

Superintendent's EDUCATION UPDATE

HAWAII STATE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION | OCTOBER 2016

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

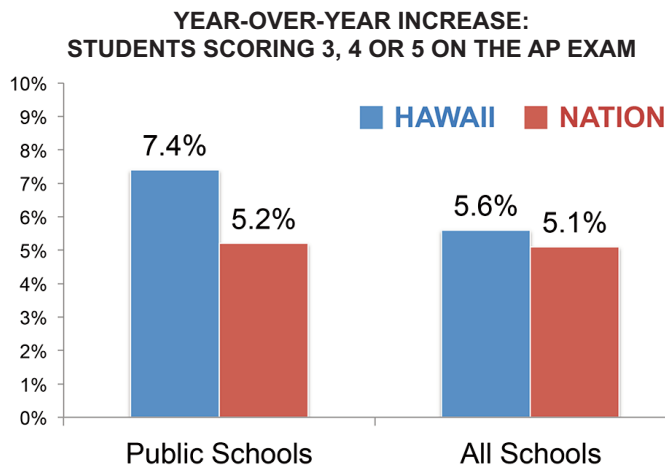
HIDOE outpaces nation on growth

Hawaii's public school students exceeded the nation in gains on the Advanced Placement Program® (AP®) Exams over the year prior.

"In just one year, between 2015 and 2016, the number of AP Exams in Hawaii that were scored 3 or higher increased by 7.5 percent," said Scott Hill, a vice president at the College Board, which administers the AP Program. "That significant increase is a testament to the hard work and commitment of Hawaii's students, parents, teachers, and education leaders, all of whom deserve commendation for this great achievement."

Hawaii's public schools also exceeded the nation's growth in the number of exam takers and exams taken.

"Growth is crucial for our public schools and these results show promising system-wide improvement as we continue to



raise the rigor and prepare our students for post-high school endeavors," said Supt. Kathryn Matayoshi.

Students can also qualify for AP Scholar Awards, which recognizes exceptional achievement on the exams. For SY 2015-16, 616 students from 33 HIDOE schools earned AP Scholar Awards.

Press release: bit.ly/HIDOEAP16

TREND DATA

Since 2012, Hawaii's public schools are:

Up 26 percent in the number of students taking AP exams

Up 29 percent in the number of AP exams receiving passing scores

STRIVE HI Opportunities

EDUCATORS

Teachers have collaborated to build an **interactive map of STEM activities** in Hawaii's public schools, with a goal to build a community resource and archive of shared projects. Please add what your schools are doing! Learn more and view map: bit.ly/HIDOEstem

Educational Leadership in the Asia-Pacific Region is a master of education (MEd) program offered by UH-Manoa's College of Education that allows educators to pursue study without career interruption. Students attend face-to-face sessions over two summers with independent study and advising during fall/spring semesters. Apply by Nov. 30: <https://coe.hawaii.edu/academics/educational-foundations/med-edleads>

Hawaii State FCU members are invited to apply for \$200-\$500 **Investing in Education grants** toward supplies, books, furniture, electronic equipment or other items to help with learning in the classroom. Apply by Oct. 31: <https://www.hawaiistatefcu.com/member-resources/investing-in-education>

The Hawaii Society for Technology in Education (HSTE) is sponsoring a **Makey Makey Workshop for Educators** on Nov. 5. \$45 registration includes discounted Makey Makey Kit with activity supplies and meals. 3 islands to connect via Google Hangout. Learn more, register: www.hste.org/makeymakey

LEADERSHIP

Board recognizes positive gains in performance evaluation

For the third consecutive year, the Hawaii State Board of Education (BOE) gave Supt. Kathryn Matayoshi an overall rating of "Exceeds Expectations" in her annual job performance evaluation.

"The Superintendent and her team set high expectations for the Department, and have continued to collaborate with the Board, schools and community on advancing these goals," said BOE Chairman Lance Mizumoto.

