



Aloha mai kākou!

A large part of the college-going experience is face-to-face interactions with professors and peers. Indeed, it is through these exchanges that students make life-long friendships as they deepen their knowledge and strengthen their skills. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, however, we have moved these experiences to virtual/online platforms. Hence, we have had to prioritize virtual social interactions that both strengthen overall student academic success and support online relations/communications. While there isn't a one-size-fits-all approach to address the magnitude of the work, the champions of the effort have been our distance education specialists, IT assistants, and our faculty!

In this quarter's Kūkulu Kaiāulu Hō'ike Hapahā Makahiki (Quarterly Impact Report) Winter 2021, we present examples of our efforts. For example, we highlight professors Katie Landgraf and Franklin Kudo's innovative Synchronous Online Studio (SOS), which shows how an online experience can have an "in-person" feel. And we recognize the efforts of our Distance Education Office for their attention to providing the tools and resources needed by our faculty and support staff to ensure learning excellence. I know that our campus value principles and value proposition, our mission and vision, and our theory of distinctiveness drive the work we do. The key to our success over these challenging times is the quality of instruction from our faculty, instructors, and support staff!

We hope that this issue of our quarterly report inspires you to think of how you might become more active in supporting UH West O'ahu's community of diverse learners!

E mālama pono!

Maenette K.P. Ah Nee-Benham
Chancellor, UH West O'ahu

Winter 2021

Kūkulu Kaiāulu *Building Community*

Hō'ike Hapahā Makahiki

Quarterly Impact Report



IT Media/Audio Visual Specialist Jarrett Lucero records Assistant Professor in Accounting Katie Landgraf as her students watch via Zoom during one of her classes in UH West O'ahu's new Synchronous Online Studio.



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Technology assists with bridging distance learning gap

UH West O'ahu student Joshua Bateman appreciates the in-person feel of his online class.

"Without her instruction in the SOS, this class would be much more difficult," said Bateman, a marketing major commenting on Katie Landgraf's intermediate financial accounting course.

The "SOS" Bateman is referring to is a new Synchronous Online Studio, the result of an effort to provide positive learning experiences in the shift to online instruction because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Accounting professor Franklin T. Kudo and assistant accounting professor Landgraf came up with the idea for the SOS during the summer, and created it with the help of Information Technology director Therese Nakadomari. It was one of numerous efforts the campus undertook to service students in the transition to online learning.

"We both not only enjoy in-person classes, but felt we needed to do more to engage and motivate our online students," Kudo said.

The SOS is designed for IT-assisted broadcasting and includes a camera manned by an IT technician, a whiteboard with a Kaptive capture device that allows faculty to record what they write on the whiteboard, and a 75-inch monitor.

"I miss being in the classroom, so this studio really gives me and the students the in-person feel we all long for," Landgraf said.

A second studio designed for instructor-driven broadcasting includes a Meeting Owl Pro (a 360-degree smart conferencing camera) and a whiteboard with Kaptive.

Assistant Professor in Accounting Katie Landgraf in UH West O'ahu's new Synchronous Online Studio.



Marvin Jake De Peralta is a student at the University of Hawai'i-West O'ahu and resident of Kilauea, Kaua'i. Image courtesy of Marvin Jake De Peralta

Distance Education a part of UH West O'ahu "identity"

UH West O'ahu has been a distance education leader among the 10-campus UH System since its opening in the '70s. Through the recent shift to majority online learning following the COVID-19 pandemic, it leveraged existing distance-learning infrastructure to its advantage.

"Distance learning has been a part of UH West O'ahu's identity since the campus first opened," said Gloria Niles, director of distance education at UH West O'ahu. "Distance education programs originally began for the purpose of serving neighbor island students."

From his home in Kilauea, Kaua'i, Marvin Jake De Peralta has adjusted to taking courses at UH West O'ahu.

"In the beginning, distance learning can be tough and overwhelming," said De Peralta, who is pursuing a Bachelor of Arts in Social Sciences with a concentration in Psychology. "Overall, UH West O'ahu has made me feel supported through this distance-learning journey."

"Consistent registration in online course sections demonstrates that distance modes of delivery are popular for many students located on O'ahu as well," explained Niles. "While the COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated advancement in online learning, the faculty have worked diligently to continually improve the digital learning experience for students. The Office of Distance Learning is looking forward to leveraging these efforts to ensure that in the post-pandemic era, UH West O'ahu is well prepared to implement what UH President David Lassner referred to as, 'a healthy mix of in-person, hybrid, and online instruction.' "

Read the full version of both stories at westoahu.hawaii.edu/kaloinews