More seniors earn Early College credit

Statewide, 10 percent of the Class of 2015 earned college credits from the University of Hawaii while attending high school, up four points and more than 400 students from the Class of 2013 — a highlight of the latest College & Career Readiness Indicators report.

The increase in dual-credit participation and college preparation is a boost toward Hawai‘i’s “55 by ’25” education goal of 55 percent of adults holding a 2- or 4-year college degree by 2025.

High school students who graduate with college credits are more likely to enroll, persist, and succeed in higher education.

CTE AWARD

HIDOE has secured a $100,000 grant to develop a detailed career readiness action plan to grow economic opportunity for youth. Story: bit.ly/NSYgrant

Maunakea Scholars peer into the stars

The top five schools with the highest percentage of students completing dual-credit, up from Class of ‘13 results: (1) Waipahu High: 32%, up from 13%, (2) Kailua High: 18%, up from 5%, (3) Kaimuki High: 16%, up from 6%; (4) Farrington High: 15%, up from 3%; (5) Waianae High School: 15%, up from 4%. Story: bit.ly/CCRI15

Success Stories

“Winning is not the goal, but improvement is.”
— Larry Taguba, Leilehua High art department head

LEILEHUA HIGH STUDENTS MAKE MARK WITH ART

Nine HIDOE students who earned top recognition in the Hawaii Regional Scholastic Art Awards have gone on to earn medals in the national competition — and they’re all from Leilehua High. Story: bit.ly/LHSSAA16

FOUR QUALIFY FOR NATIONAL SEAPERCH

Congratulations to Ewa Elementary, Highlands Intermediate, Ewa Makai Middle and Radford High for their first-place finishes in the 2016 SeaPerch Oahu Regional Qualifying Competition for underwater robotics. Story: bit.ly/SeaPerch16

STUDENTS SPREAD PONO THROUGH CAMPUSES

The annual E Ola Pono campaign rewards student-led efforts to increase peace, kindness and belonging. As a cultural response to bullying and other negative behaviors, student groups actively “Grow Pono” to create a more welcoming and safe environment for everyone. Story: bit.ly/EOlapono16

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Don’t Miss This! EVENTS, DEADLINES & FUN STUFF

APRIL 16

HAWAII STATE HISTORY DAY
This year-long education program invigorates the teaching and learning of history in grades 4-12 by promoting a theme-based, research-centered model for history and civics education. Students present their projects in a display, performance, documentary, essay or website project. History Day culminates in the presentation and evaluation of top projects. At Windward Community College. Learn more: hi.nhd.org

APRIL 20-23

LOUISVILLE BOUND
Robotics teams from Kea’au Elementary, Pukalani Elementary, Waialua High & Intermediate, Molokai Middle, Highlands Intermediate, Kohala High and Pearl City High will be rocking the VEX Robotics World Championship in Kentucky, competing with teams from around the world. Good luck, kids!

APRIL 22

2016 SOLAR SPRINT EXHIBITION
Nineteen schools with student teams build solar-powered cars that race head-to-head across the Kapolei High School tennis courts — an excellent showcase of technology and engineering know-how among talented students and educators. Competition begins at 8:30 a.m. Mahalo to the Hawaiian Electric Company for supporting STEM learning opportunities like this in our schools!

Supt.’s Corner
The Hawaii DOE and Board of Education are launching a review and extension of the 2011-2018 Strategic Plan, which was last updated in 2012.

With the completion of the Race to the Top federal grant and passage of the new federal education law, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), now is the right time to reconsider strategies and indicators for success.

The three overarching goals of the Strategic Plan will remain: student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. Together with statewide strategies to help inform and guide efforts, we’re committed to ensure quality education for all students, support innovation, and build leadership at the school and community level.

Over the past five years, we’ve experienced great progress in our public school system and our schools. To help students reach their aspirations, we are taking a close look at lessons learned and ongoing challenges. Although our mission remains the same — to ensure that all students reach their aspirations from early learning through college, career, and citizenship — we can improve and employ innovative strategies to help all students succeed.

When we say our mission is to support student aspirations, we’re talking about their goals, not just ours. Our juniors take the ACT each year. Over the past three years (Classes of 2014, 2015, and 2016), 84 percent finished the student aspirations survey as part of the exam, and they have made it clear they have high expectations for themselves: • 47 percent expect to complete a four-year degree (BA/BS); • 30 percent expect to complete a graduate degree (MD, MA, JD, PhD, MBA); • 13 percent expect to complete a two-year college degree (AA). • Another 3 percent want to get a technical or vocational certificate.

That’s 90 percent of students taking the survey who expect to go to college. This bodes well for the future health of our state workforce.

We encourage you to join us in this close look at student aspirations and how to get students where they want to go. We soon will be sharing details with staff via memo and email, along with the website: bit.ly/DOEBOEStatPlan.

Education affects us all, and we are seeking your feedback and participation in the process. Your support and input is greatly appreciated.

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