don Straney honored two individuals with special awards presented during UH Hilo’s Fall 2013 commencement.

Mike Purvis, a senior computer science major, received the inaugural Community Spirit Award, which includes a $500 cash prize. The award was established in September 2013 by Edward Yamasaki, a member of the 442nd Regimental Combat Team in World War II, and recognizes students who demonstrate excellence in applied research, learning and innovation in their respective fields of study.

Purvis is team captain of UH Hilo’s Team Poli’ahu that won the 2013 U.S. Microsoft Imagine Cup Championship and participated in the Imagine Cup Worldwide Finals in St. Petersburg, Russia.

The Chancellor’s Special Recognition Award was presented to Dr. David Hammes, professor of economics, who retired at the end of the Fall 2013 semester. Hammes received the UH Board of Regent’s Teaching Excellence Award in 2003. In addition to his teaching, he has conducted a number of economic feasibility and cost-of-living studies for UH Hilo and the UH System.

Hammes also serves on the Board of Directors for Hospice of Hilo and was Treasurer during the successful fund-raising drive that led to construction of a new care facility near the University campus.
Hats off to...

**Chris Frueh**, Professor, Psychology, co-authored “Sociability and attachment as distinct domains of the interpersonal relationships factor of the BASIS-24,” Comprehensive Psychiatry 2013;54:1203-1209. He also assumed the role of Editor for The Bulletin of the Menninger Clinic, one of the first psychiatry journals in U.S. medicine, on January 1, 2014.

**Cheryl Ramos**, Associate Professor, Psychology, developed and presented a cancer education webinar on “Psychological Well-Being: Fear of Recurrence,” presented as part of the Ho’okele i ke Ola Cancer Patient Navigation Training Program of the ‘Imi Hale Native Hawaiian Cancer Network, a program of Papa Ola Lokahi. A second webinar was presented to Kaiser Permanente’s Cancer Support Group on O’ahu.

**Adam Pack**, Associate Professor, Psychology & Biology, co-authored “Habitat segregation by female humpback whales in Hawaiian waters: avoidance of males?” which is in press in the journal Behaviour.

**Bryan Kim**, Professor, Psychology, co-authored “The Interpersonal Shame Inventory for Asian Americans: Scale Development and Psychometric Properties,” which was published in the Journal of Counseling Psychology.

**Liam Nesson**, Lecturer, English Language Institute, presented his paper, “A Rhetoric of Anachronistic, Conservationist Searches for Utopia in the American West,” at the annual Western Literature Association Conference sponsored by the University of California, Berkeley.

**Carolyn Ma**, Associate Professor, Forrest Batz, Assistant Professor, and Deborah Juarez, Associate Professor, Pharmacy Practice, co-authored “Drug Take Back in Hawai’i: Partnership Between the University of Hawai’i at Hilo College of Pharmacy and the Narcotics Enforcement Division” published in Hawai’i Journal of Medicine and Public Health, January 2014. Ma also was the sole author on “Role of Pharmacists in Optimizing the Use of Anti-Cancer Drugs in the Clinical Setting,” accepted for publication in Integrated Pharmacy Research and Practice.

**Karen Pellegrin**, Director, Strategic Planning and Continuing/Distance Education, was invited to present the keynote session on “Value-Based Care: Transforming Healthcare Delivery and Reducing Costs” at the eHealth Initiative Annual Conference 2014: The Roadmap to Healthcare Delivery Transformation, in Championsgate, FL, last month. She was also invited to speak on “Thought Leadership Session: Pharm2Pharm – Pharmacy Coordinated Care Model” for Emdeon Insights’ annual meeting in Asheville, NC.

2014 Distinguished Alumni & Service Awards Banquet is Feb 22

Join the UH Hilo Alumni Association and Friends for the 14th Annual Distinguished Alumni and Service Awards Banquet on Saturday, February 22 at 5 p.m. the UH Hilo Campus Center.

Organized by the UH Hilo Alumni and Friends Association, the event includes live and silent auctions, a buffet dinner, and the opportunity to network with University members, community leaders, and supporters.

The 2014 Distinguished Alumni honorees are Brian DeLima (attorney, Crudele & De Lima Law) and Joyce Iwashita (retired principal, Kalaniana‘ole School). The Distinguished Service honorees include Mary Matayoshi (UH Hilo’s first CCECS Director), Rose Tseng (Chancellor Emeritus and faculty, College of Pharmacy) and the late Richard Crowe (former Astronomy faculty).

Tickets are priced at $75 or $600 for a table of eight. The RSVP deadline is February 7 to the Marketing and Alumni Office, 974-7501 or 974-7643. Proceeds from the auctions help fund the UH Hilo Alumni Association and the Alumni Scholarship program.

More information is available at www.uhh.hawaii.edu/alumni.

The Bad Boys of Dance returns to UH Hilo Performing Arts Center!

Rasta Thomas’ Bad Boys of Dance performs once again at the UH Hilo Performing Arts Center in one performance only on Tuesday, February 11 at 7:30 pm.

“Back by popular demand, the Bad Boys of Dance is comprised of the most talented and versatile young male dancers in the world today,” said PAC Manager Lee Dombroski. “Each Bad Boy is selected based on his extraordinary physical abilities and artistry; the talent of the Bad Boys is unparalleled in the industry.”

Founded by the dance world’s very own Bad Boy Rasta Thomas, “we show the world what great male dancing looks like, and to make dancing fun, entertaining and accessible to a whole new generation.”

Tickets are reserved seating and priced at $25 General, $20 Discount and $12 UH Students/Children. Box Office hours are Tuesday - Friday, 9 a.m. -1 p.m.

For more information and to purchase tickets, call 932-7490 or order online at: artscenter.uhh.hawaii.edu.
Campus Events

February

3  Last day to drop a class online without “W”
   Last day to receive 50% refund of tuition for complete withdrawals
7, 8  *International Nights 2014, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission*
11  *Bad Boys of Dance, 7:30 p.m., PAC, Admission*
17  Holiday: Presidents’ Day

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