

A blurred photograph of a diverse group of people walking through a modern building lobby with large glass windows. The image is used as a background for the event poster.

# ACCJC

Outcomes | Innovation | Improvement

# PARTNERS *in* EXCELLENCE

Fostering Outcomes, Improvements,  
and Innovations in Equitable Student Success

May 9-10, 2024 | Hyatt Regency Orange County in Garden Grove, CA



# PARTNERS *in* EXCELLENCE

## Providing Quality Education for Incarcerated Students: Unique Challenges, Creative Solutions, Inspiring Outcomes

**ACCJC:** Vice Presidents Kevin Bontenbal & Nickawanna Shaw

**Mount Tamalpais College:** Jennifer Juras, W. Franklin Martinez & Corey McNeil

**Solano Community College:** Shanan Danley & David Williams

**Windward Community College:** Ardis Eschenberg

**Student  
Services for the  
Incarcerated:  
Mount Tamalpais College's  
Programs for  
Student Success**



# Introductions

- Corey McNeil, Alumni Affairs Associate
- Windy Franklin Martinez, Director of Student Services & Academic Advising
- Jen Juras, Chief of Institutional Effectiveness and Research, Accreditation Liaison Officer



# MOUNT TAMALPAIS COLLEGE

- Extension site of Patten University (1996 - 2020). Independently accredited by ACCJC in January 2022.
- Entirely volunteer faculty; cost of attendance (tuition and school supplies) is free.
- Offers AA degree in Liberal Arts, including pre-college courses in writing and math.
- Operates solely inside San Quentin.
- Accepts anyone with GED, HS diploma, or equivalent.



# Overview

- Student services is a critical underpinning of successful, intellectually rigorous, and inclusive colleges.
- MTC's student services division shares commonalities with traditional colleges and has unique aspects due to its setting and student population.
- What we learn may apply to both traditional colleges and other colleges that operate in prisons.



# Services We Provide: *Advising and Student Services*

- Academic Advising;
- Education Planning;
- Transfer Planning;
- Review of MTC academic policies;
- Referral of students to appropriate MTC resources or staff;
- Referral of students to appropriate external resources.

# Services We Provide: *Learning and Development*

- Evaluation for learning disabilities;
- Academic accommodations;
- Strategizing with students and faculty to improve learning outcomes;
- Support faculty with universal design and curriculum differentiation;
- Providing student, staff, and faculty trainings on various topics.





# Student Services: *How does this look different in a prison setting?*

- Limited access to technology (website access, email, tech support);
- Challenging communication logistics (prison mail);
- Gaps and trauma in many students' educational histories (Introduction to College);
- Student experience of trauma in prison and the effects on learning.

