Nominations for 2019 Distinguished Alumnus Award

The COEAA Distinguished Alumni Committee is now accepting nominations for the 2019 Distinguished Alumnus Award. Nomination packets may be downloaded from the following website: https://coe.hawaii.edu/giving-alumni/coe-alumni-association/coeaa-alumni-awardees.

The deadline for submission is January 31, 2019. If you need assistance with the nomination packet or have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Bebi Davis (bebi@hawaii.edu), Distinguished Alumni Committee Chair.

Dr. Donald Young, retired Dean of the College of Education, was honored as the 2018 Distinguished Alumnus in the presence of many of his family, friends, and colleagues. Also in attendance at this annual event were current and former Board Members, alumni, and other guests.

COE Dean’s Message

Aloha College of Education (COE) alumni and ohana! Our COE continues its rich tradition gathering national recognition for its alumni and programs.

COE alumnus Ken Kang received a prestigious 2017-2018 Milken Award with fellow alumni, Akeyo Garcia and Masaru Uchino, earning the 2018 Presidential Award of Excellence in Mathematics and Science Technology, the highest award bestowed on K-12 math and science teachers by the U.S. Government. The Carnegie Project of the Education Doctorate (CPED) selected alumna Dr. Erin Thompson for the 2018 dissertation in Practice Award. Please join me in congratulating our alumni on their accomplishments.

COE programs continue to receive national and international recognition. The exceptional Students and Elementary Education (ESEE) program ranked among the “25 Best Special Education Degrees for 2017” by College Choice for the second consecutive year. The Education Doctorate in Professional Education Practice (EdD) was awarded the 2018 Program of the Year by CPED. Our COE has moved up in the 2019 U.S. News Best Graduate Schools edition. More specifically, out of 267 schools ranked across the nation, the COE came in 64th, up five places from last year. The college has been in the top 100 education programs for more than a decade and remains at the top for funded research, having been awarded more than $17 million in contracts and grants in 2017.

The college’s recruitment efforts can be seen on HawaiiNewsNow as a part of the “Be A Hero, Be A Teacher” campaign. Our recruitment momentum has extended into Hawai’i public schools through teacher academies led by our Office of Student Academic Services (OSAS). Teacher academies are organized at the high schools, whereby interested high school students learn about teaching as a profession pathway. Working closely and collaboratively with our Department of Education partners, we are striving to extend teaching pathways to middle and elementary schools. I strongly believe that this type of campaign casts a positive view on the teaching profession.

Currently, the COE is reviewing its strategic initiatives in an effort to clearly articulate our present status and future direction. Strategic initiatives encompass multiple voices, advisory council input, and community engagement to offer robust and transparent strategic initiatives as we chart our future course. Lastly, I am sincerely grateful to our student association, faculty, staff, majors and alumni for their hard work and support.

Thank you!
Nathan Murata
Welcome New Board Members!

This fall the COEAA Board welcomed three new directors who were elected to serve on the Board.

Stephanie Furuta was an elementary classroom teacher and district resource teacher for 15 years in the Hawaii Department of Education. Since 2008, she has been a faculty member in the College of Education, and is currently working in the Institute for Teacher Education’s Master of Education in Teaching (MET) Program. Stephanie feels honored to be on the COEAA Board, seeing the organization as a venue for giving back to the College of Education and continuing to support educators across the state.

Warren Kawano is 2004 graduate of the UH College of Education with a Bachelors in Business and Marketing Education. He is currently enrolled in UH doctoral in Educational Administration. Warren taught at Waipahu High School for six years, from 2004-2010, serving as Director of the Academy of Finance. In 2010, moved to Leeward Community College where he teaches businesses courses. He is also the current President of the Hawaii Association for Career and Technical Education (Hawaii ACTE). He wanted to serve on the COEAA board to give back to the College of Education and to help to build bridges between the Department of Education, UH College of Education, and UHCC Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. This partnership will fill a need for qualified CTE teachers in DOE schools.