The BOE evaluation of the



Matayoshi

Superintendent is comprised of the following categories with Supt. Matayoshi's rating in (1) Overall Rating:

Exceeds Expectations; (2) Overall Management Abilities: Exceeds Expectations; and (3) Performance Objectives and Program Accomplishments: Fully Meets Expectations.

"The Department continues to work hard in transforming public education. This rating is reassuring feedback that we are on the right track, and a reflection of the high performance and dedication of the Department's leadership team, administrators, teachers and students," said Matayoshi. "We will continue to strive higher and remain student-focused in our decision making and planning."

Press release: bit.ly/SuptEval16

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In Focus COLLEGE & CAREER READINESS

Campbell takes AVID program to new heights

When Tristen Tuiolemotu entered the seventh grade at Ilima Intermediate, her parents pleaded that she sign-up for the school's AVID program. They told her, "we didn't have a class like this at your age, so you should take advantage of it, and learn."

Six years later, as a James Campbell High School (JCHS) senior, Tuiolemotu would become one of the few selected student speakers at the AVID Summer Institute, an annual gathering to help teachers and administrators plan and share best practices. Speaking at this event is considered a very prestigious honor.

AVID, which stands for Advancement Via Individual Determination, is available in 44 states and 16 countries/territories that focuses on preparing students for college and life after high school. It uses researched-based strategies and curriculum to teach students a wide variety of lessons in subjects like math and reading, as well as skills such as critical thinking.

In 2004, JCHS was the first public school in Hawaii to launch an AVID program. Since then, it has grown to 119 schools in 2014-15. The program has also expanded at JCHS to include 18 percent of the school's students, and earlier this year was given the honor of being an AVID Schoolwide Site of Distinction, putting JCHS in the top 1 percent of AVID schools nationwide.

"Growth and accolades aside, the program has helped to transform the culture on



Tristen Tuiolemotu, right, with teacher Marites Galamgam credits the skills she learned in AVID for helping her be organized and efficient with her work.

Dual-credit programs boost college-going

Students enrolled in dual credit courses — college-level coursework that satisfies requirements at high school and college — are not only more likely to go to college, they're hurdling over one of the post-secondary world's biggest barriers — economic disadvantage. Programs like this reduce the achievement gap.

Farrington senior and

varsity football player Joseph Pagan wants to study aerospace engineering. "As an athlete, our biggest want is to play at the next level, so I saw this class as an opportunity to get a taste of college and I believe I can handle it."

Honolulu Star-Advertiser report: bit.ly/SADualcredit

Hawaii P-20 presentation to the Board of Education: bit.ly/BOEDualcredit

campus," said JCHS Principal Jon Henry Lee. "Some of our students may come from a home environment where college wasn't an option, and with our program we are showing them that it is possible."

One measurement of the AVID's success is JCHS's college going rate, which has grown steadily over the past few years. The school has seen an increase from 42 percent of graduates going to college in 2009 to 51 percent in 2015, according to Hawaii P-20's annual College and Career Readiness Indicators report. AVID students at JCHS have a 100 percent graduation rate with 77 percent of graduates going on to college, 18 percent to community college, 3 percent military and 2

percent to trade school.

"The workload in high school crushed me," Tuiolemotu recalled. "Exams and projects kept me awake well into the morning, my under eye circles becoming more and more pronounced every day."

She credits the skills she learned in AVID such as Cornell note-taking and time management tips provided by her counselors and teachers for helping her through those difficult times. "Even though it stresses me out, AVID forces me to realize my mistakes and errors, and to change them. I can no longer let my work pile up and be ignored — I have to face my problems head on, no matter how much I'd rather do

something else," she added.

In addition to preparing students for college, AVID also encourages relationship building and community service, and for many students it's this support system that helped get them through the rigors and high expectations of the program.

As JCHS alumnus Nicole Mauricio recalls, "A highlight from my experience in AVID was establishing relationships with so many different people. My AVID brothers and sisters were all unique. They came from various ethnic, cultural and socioeconomic backgrounds with a wide range of knowledge and experiences. We were athletes, artists, musicians and comedians — see what I mean? Random. But, our group could not have been more perfect."