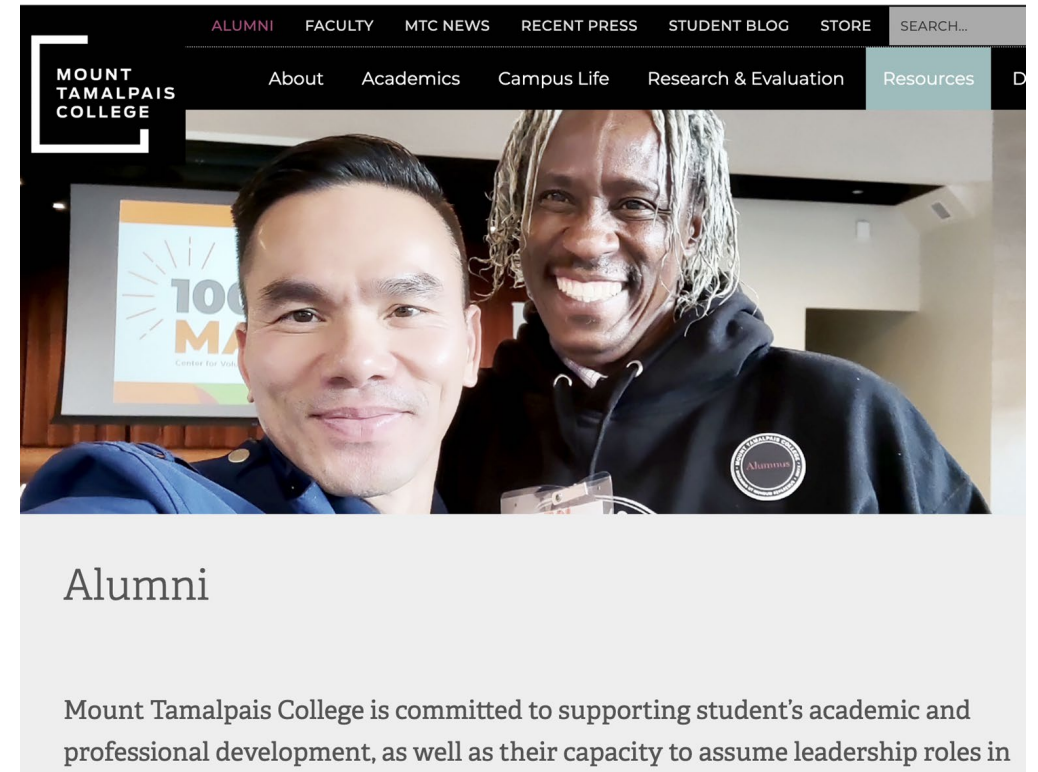


# Student Services: *How does this look different in a prison setting?*

- Prison rules about relationships (“over-familiarity,” physical contact);
- Uneven student access to campus (student movement to and from campus, lockdowns, quarantines, administrative segregation );
- Noisy, chaotic study environment;
- Need for very close collaboration with academic team;
- Collaborate with academic team to address challenges that accompany the regular changes in the faculty pool.

# Services We Provide: *Alumni Affairs*

- Maintain relationships with alumni;
- Provide connection to organizations for reentry needs;
- Assist in identifying resources for continued education;
- Provide job referrals;
- Fulfill transcript requests.



# Alumni Services: *How does this look different in a prison setting?*

- Serving the unique needs of both incarcerated and released alumni;
- Focusing on re-entry and other services, along with building community and alumni networking;
- Implementing “inside” and “outside” events, to bring outside resources and paroled alumni inside;
- Challenging and time-intensive logistics for workshop and event planning.





**PROVIDING QUALITY EDUCATION FOR  
INCARCERATED STUDENTS: UNIQUE CHALLENGES,  
CREATIVE SOLUTIONS, INSPIRING OUTCOMES**

*PRESENTATION TO THE  
ACCJC PARTNERS IN EXCELLENCE CONFERENCE  
MAY 9, 2024*



**Shanan Danley**, Director, SOAR Program

**David Williams, Ph.D.**, Vice President of Academic Affairs



# OVERVIEW OF SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE RISING SCHOLARS PROGRAM

## 4 Facilities:

- California Medical Facility
- California State Prison-Solano
- Solano County Jail
- Juvenile Hall

## 4 Degrees:

- Business, Political Science,  
Psychology, Sociology

**SOAR** (*Students Overcoming Adversity & Recidivism*):

- Justice-involved students
- 280 receiving services





# OVERVIEW OF SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE RISING SCHOLARS PROGRAM



Originally face-to-face instruction only  
Added Correspondence Education during the pandemic  
70% of RS students are students of color  
**Overall success rate of 84%**



# OVERVIEW OF SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE RISING SCHOLARS PROGRAM



2,600 students historically  
61 degrees awarded  
164 PTK inductees



# OVERVIEW OF SOLANO COMMUNITY COLLEGE RISING SCHOLARS PROGRAM

You are convicted felons that will go out into an uncaring world, which believes you've already squandered your chance. That you are too poor - that you are too stupid to ever amount to anything. I don't know about you, but I look forward to disappointing them. When you're already at the bottom, there's only one way to go.

So, never compromise what you know is right. Never allow the opinions of others to impinge upon your progress, simply because yours outpaces their own. Never cede an inch to those who believe that you are worth less. Take the time to enjoy today, friends, because tomorrow is when the real work begins. Hug your friends and family, share in laughter and celebration, today - for tomorrow, we take back what was lost to us.



