To significantly increase the participation of Individuals with Disabilities in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in postsecondary education programs and the STEM workforce in Hawai‘i.

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The Pacific Alliance High School Session within the Pac Rim Conference

On April 30, 2013, the Pacific Alliance invited high school students from the campuses of O’ahu high schools, on which we hold sessions in, to be a part of our high school session at the Pacific Rim International Conference on Disability and Diversity. This session was host to 59 students and 20 teachers/faculty/parents, 4 speakers and a College STEM Resource Fair.

This day-long opportunity gave students the chance to hear staff from the across University of Hawai’i system, along with Pacific Alliance partners. These mini-sessions covered topics from forensics, physics, engineering, and math. This high school session was done with the help of the Pacific Alliance interns, Kelly Agsana, Micah Angeles, Cecilia Lozoya, and Anthony Scimone. Keynote Speaker Kealoha also opened up the day with original slam poetry to get the students motivated and moved, and opened their minds up to different ways of thinking about STEM.

High School Sessions and Student Evaluation Comments

The Mysterious Death of Penelope Picklesmier*: Learning Molecular and Cell Biology and Utilizing Evidence and Forensic Techniques to Solve a Mystery
Cherie Luckhurst and Lisa Uyehara | Participants will solve the mysterious death of Penelope Picklesmier through learning how lead, arsenic, and mercury affect the human body. Student participants will be provided information, different clues, and PowerPoint presentations, in order to solve the mystery.

“It’s important to know science elements if you want to go into criminology.”

Chemistry is Cool and Physics is Phun
Michael Reese and Roger Kwok | Participants will be introduced to science concepts through interactive chemistry and physics demonstrations. Hands-on activities

“I learned how chemistry affects our world and how things react with each other.”

Simple Circuits
Stephen Kpw and Ken Kajihara | This is a hands-on and interactive presentation of basic DC (direct current) electrical circuits using inexpensive components. The activities will underscore the importance of electronics in STEM careers.

“How electricity power works when you have to go through a circuit.”

You Got Skills: Combine Math with Driving to Beat Honolulu Traffic
Alexandra Lau | If you have ever driven into Honolulu at about 4:00pm, then you know that traffic on the H-1 is brutal. But if you don't know the side streets, chances are that you are gonna stay on the freeway. Is it faster to stay on the freeway? Is it better to learn the side streets? In this session, we’ll explore how mathematicians look at traffic as a problem with solutions.

“I learned on maps that there are lots of paths.”

Jerrik Feliciano has a BS in Mathematics degree and is currently working on obtaining his Masters degree in Mathematics at University of Hawai‘i at Manoa. The field of study that he is focusing on writing his thesis on is in number theory and modular forms. Jerrik is a Graduate Assistant on the Path Ways to Stem Project and the Ka Pilina: AIM Together project.

Michael Reese has taught chemistry for over 20 years, the last 17 years at Leeward Community College. Her serves as the Chemistry Discipline Coordinator and is involved in numerous programs serving underrepresented minority students in the sciences.

Roger Kwok has taught Chemistry, Physic, Science course for more than 20 years. He is well known for his hands-on demonstrations, laboratories and teaching tools.
Pacific Alliance Internship Winter 2013 Participants

Mike Denis  School has always been challenging, yet something I wanted to pursue even though I didn’t have much support. Educators always told me that school was something that wasn’t for me, and I felt challenged because my teachers didn’t support my learning style. I met Steve Brown, a part of the Pacific Alliance team, at a random Windward Community College function, and I was able to learn about the Pacific Alliance program and what it has to offer. After becoming a Pac Alliance participant, I gained newfound confidence that helped me to push forward and feel more comfortable with school and work to reach my educational goals. It also gave me the confidence that I lacked because I didn’t have any support, previously.

Now that I am an intern, though challenging with my busy schedule, I feel like it is taking me to another level in my schooling and organizational skills. I have met new people through Pacific Alliance, individuals who have similar interests and I have been able to reach out and connect with them. I have also learned to promote my interests and the Pacific Alliance program; I have developed skills to coordinate with others on campus and in the educational community. I am excited about where I am at and where I am going with my new goals and opportunities.

Aaron Fu  I enjoy Pacific Alliance. We get to meet different people with disabilities and do different activities. Pacific Alliance also holds different classes during the summer to help us develop our math or reading skills. Because of Pacific Alliance, I now can have more experiences, and I will have an easier time with schoolwork. With Pacific Alliance, I will be able to gain new experiences. I would love to gain new experiences dealing with conservation. As part of the internship program, I am also responsible to help find events and scholarships for Pacific Alliance members to attend and apply to. I hope that this internship will help me further develop my time management skills and communication skills. I could use both of my skills for my future as a zoo owner, which I am working to start up.

Keshave Kaipaka  I know through my experience in the Pacific Alliance Internship I will be rewarded with several different exciting opportunities. So far this internship has been challenging and fun. I hope to collaborate with my superiors and other interns to help spread the word of Pacific Alliance and what they offer. Pacific Alliance has helped me to achieve some of my academic and educational goals and I hope through this internship that I can help others achieve their goals in STEM fields as well. I specifically would like to experience working in a team so that I may understand what it’s like to collaborate with others for a single unified mission.
Pacific Alliance held their 2\textsuperscript{nd} annual Summer Math & Reading Camp offering two week-long sessions – one week-long session in June and the other in July! This camp was geared to help college freshmen prepare for the Compass Exam (a placement exam for new students entering into local community colleges). Pacific Alliance camp participants learned basic math skills up to elementary algebra concepts, and the Kurzweil 3000 assistive technology software reading program in addition to reading comprehension strategies.