Kristen Brummel received her BA and MA degree in Elementary Education from the University of Hawaii. Kristen began her career teaching 4th and 5th graders at Noeleani Elementary. She was a teacher mentor and Induction and Mentoring Coordinator for the Kaimuki-McKinley Roosevelt Complex Area. She is currently State Director of Hawaii’s Hope Street Group fellowship program. Kristen is a National Board Certified Teacher, a 2014-2016 Hawaii Hope Street Group Fellow, and was the 2011 Hawaii State Teacher of the Year. Kristen is also a member of the University of Hawaii’s Teacher Education Committee for Elementary and Early Childhood from 2016-2018.

She is grateful for the learning and experiences she had as a COE student and the way that it shaped her professionally and personally. She is excited about serving on the COEAA and the opportunity she will have to support the work of the college and alumni.

We also welcomed Kayla Ueshiro who is the new College of Education Student Association (CESA) president and representative on the COEAA Board. Kayla is an Elementary Education teacher candidate. Her goal as the CESA representative on the COEAA Board is to communicate and collaborate with the COEAA to develop a partnership among the College of Education students and alumni. This year CESA is planning to engage in many community service and teacher quality workshops and events with the COEAA. She thanks the board members for welcoming CESA to be a part of the COEAA.

COEAA Welcomes New Officers!

The COEAA would like to welcome its newly-elected officers whose new term began in August 2018. The new officers are as follows:

- President, Helen Hasegawa
- Vice President, Jean Kiyabu
- Secretary, Jan Ikeda
- Treasurer, Gwen Maeda

Each of the newly-elected officers brings a wealth of experience and passion for education. Congratulations to each of the new officers for taking on this leadership role! The COEAA looks forward to continued growth and implementation of innovative ideas to enhance the educational preparation and the education profession.

Accomplishments of the Previous Board

The College of Education Alumni Association (COEAA) would like to extend a heartfelt mahalo to our outgoing president, Kathleen Nishimura, for her hard work and passion for the improvement of education in Hawaii. Mahalo also goes out to the other COEAA officers Helen Hasegawa, Vice President; Gayle Lum, Treasurer; and Mona Tokiyo, Secretary.

Under the leadership of Kathleen Nishimura and the officers, the COEAA board accomplished much over the past two years. It was truly a time of change for COEAA. The board bid a fond farewell to Dr. Dean Young and wished him well in his retirement; and the board also had the pleasure of welcoming the new dean for the College of Education, Dr. Dean Murata.

Additionally, the COEAA officers took the lead in reviewing and ultimately revising the By Laws, as well as, reformating the treasurer’s report. COEAA was active in organizing activities each quarter to support the University of Hawaii Alumni Association goals.

To each of the officers, thank you very much for your leadership and dedication to our future educators. Your efforts have inspired each of us to do our part.

Welcoming of New COE Dean, Nathan Murata, at the Ed Wong Reception Center

The COE and COEAA celebrated and welcomed the new College of Education Dean, Nathan Murata, at the Ed Wong Reception Suite, on Thursday, April 26, 2018. Former COEAA Board President, Kathleen Nishimura, welcomed the COEAA members attending the gathering and introduced special guests, directors, ex-officis, and Senator Michelle Kidani. She thanked the Board for their dedicated service to the COEAA and called upon Dean Nathan Murata to speak.

Dean Murata commented that his easy transition as the COE Dean was attributed to former Dean, Donald Young who was instrumental in the advancement of UH COE. At the gathering, Dean Murata introduced his Associate Dean, Amelia Jenkins who gave a few words to the membership, and gave his direction for the College of Education including his sentiments as the new UH COE Dean.

Special thanks went to Dr. Charles Araki for his help in securing the Ed Wong Hospitality Suite and to UHCOE Mark Fukeda, for his hard work in accounting for those attending the gathering and contacting Mr. Patrick Baugh to set up the Board Officers initial meeting with him to look at the room.

The College of Education Alumni Association

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