# **CHALLENGES FOR FACULTY TEACHING INSIDE**

- 1. Fear/anxiety about interacting with incarcerated students**
- 2. Navigating lockdowns, entrances and exits**
- 3. Adapting course materials/andragogy**
- 4. Limited technology/Canvas access**



# **PREPARING FACULTY TO TEACH INSIDE**

1. Bi-Weekly Rising Scholars faculty meetings
2. Shadowing onsite by Dean of Rising Scholars and two Faculty Coordinators
3. Pre-visit to facility: classroom tour, meet the Warden and PSCEs, learn about chips
4. PD workshops on Trauma-Informed Education
5. Compensation for course adaptation



# COMPENSATION FOR RS FACULTY

**29.3.B.** Faculty assigned to teach in correctional facilities shall therefore be **compensated for an additional 1 hour per visit** to a correctional facility work assignment, to be paid at the appropriate Category 3 rate as a lump-sum stipend at the end of the semester of the assignment.

**29.3.C.** Adapting a course for instruction within a prison or correctional facility requires faculty to revise instructional materials. Continuing faculty shall be paid a **stipend of \$650.00 per class** for the time necessary to make these revisions.



# HOW FACULTY CAN MENTOR



**Build Trust**

**Understand Their Background**

**Advocate and Empower**

**Encourage Personal Growth**

**Celebrate Achievements**



# PREPARING FACULTY TO TEACH INSIDE

## Next Steps:

1. Overcome fear/anxiety of teaching inside
2. More PD workshops on Trauma-Informed Education



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# Windward Community College

**Prison Education Program**

ACCJC PARTNERS IN EXCELLENCE CONFERENCE

May 9, 2024



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# . Pu'uhonua

## Places of Sanctuary

- **Hawai'i Youth Correctional Center**
- **Women's Community Correctional Center**
- **Hālawā Correctional Center**





# Windward Pu'uhonua Education Sites

## Women's Community Correction Center (WCCC)

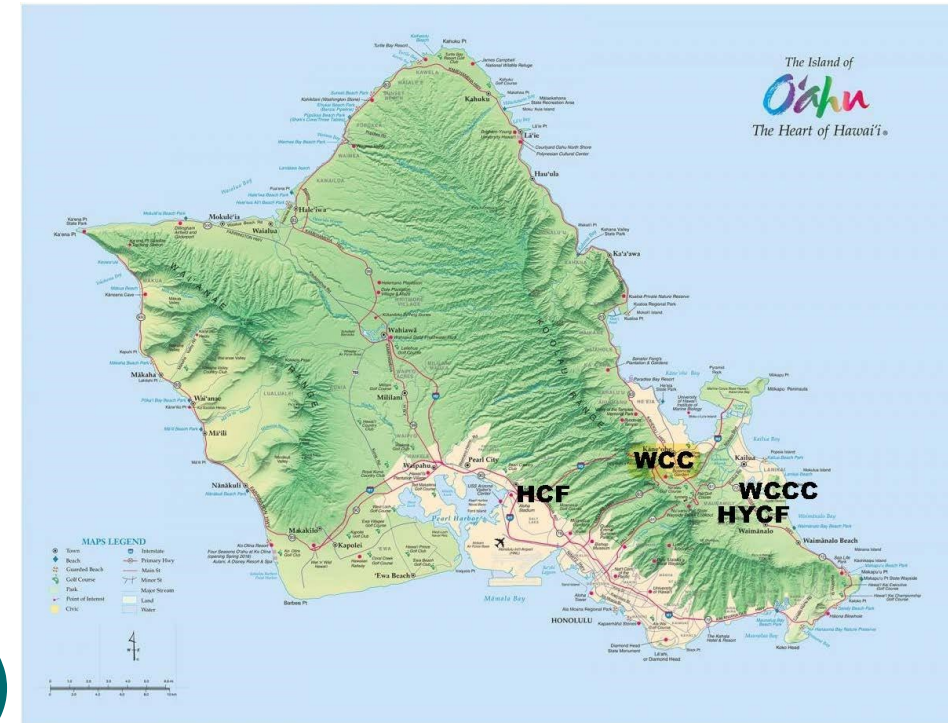
- AA Liberal Arts
- Academic Subject Certificate (ASC): Business
- ASC: Psychosocial Developmental Studies
- ASC: Mental Health Tech

## Hālawā Correctional Facility (HCF)

- AA Liberal Arts
- AA Hawaiian Studies

## Hawai'i Youth Correctional Facility (HYCF)

- Early College High School
- Various college credit classes: Ukulele, Slack Key Guitar, Theatre, Digital Audio & Video Production



