In his third year of teaching science at Stevenson Middle, Ken Kakesako was awarded the prestigious Teacher of Promise Award from the National Milken Educators of Hawaii on March 14. It is given annually to a teacher who demonstrates excellence in the field and the highest qualities of a professional educator during the first six semesters in the classroom.

“The award is really just a reflection of the amazing teachers we have here at Stevenson,” he said. “I’m honored to be included with them.”

In addition to teaching science, Kakesako founded the school’s Wrestling League, which provides students an opportunity to participate in competitive athletics after school. He partnered with McKinley High School students to create the ROOTS (Responsible Open-Minded Operations Through Science) at Stevenson, a STEM-based club focused on fostering student leadership skills through project-based learning. He has helped raise thousands of dollars to support these after school efforts.

“Ken promotes growth mindset and self-efficacy and continuously reflects on his practice,” said Principal Linell Dilwith. “He has an infectious smile and is caring, kind, holds high expectations for himself and students, and exemplifies aloha.”

Established in 2007, the Milken Educator of Promise award alternates annually between elementary and secondary teachers. Teachers of Excellence are selected in each of the 15 Complex Areas and are awarded $250, and a statewide honoree is selected among them for a $1,000 prize. The program is supported by the Hawaii USA Federal Credit Union.

**CYBERPATRIOT COMPETITION**

Leilehua High JROTC heading to nationals this month

A team of students from Leilehua High finished an exceptional round in the semifinals of the CyberPatriot competition and is headed to the CP-X National Finals in Maryland. The team beat more than 5,000 teams to earn a coveted spot in the competition.

This is the third consecutive Hawaii State CyberPatriot Championship for cadets Jacob Huerta (team captain), Michael Compton, Tyler McWilliams, Jarod Olive-Stalling, Daniel Brink and Christian Villarreal. They are led by Coach LTC (Ret.) Nick Spiridigliozzi and lead mentor Army Specialist Evan Wittman. The national finals competition will be held April 15-19, 2018 at the Hyatt Regency in Baltimore.

“CyberPatriot not only gives students a career path, but it’s also a matter of national security,” said Spiridigliozzi. “We must continue to grow our young people in CyberSecurity as it is a critical piece to the future of our nation.”

**Opportunities**

**EDUCATORS**

The NoVo Foundation, in partnership with Education First and supported by Rockefeller Philanthropy Advisors, is offering Social-Emotional Learning Grants of up to $5,000 for teacher-led SEL projects and $25,000 for district projects that span multiple schools in the 2018-19 school year. Apply by April 20. [education-first.com/social-emotional-learning-innovation-fund](http://education-first.com/social-emotional-learning-innovation-fund)

With more than $5 million in awarded grants, the Voya Unsung Heroes Awards Program has proven to be an A+ program with educators. Each year, 100 educators are selected to receive $2,000 to help fund their innovative class projects. Three of those are chosen to receive the top awards of an additional $5,000, $10,000 and $25,000. Apply by April 30. [www.scholarsapply.org/unsungheroes](http://www.scholarsapply.org/unsungheroes)

**SCHOOLS**

All public schools are eligible to apply to the Hawaii State Foundation for Culture and Arts for grants of up to $6,000 per school for artist residencies under the Artists in the Schools (AITS) Program. A residency consists of 5-8 or more sessions by the artist with the same students. In the 2017-2018 school year, 103 schools will receive AITS grants. Apply by May 1. [sfca.hawaii.gov/grants-programs/artists-in-the-schools](http://sfca.hawaii.gov/grants-programs/artists-in-the-schools)
Students belonging to Roosevelt High's College & Career Committee wanted to host a fair on campus in which the whole school would participate. The event held March 9 included representatives from nearly 40 local colleges and organizations, and nearly 100 speakers who provided career insights and advice.

Students belonging to the College & Career Committee at Roosevelt High headed up key areas to pull the event together: Alumni, Career, College, Scheduling, Setup/Breakdown, Sponsorship, Registration, Tech Support, Secretarial and Parking. They worked with staff to modify the bell schedule for the day so all students would be able to participate in five sessions by grade, to include a reflection and survey period just before and after, with it all wrapped up by lunch.

“We hadn’t done a fair on campus in a while and we agreed it’s the best way to get everyone thinking and talking about college and career,” said Anna Gan, who with fellow student Kathy Ho headed up the event’s college subcommittee.

The sessions were organized into two main activities. In the cafeteria, representatives from local colleges and organizations provided information about pathways, certificates and degrees to students who were brought in by grade grouping — freshmen, sophomores, juniors, seniors. Students from grades who weren’t in the cafeteria were able to use the other sessions to select from an array of speakers who came to provide their career insights and advice.

