NEWS RELEASE

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HAWAI‘I P-20 PARTNERSHIPS FOR EDUCATION SELECTS TWELVE SCHOOLS TO PARTICIPATE IN INNOVATIVE EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAM

HONOLULU (September 26, 2014) – Twelve high schools statewide have been selected to participate in the Early College High School Program, a coordinated initiative designed to allow more high school students to earn six or more college credits before they graduate from high school. Over the next three years, Hawai‘i P-20 Partnerships for Education, with the support of the Harold K.L. Castle Foundation and GEAR UP Hawai‘i, will invest more than $1.2 million of resources to fund tuition and expenses and provide technical assistance to selected high schools working in partnership with University of Hawai‘i campuses, to provide high school-based early college courses. The Early College High School Program is part of a cohesive effort to bring an early college high school model successful in other states, where students have the option of earning both an associate’s degree and a high school diploma by their high school graduation, to Hawai‘i. The purpose of these grants is to develop best practices for early college high schools such that more students graduate with college credits and better preparation for their future degree/career. The program could serve up to 3,200 students statewide.

"This partnership is more than just preparing students for higher education," stated Hawaii Department of Education Superintendent Kathryn Matayoshi. "This provides the extra push needed for students to reach their goals in life. The impact that this program can make is incredibly meaningful."
“Research shows participation in college-level coursework during high school can increase students’ exposure and aspirations for postsecondary success,” says Karen Lee, Executive Director of Hawai‘i P-20. “High school students who graduate with at least six college credits are more likely to enroll, persist and succeed in higher education, and as a result, move us closer to achieving our state’s goal of having 55% of working age adults with a two or four-year college degree by 2025.”

“Many high schools and community colleges in Hawai‘i are trying the early college approach. Helping bring these early efforts to scale will prepare many more high school students – especially those that are low income or first generation – to attend and succeed in college,” noted Alex Harris, Senior Program Officer for Education at the Harold K.L. Castle Foundation. “Exposing young people to a collegiate environment at an early age is a win for the student, the high school, and the college.”

The selected schools will provide early college courses over a three year period with the goal of increasing the number of high school students taking early college courses and the number of college credits students receive by their high school graduation. Technical assistance will be provided through the Early College High School Program to assist grantees in understanding and best utilizing their current resources, as well as offering guidance to grantees to reach their three-year goals for the program. In addition, a community of learners will be developed to allow grantees to share their best practices and identify barriers and solutions to common challenges.

The selected schools include:

Hawai‘i Island: Hilo High School, Kealakehe High School, Kohala High School, and Waiakea High School
Kaua‘i: Kapa‘a High School and Kaua‘i High School
Moloka‘i: Moloka‘i High School
O‘ahu: Farrington High School, Kailua High School, Kaimuki High School, Wai‘anae High School, and Waipahu High School

Nine of the ten University of Hawai‘i campuses are involved in supporting early college classes at the selected high schools, including: Hawai‘i Community College, Honolulu Community College, Kapi‘olani Community College, Kaua‘i Community College, Leeward Community College, the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, the University of Hawai‘i Maui College, the University of Hawai‘i – West O‘ahu, and Windward Community College.

Schools will start offering early college courses for the program beginning in Spring 2015.
ABOUT HAWAI‘I P-20 PARTNERSHIPS FOR EDUCATION
Hawai‘i P-20 Partnerships for Education is a statewide partnership led by the Executive Office on Early Learning, the State Department of Education, and the University of Hawai‘i System. This partnership is working to strengthen the education pipeline from early childhood through higher education so that all students achieve career and college 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 to have a 2- or 4-year college degree and for 100% of working age adults to be prepared for careers and college by the year 2025. For more information, visit http://www.p20hawaii.org.

ABOUT GEAR UP HAWAI‘I
GEAR UP Hawai‘i, a program of Hawai‘i P-20 Partnerships for Education, aims to broaden college awareness, expand academic readiness and increase postsecondary success among Hawai‘i’s low-income public school students. GEAR UP Hawai‘i collaborates with the Hawaii State Department of Education (HIDOE) and the University of Hawai‘i (UH) System as well as the government, nonprofit and private sectors to provide information, encouragement, support, resources and services and help eliminate achievement gaps among groups traditionally underrepresented in higher education.

ABOUT HAROLD K.L CASTLE FOUNDATION
The Harold K.L. Castle Foundation, the largest private foundation headquartered in Hawai‘i, is committed to closing the achievement and preparation gaps in public education so that all Hawai‘i’s children have access to high-quality pre-K-12 education that prepares them for success in college, career and citizenship. Its grants also focus on restoring nearshore marine ecosystems and strengthening Windward O‘ahu communities.

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