Mauricio is a senior at Whittier College pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Music with a Minor in Elementary Education, and hopes to return home to establish more arts programs in Hawaii's schools.

AVID's success with students motivates teacher Kenneth Everett. As one of the founders of AVID at JCHS, he's been a part of its growth into the nationally ranked program that it is today.

"Students I encountered were a lot like me, struggling through high school," said Everett. "The more kids I had go from a 1.8 to graduating with a 3.5, I knew I was on the right track."

And as JCHS prepares to take AVID strategies schoolwide this year in preparation for summative assessments, Everett is looking forward to expanding the program's reach adding, "AVID not only helps us coach these students academically, we are also helping them build their confidence. It provides the support and hope they need to realize that their dreams can become a reality."

Success Stories *"It's not where you start but how high you aim that matters for success." — Nelson Mandela*

To these exceptional employees, mahalo!

The Hawaii State Department of Education (HIDOE) named its 2016 Employee, Manager and Team of the Year, honoring employees for special, continued contributions to education and the students of Hawaii.

EMPLOYEE OF THE YEAR

Lowell Kalani Spencer, head custodian, Honowai EI

Under eight years of Spencer's supervision, the campus has bloomed with native Hawaiian plants in well-manicured gardens. His direction helped to provide seamless maintenance of school buildings and the campus grounds during a recent staffing shortage.

MANAGER OF THE YEAR

Francis Santa Monica, cafeteria manager, Ewa Makai Middle

Santa Monica transformed the traditional role of a cafeteria manager to become a vital partner with the school's booster club to provide food service for special events and activities. His caring support ensures that students and teachers who are busy with lunchtime activities always have meals available.

TEAM OF THE YEAR

Windward District Office Autism Team

The A Team addresses the wide range of Autism Spectrum Disorders to serve students from pre-K through high school and provides training and support to families to help improve their lives, and to teachers that incorporate virtual walkthroughs to provide realism and illustrate best practices in action.

The team is Aletha Sutton, Brendan Ahern, Jennifer Bishop, Kali Carvalho, Bianca Chang, Heather Chapman, Verna Choy, Kari Crisler, Cynthia Hopkins, Rochelle Kekauoha, Danielle



Windward District's Autism Team ("A Team") is the HIDOE Team of the Year! Pictured with Deputy Supt. Stephen Schatz and Supt. Kathryn Matayoshi at the 2016 Incentive and Service Awards program in Honolulu on Sept. 9.



Pictured with family, friends, co-workers and educational leaders are, left, Manager of the Year Francis Santa Monica and, right, Lowell Kalani Spencer.



Mizuta, Carey Motohiro, Jon Motohiro, Meg Murphy, Roxanne Rokero, Melanie Sakai, Jakriz Villahermosa-Madsen, Dayna Williams, Tomoko Yokooji, Diane MacDonald, Ashley Tani, Aida Mercades and Travis MacDonald, along with 45 Autism EAs.

Spencer, Santa Monica, and the Windward District Office Autism Team will represent HIDOE in the upcoming annual Governor's Awards for Distinguished State Service ceremony.

ADDITIONAL HONOREES

Sustained Superior Performance Award:

Edgar Yoshida, Baldwin High School, Maui District

Team Excellence Award of Merit:

- Aiea-Moanalua-Radford Complex Area Induction & Mentoring Team: Sue Bevacqua and Christine Braga
- Kapolei Elementary School Office Team: Karie Gomban, Wanda Goo, Denise Lee, Alyson Manuel, Muriel Takano and Leslie Veazie
- Olomana School Comprehensive Student Support System Team: Bob Christensen, Sheri Dennis, Tulifau Esene, Wilisoni Fatafehi, Mike Silva and Kelly Taniguchi

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

UNSUNG HERO >>>

\$2,000 FOR KOHALA EL GARDEN

Kayla Sinotte won the **Voya Unsung Heroes award** and \$2,000 for the school's Discovery Garden. The award noted the garden "is focused on teaching in an exploratory and multi-sensory way that nourishes the whole child: their mind, body, and well-being. The 40-minute classes are designed to teach sustainable agricultural practices, STEM subjects, wellness and nutrition, and pono behavior in the setting of a school garden." Congratulations!



