Kapi'olani Community College is an Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution

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KCC STEM PROGRAM MISSION

To provide KCC Students with workforce skills and transfer opportunities in Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM).

To Provide STEM students with:

- A sense of place on campus
- A clear academic goal
- Funding opportunities.

“Kūlia i ka nu'u”
Strive for the Highest
THE STEM PATHWAYS

STEM offers students four content pathways in which to focus their learning as they pursue their degrees. These pathways serve as a focal point for faculty and student interactions, as well as providing students with field experiences, community service and research opportunities.

Biotechnology and molecular science pathway
Students may receive a certificate in biotechnology along with undergraduate research opportunities. Courses include immunology and protein chemistry, molecular biology, cell biology and tissue culture.

Physiology and human behavior pathway
Courses in nutritional health, exercise and sports science, as well as behavior modification and sleep science lead to opportunities to participate in undergraduate research and internships in biomedical sciences.

Space science and engineering pathway
First-year and second-year civil, electrical and mechanical engineering courses prepare students for transfer into the UH-Mānoa College of Engineering. Ala Wai watershed ecology pathway. Courses in biology, botany, ecology, marine science and zoology focus on the watershed in and around Waikīkī.

THE STEM PROGRAM

The goal of the STEM program is to enhance the quality of the science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) instructional and outreach programs at Kapi‘olani Community College, as well as to increase the number of STEM students transferring to four-year degree programs as they prepare for careers in the STEM disciplines.

The program was started in August 2005 with a $1.25 million Tribal Colleges and Universities Program (TCUP) grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) for the development and implementation of the STEM program. Although the original TCUP grant expired in July of 2010, a second TCUP grant was awarded to the STEM Program and will provide approximately $450,000 annually through 2015.

Additionally, several other grants, such as the Science Talent Enrichment Program (STEP) and the Pre-Engineering Education Collaborative (PEEC), have been awarded to the STEM Program and will be used to fund various STEM student activities including undergraduate research, scholarships, and summer programs.

The Kapi‘olani Community College STEM Summer Bridge is an intensive 3 or 6 week program that brings together high school students, college students, peer mentors, and college faculty to help students prepare for the rigors of college math and science. The program runs Monday-Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., which includes math preparation classes and collaborative study sessions. Each afternoon students work on a STEM project such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) “Sea Perch” underwater robot (shown here). After completion of the KCC Summer Bridge Program, participants may be eligible for a $1200 per semester STEM Research Internship or a $3000 per semester Peer Mentorship upon enrollment at KCC.

THE STEM CENTER

The STEM Center, located on the second floor of the Koki‘o building, provides a unique collaborative space where students and faculty can have easy access to one another. Faculty office doors purposefully open inward to the center’s common areas. The desk modules were designed for collaborative learning and can easily be reconfigured to accommodate alternative learning environments. The Center offers peer mentoring services, tutoring, tablet PC and desktop computer support, and educational resources for all STEM Students. The Stem Center is open to all KapCC students daily, including evenings and weekends.

THE ASNS DEGREE PROGRAM

The 60 credit Associates in Science in Natural Science (ASNS) degree with concentration in either Life Science or in Physical Science is designed to prepare STEM students to transfer to four-year institutions. The ASNS degree provides targeted advising and appropriate course sequencing for efficient transfer of our STEM students. The degree will be the endpoint for students who move through the curricular pathways that include undergraduate research opportunities that draw on the College’s strengths in faculty and resources.