As they moved from session to session, whether in the cafeteria or hearing directly from speakers, students worked through a series of worksheets designed to capture their reflections and organize the many opportunities they were learning about.

The Career Speakers list was a who’s-who representing multitudes of careers: communications, journalism, accounting, marketing, health care, architecture, construction and safety, music and audio engineering, firefighting, medicine, foreign service, and many more.

In one classroom Chef Matt Young, 35, of Hula Grill was giving about 20 students an overview of life as a restaurateur. He focused on the joys of the work, as well as the skills necessary to become a contender in the field, while not pulling punches about the breadth of knowledge needed to succeed.

“Once you get your in-the-kitchen skills all dialed in, then you can work on getting good at the other stuff: marketing, human resources, finance,” Young said.

Pros of the job? “Great upward mobility if you work hard, and if you want to travel, you can go anywhere in the world and work.” Cons? “Long hours, you’ll work weekends and holidays. But you have to create new normals. You celebrate Thanksgiving on the Tuesday before because on the Thursday you’re serving 500 turkeys.”

Asked his favorite thing about the job, Young said, “Seeing other people I’ve mentored succeed when they go on to other restaurants or open up their own. That’s a really proud thing for me, because someone did that for me and you have to pay it forward.”

Students in the cafeteria eagerly popped from one program booth to the next representing certificated pathways, military options, and area colleges. A pair of students were excited to learn about the National Student Exchange program in which both Universities of Hawaii at Manoa and Hilo were participating; if students maintain a 3.0 grade-point average it allows them to study at schools across the U.S. and Canada (and Semester at Sea) under the in-state tuition of their home school. The cafeteria buzzed as students asked about program requirements, length to completion and cost.

Mahalo to the sponsors who helped make the event possible: Chinatown Lions, Dave & Buster’s of Honolulu, Love’s Bakery, Glow Putt, Kula no na Po’e Hawai‘i, Old KC Kitchen, Pancakes & Waffles, Safeway, and Teapresso Bar.
*Aina Pono adds *ulu to school lunches in March and April

Hawaii public schools are welcoming a new local product in student meals during March and April — *ulu, or breadfruit.

“We want to connect our keiki to the ‘aina and food grown in Hawai‘i,” said Albert Scales, program administrator, School Food Services Branch. “Our *Aina Pono Harvest of the Month program helps us to return to our Islands’ roots. It also encourages our agricultural communities to continue a legacy of cultivating locally grown sustenance to build the minds of tomorrow’s leaders.”

*Ulu is combined with shredded kalua pork and spinach into a local-style burrito, along with homemade salsa. The tortilla wrap is locally made by Sinaloa Hawaiian Tortillas. (See recipe, right.)

Spearheaded by the Office of the Lieutenant Governor, the Farm to School Initiative was created in 2015 to increase locally grown food in student meals. Today, the Farm to School Initiative is included under the *Aina Pono Farm to School program, which also incorporates school gardens, nutrition, health and food education, test kitchens, meal programs and menu planning at Hawaii’s public schools.

**$2.7M GEAR UP GRANT TO HELP WEST O‘AHU SCHOOLS**

The Nānākuli-Wai‘anae Complex Area is ramping up its college and career readiness supports thanks to a $2.7 million federal GEAR UP partnership grant. The grant establishes a partnership with the University of Hawai‘i-West Oahu (UHWO), GEAR UP match partner Kamehameha Schools, and Hawaii State Department of Education (HIDOE) schools, Wai‘anae Intermediate, Wai‘anae High and Nānākuli High and Intermediate.

The goals of the GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) grant include increasing academic rigor and achievement in Math and Language Arts, college and career readiness activities resulting in increased knowledge and high school completion, and increased postsecondary enrollment without need for remedial courses. The grant will run for seven years and will follow the current seventh grade cohort of students until they graduate and are into their first year of post-secondary education.

In 2011, UHWO obtained a GEAR UP grant that was named, “Holomua: GEAR UP on the Leeward Coast.” The results from the grant included:

- A record 20 valedictorians were among the 414 Holomua GEAR UP students who received their diplomas from Wai‘anae High School in May 2017. The students were at the top of their class, with grade point averages pushed above 4.0 by taking college courses.
- Holomua: GEAR UP initiated a partnership between Wai‘anae High School Searider Productions and UHWO’s Academy of Creative Media to create a seamless pathway from high school through UHWO and into the workforce.
- The enrollment rate from both high schools doubled in Fall 2017 semester from Fall 2016.

**RECIPE: ‘ULU-LICIOUS WRAPS**

Want to recreate these delicious wraps at home? Here’s the recipe for 12 servings:

**INGREDIENTS**

- 2 pounds pork butt
- 2 ¼ teaspoon Hawaiian salt
- 1 teaspoon liquid smoke
- ½ cup + 3 ½ tablespoons water
- 1 pound frozen spinach
- 1 pound breadfruit
- 12 pieces (8 inch) tortilla

**DIRECTIONS**

Season pork with Hawaiian salt and liquid smoke. Cover with foil. Steam for 6 hours at 350° F degrees.

