



UNIVERSITY of HAWAII[®]
KAPI'OLANI
 COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Staying Upbeat

A Welcome Message from Chancellor Leon Richards

Aloha, and welcome to a new academic year!

AY 2008-2009 was a banner year for Kapi'olani Community College. During our 2009 fall convocation, it was with much pride that I listened to the progress, changes and achievements that are occurring at our college. I would like to reflect on the messages shared during that convocation.

This past year, our students won awards and recognition in programs such as Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM), Culinary Arts, New Media Arts, Health Sciences, and for our student newspaper, Kapi'o. In several of the competitions, our students faced enormous opposition against four-year institutions, as well as against seasoned competitors. In one national competition, our student team was considered the dark horse, but our team won first place and brought home the gold. In another competition, our student team was among the top five of 24 teams, and was trailed by the University of Michigan, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, to name a few.

There is much to be said about student learning outcomes and what our students were able to achieve with bare minimum funding for their projects. If you stopped to visit and chat with students during the poster sessions, you would have felt the pride, passion and desire for perfection in each student's voice.

Dr. Jonas Salk, medical pioneer, said that the greatest reward for doing is the opportunity to do more. I know our faculty go the extra mile to help our students, and many do so quietly. Thank you for your upstanding contributions, dedication and commitment to teaching. Thank you for keeping our students focused and involved. Thank you for being servant leaders and for providing life-changing opportunities that our students would otherwise not have experienced. You are incredible role models.

There are several construction sites on campus. The college received major funding from the US Department of Education and the National Science Foundation to expand its support services to Native Hawaiian students. Manele, 'Iliahi, Kopiko and Naio buildings are undergoing renovations, creating an

opportunity to evolve the campus into an *ecology of learning*. The need to relocate several offices and services is temporary and I ask for your patience and cooperation in reminding our students about safety.

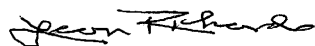
There is no doubt that the progress we are making in so many areas point to our unparalleled commitment to excellence. There is one other point that I would like to make which I consider remarkable.

There are approximately 416 full-time faculty and staff who make up our 'Ohana. Of that number, 194 members have devoted more than ten years of service to the State of Hawai'i. And of that number, three members have achieved 40 years of service apiece, spending a majority of their years at our college. I am grateful for everyone's dedication and longevity of service. I would also like to mention that several of our alumni are among the newly hired faculty and staff at the college. I am humbled by the thought that more of our 'ohana members are back, building on the strength they developed as students and returning to serve as stewards of Queen Kapi'olani's legacy, *Kulia I ka N'u*. There is strength in numbers, and it is formidable to realize that although not one of us can help everyone, everyone can help someone.

We are not immune to the economic struggles of our time. But I know that if we work effectively together, we can fulfill our commitment to our students and confront our challenges wisely. Let us face each day with vigor and be upbeat. We can accomplish whatever we set our minds to do; our students have proven this. With great confidence, I know we can achieve the *nu'u*, the highest summit of our achievements.

Go with pride, poise and peace. Make it a great year.

Mahalo nui loa,



Leon Richards
Chancellor