# STAFF



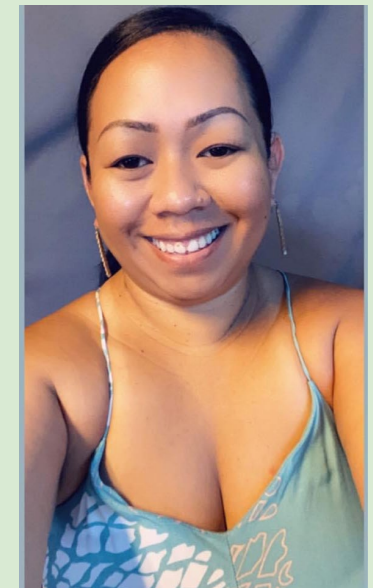
**TUTI KANAHELE**  
Kupuna Advisor



**HAUNANI REED**  
Pu'uhonua Coordinator



**MITCHELL WONG**  
Pu'uhonua Counselor



**KAHEA KIM**  
Evaluator

# ‘Ōlelo No‘eau, Our values



A‘ohe pau ka ‘ike i ka hālau ho‘okahi.  
All knowledge is not taught in one school.

Ka lama kū o ka na‘auao.  
The standing torch of knowledge.

A‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia.  
No work is too big if done together

He punawai kahe wale ke aloha.  
Aloha is an endless spring.

Kūlia ka nu‘u.  
Striving for excellence.



**E  
Miha  
'Āio**



# Results

**E Miha, 'Āio! Pull with the  
wave to our future!**



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COMMUNITY COLLEGE





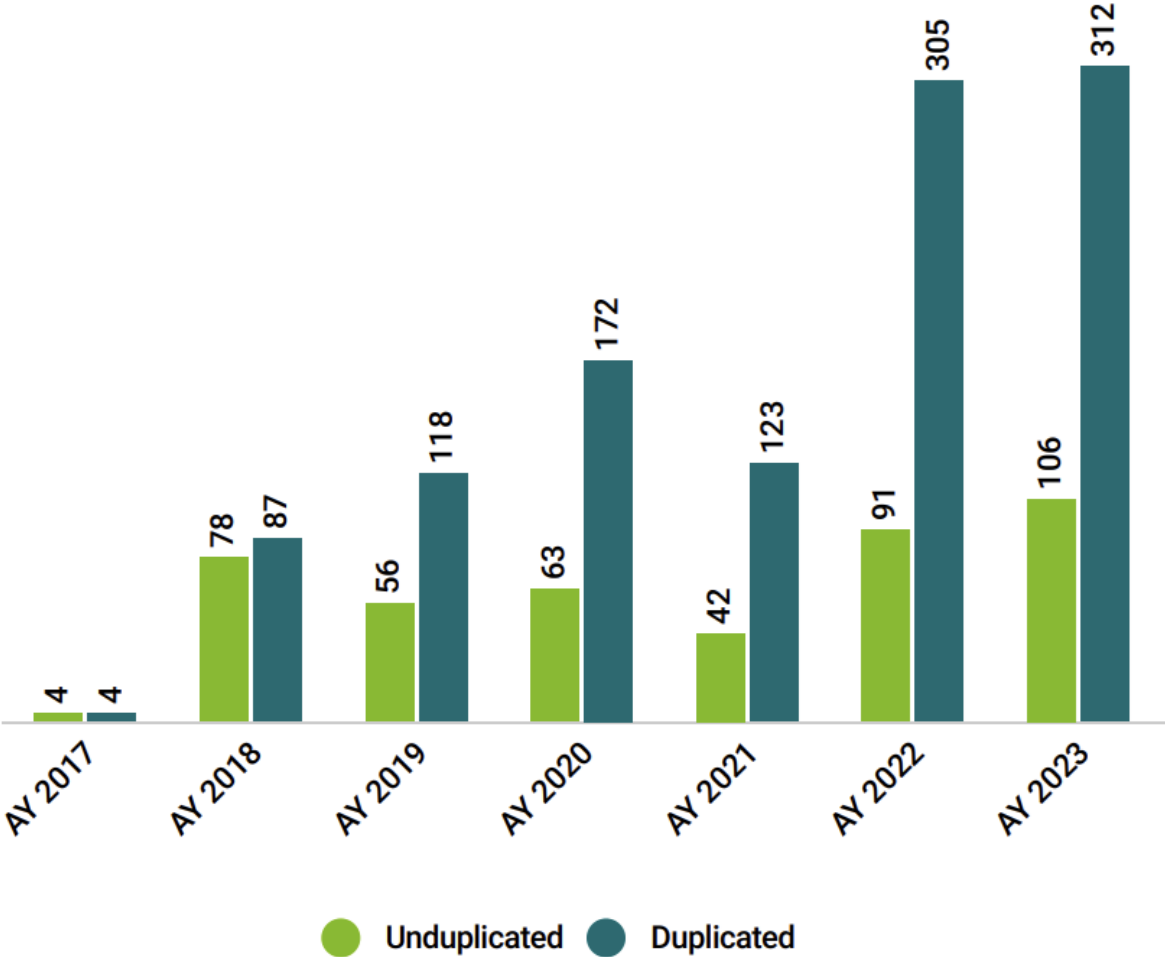
DATA THAT EXCITES US!