OCT 11

FILIPINO BOOK FAIR

Tinalak, the Filipino Education Advisory Council of the UH College of Education, would like to invite the community to its **2016 Filipino American Book and Curriculum Fair**, 2-4:30 p.m., to showcase the rich diversity of curriculum, books, and resources on Filipinos for teachers, parents, and students to read. With book readings, guest speakers, food, and opportunities to meet authors. Flyer: bit.ly/Tinalak16

Supt.'s Principal's Corner

To celebrate National Principals Month, King Kekaulike Principal Mark Elliott is providing a guest column here on supporting and cultivating school leaders.

As someone who has jumped from airplanes, swam with sharks, taught life science to middle schoolers, survived Minnesota winters and commuted daily in New York City traffic, I feel that I can credibly say that there are few experiences in life that are more scary than one's first day as a school principal.

I remember my first day at Lokelani Intermediate like it was a few hours ago. When I stood in front of the staff on Oct. 31, 2012, everyone looked at me in a way that I'd never been looked at before. Their eyes told me I was supposed to know something, and say something and do something — but what was it? After walking blindly into a campus-wide celebration in progress, I timidly officiated the student Halloween Costume Contest and then, after self consciously announcing every enthusiasm and profession of commitment to Lokelani students' success that I could think of, I spent the rest of the day wondering what on earth I had

gotten myself into.

Then, a couple of days later, I got the notice from the Hawaii State Department of Education that I was assigned to the New Principal Academy (NPA) for two years. Several visits off island were required. Lots and lots of meetings were scheduled. I was not enthused. I thought, "Great. More work. I don't need this right now. I'm in over my head as it is..."

I couldn't have been less accurate in my apprehension.

NPA provides many newly appointed principals as well as myself a lifeline of sorts. The NPA also provided essential tools to help me and others who were stepping into the leadership role of school principal.

The program requires all new principals to participate in a two-year cohort where educational officers gather for a series of professional development sessions as a large group, as well as an opportunity within smaller groups to visit one another's schools for focused discussion and comparative evaluation of each schools' programs, strengths and areas for growth.

Within the large groups,



OCTOBER

MAHALO, PRINCIPAL!

National Principals Month is your opportunity to say "thank you" to principals everywhere and share with the community all the great things they do. Tell us why your principal rocks! Send your stories to doe_info@hawaiidoe.org, or share on social media with #ThankAPrincipal.

specialists walked us through school budget process and procedure, school climate and culture, working with diverse staff communities, developing relevant and organic academic plans, maintaining positive and transparent relationships with our communities, and a host of other topics — the details of which can make or break principals.

The most essential element that continues to carry me today is the ongoing dialogue with my cohort and other administrators from across our island chain — all of us who are in the initial stages of finding our way through myriad challenges and expectations as a school leader. These cohorts of trusting

collaborators were cemented more than anything through loosely structured visits provided during the second year of NPA: we explored and analyzed real-time challenges leading to valuable, shared insight.

This network would never have happened without the time and expense provided for us — we would've had no means to create such an opportunity. These ongoing relationships have made a world of difference in shortening the learning curve.

NPA's organized visits to other schools had a tremendous effect in opening my eyes to many new possibilities for student success. I saw firsthand that the best models are found in many of our HIDOE schools. The opportunity to share with other new principals in a HIDOE-directed and facilitated forum not only allowed me to face the challenges — it was critical to my survival during the first two years as principal. I wish the program's duration was four years instead of two.

NPA provided perspectives that have been the most influential factors in keeping me on my chosen and cherished path in support of the success of our Hawaii keiki.

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