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MORE HAWAI'I HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS GETTING HELP TO APPLY TO COLLEGE

HONOLULU – More than 2,500 high school seniors statewide will receive assistance in applying to a University of Hawai'i System campus as part of “*College Application and Exploration Season (CAES)*”. An initiative of Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education, CAES encourages high school seniors, particularly prospective first-generation college students from low-income families, to apply to at least one college before they graduate from high school, giving every student the option to continue their education and attain a college degree.

“In order to reach the state’s goal of 55% of working age adults with a 2- or 4-year college degree by 2025, it is essential that our young people pursue postsecondary education, whether that means a four-year university, a community college or other additional training beyond receiving their high school diploma.” says Karen Lee, Executive Director, Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education. “We must encourage our students to pursue education beyond high school, or as a state, we won’t be positioned for competitiveness in the 21st century. Helping students with their college applications is a key component.”

CAES is part of the “[American College Application Campaign](#)”, a national initiative to increase the number of first-generation and low-income college students pursuing a college degree. As of 2014, all 50 states and the District of Columbia are participating in this effort. This year, President Barack Obama also proclaimed November 2014 to be National College Application Month.

“During National College Application Month, we come together to encourage all students to take control of their own destiny by applying to continue their education beyond high school and to let them know that no matter where they come from or who they are -- it does not matter if they are the first in their family to apply to college or if they have been told that they are simply not college material -- there is an opportunity for them.” See full proclamation here:

<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2014/11/01/presidential-proclamation-national-college-application-month-2014>.

During CAES application events, local volunteers and staff from the University of Hawai'i campuses, other Hawai'i colleges, and community organizations will work with fourteen high schools statewide over the next few months to plan activities that encourage their seniors to complete a college application. The schools participating this year include: Castle High School, Farrington High School, Kahuku High School, Kailua High School, Kaimuki High School, Kalaheo High School, Ke Kula 'o Ehunuikaimalino, Kohala High School, McKinley High School, Nānākuli Intermediate and High School, Roosevelt High School, Waialua Intermediate and High School, Waipahu High School, and Wai'anae High School. Each school coordinates its own application event with the goal of every senior completing and submitting at least one college application. In addition, some schools are planning pre- and post-application activities that target younger students to get them thinking about college early and start them on track toward the college application process.

For a list of dates and times for upcoming events happening statewide, please go to:

<http://www.p20hawaii.org/programs/college-and-career-readiness/caes/>

CAES is an initiative of Hawai'i P-20 funded in part by GEAR UP Hawai'i and the College Access Challenge Grant.

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Hawai'i P-20 Partnerships for Education, a statewide partnership led by the Executive Office on Early Learning, the Hawai'i State Department of Education and the University of Hawai'i System works to strengthen the education pipeline from early childhood through higher education so that all students achieve college and career success. Hawai'i P-20's partners share a sense of urgency about the need to improve Hawai'i's educational outcomes in an increasingly global economy, and have established a goal of 55% of Hawai'i's working age adults having a 2- or 4-year college degree by 2025. For more information, visit www.p20hawaii.org.