Shred pork.

Save liquid from pork.

Drain excess liquid from frozen spinach, and heat.

Cut breadfruit into ½-inch cubes and steam till fully cooked.

Place pork and spinach into tortilla and top with breadfruit.

If you are pre-wrapping burrito, heat after wrapping. If serving open faced, heat prior to assembling.

*Nutrition information per serving (1 piece): 366 calories; 20.4 g fat (7.4 g saturated); 28.5 g carbohydrate; 4.4 g fiber; 15.3 g protein; 718 mg sodium.

Nutrient values are estimates only. Variations may occur due to product availability and food preparation. Nutrient levels may vary based on methods of preparation, origin, and freshness of ingredients, etc. Value of the menu item is listed in grams (g) of carbohydrates rounded to the nearest whole number. While we do our best to ensure accuracy, we make no representation or warranty regarding the information contained in this document. Although we are providing nutritional information for our menus, the information in this document is for informational purposes only. No information, services or materials offered shall be construed as or understood to be medical advice or care.

**MULTI-CLASSROOM PROJECT KICKS OFF AT JCHS**

James Campbell High School (JCHS) kicked off the start of construction on a $41 million, 27-classroom building. The site will be the future home of classrooms, five science labs, a culinary arts lab and herb garden, Hawaiian studies classroom, two faculty centers, and more.

“This campus has undergone a lot of heat abatement work and we’re happy to begin construction for a state-of-the-art, sustainable classroom building that is designed to be energy efficient,” said Asst. Supt. Dann Carlson.

It is expected to be completed in spring 2020.
Don’t Miss This!  EVENTS, DEADLINES & FUN STUFF

CELEBRATING MIL KIDS, LIBRARIES
April is Month of the Military Child and Hawaii’s Joint Venture Education Forum asks everyone to “Purple Up!” on April 27 to show support for the unique challenges that military children face, from deployments to new schools. Wear purple to symbolize all branches of the U.S. Armed Forces. It’s also School Library Month — access great programming ideas and activities on the American Library Association’s website; www.ala.org/aasl/advocacy/slm

APR 14
HAWAII HISTORY DAY
This year-long history education program for grades 4-12 meets its statewide culminating event at Windward Community College. Students present their projects on the theme — “Conflict and Compromise in History” — in an exhibit, performance, documentary, paper or website project. Top projects will go on to the National History Day event in June in College Park, Maryland. www.hi-nhd.org

APR 28
FREE STEM EVENT FOR KIDS 5-14
The Ellison Onizuka Day of Exploration: A Scout Service to the Community presented by the Queen’s Health Systems was created as a new signature event showcasing more than 100 Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) activities, experiments and workshops that are FREE and open to the public — 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Blaisdell Exhibition Hall. www.blaisdellcenter.com/event/ellison-onizuka-day-exploration

Supt.’s Corner     DR. CHRISTINA M. KISHIMOTO

We have a month left in the Legislative session and it has been a learning experience for me getting to know the dynamics among our lawmakers, our policy makers and leaders at the state and school levels, especially given Hawai‘i’s unique structure: the only combined Local Education Agency and State Education Agency in the nation.

During the 2018 State Legislative session, my team and I have been making the case for a number of initiatives and resource needs based on feedback from the Board of Education (BOE), districts and schools — priorities identified by our leadership. In addition, the Hawai‘i DOE is involved in hundreds of legislative resolutions and measures, most of which have been introduced by community stakeholders. This is a challenge in that it requires significant effort to align these proposals, as much as possible, with our priorities.

Since January, we have addressed a range of issues from teacher shortages to insufficient funding for English language acquisition services. A prominent focus for me is Special Education and English Learners so we can close the achievement gap for these student groups.

Concurrently, I report bi-monthly to the BOE on our action items to implement strong, engaging school design models that reflect business and industry opportunities, college and career readiness, community impact, and a lifelong love of learning. I have great appreciation for the direction the BOE provides.

As we continue to hear from our constituents and local leaders on their legislative requests, we will use the Strategic Plan’s expectations of innovation, equity, and excellence as our guide. Our work is to ensure that daily school needs are met while staying on track to become a model public school system that serves ALL students.

The challenge we face is in balancing immediate wants and needs internally and externally, as we become more outward-facing in serving our school communities and the public.

I find myself asking — How do we ensure we are not caught up in bureaucracy and live up to our mission? How do we engage student voice and the community meaningfully?

As the session winds down, we will continue lobbying for our budget requests so that we may move forward in meeting the needs of our schools and students.