# Windward CC Demographics

## Enrollment

### Students Served

Unduplicated and duplicated count, AY 2017-2023



**440**  
Cumulative Unduplicated

**1121**  
Cumulative Duplicated



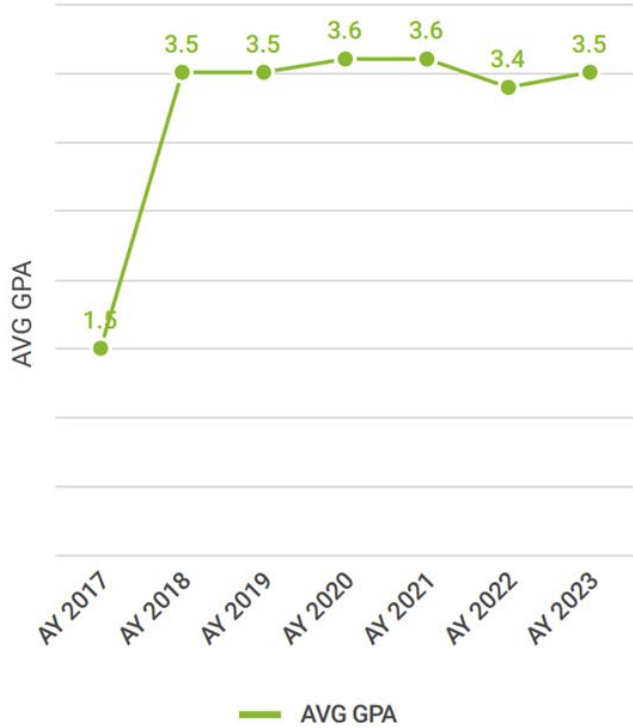
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# Student Success

## GPA & Success Rate

### GPA

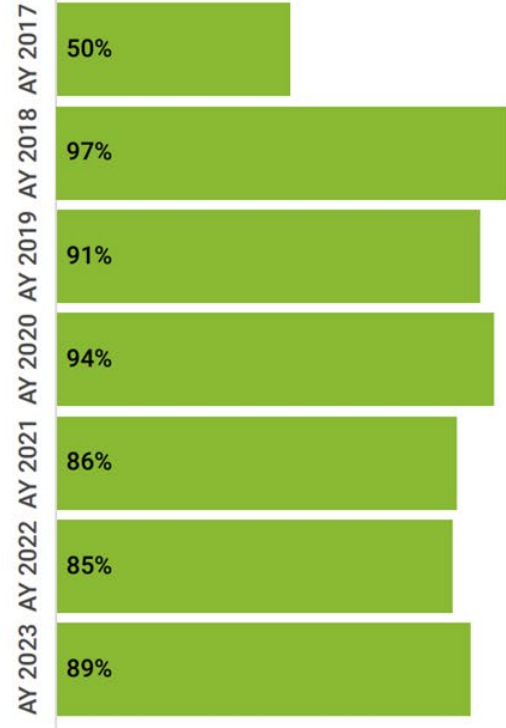
Average GPA's, AY 2017-2023



**3.2**  
Cumulative  
Average GPA

### Success Rate

Student success rate, AY 2017-2023



**85%**  
Cumulative Average  
Success Rate



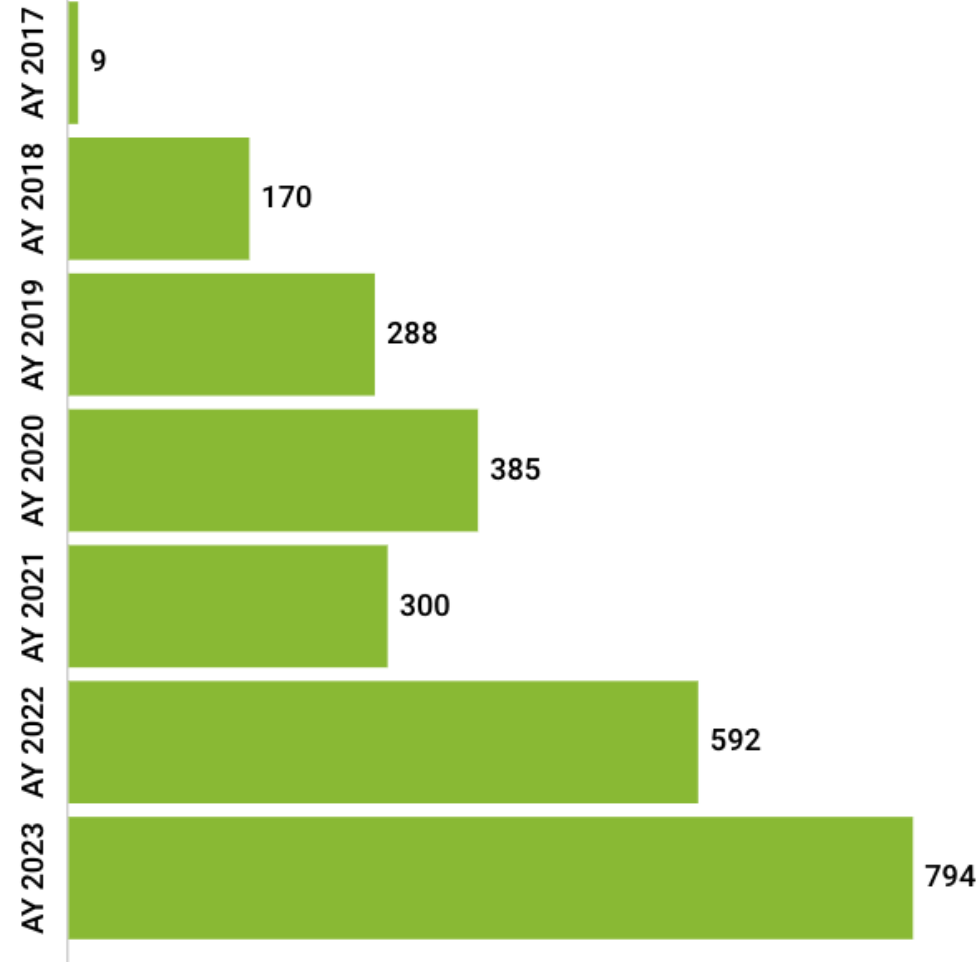


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## Student Outcomes

Credits Earned &  
Certificates/Degrees  
Awarded

Total credits earned, AY 2017-2023



**2542**

Cumulative Credits Earned

**13**

Cumulative Certificates Awarded

**2**

Cumulative Degrees Awarded

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## Challenges

- Classroom space
- Pay differential
- Staffing
- Competing with workline
- PEP process
- Just the normal incarcerated day-to-day... lockdowns, discipline, ACOs, movement restrictions...
- Non-Pell eligible students



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## Next steps

- **Staffing:** 3 state funded positions allocated to WCC
- **PEP process:** keep on keeping on
- **ACOs:** State funded certificate in trauma-informed care offered free of charge, online, asynchronous
- **Trauma informed care trainings** for staff
- **Cultural protocol** to be developed for staff onboarding and support
- **Scholarship fundraising** for Pell non-eligible  
<https://giving.uhfoundation.org/funds/13015504>
- New **sites** and **mentoring** other UH colleges





# Mahalo!

<https://giving.uhfoundation.org/funds/13015504>

windward.hawaii.edu



# Questions, Comments, Feedback

