

CONCERNING THIS ISSUE

Ten years ago Governor John A. Burns signed into law the bill creating the community colleges of Hawaii. The growing success of community colleges in other states at that time provided an encouraging background to the signing of the bill, but no one anticipated the explosive growth and success these colleges would achieve in Hawaii in the subsequent decade. Today, seven community colleges on the four major islands of the State serve approximately 15,700 students. Young people, middle-aged adults, and elderly citizens, who ten years ago never dreamt of attending college, find themselves enrolled in various degree and non-degree programs, vocational and technical courses, liberal arts classes, and leisure time activities, at the community colleges. In a world demanding egalitarian educational opportunities, the community colleges of Hawaii became "the people's colleges."

Through its graduate program for prospective and experienced community college faculty, the College of Education at the University of Hawaii has provided trained staff in both liberal arts and vocational-technical areas for every community college in the State, American Samoa and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. The College of Education is proud to commemorate the tenth anniversary of Hawaii's community colleges by bringing together articles by both national and state leaders and educators in this issue of *Educational Perspectives*.

Edmund A. Gleazer, Jr., the President of the American Association of Community and Junior Colleges, explores some areas of society which the colleges must begin serving in the future. University of Hawaii President Harlan Cleveland writes from his perspective as the educator who provided the leadership for the community colleges' phenomenal growth of the past five years. Richard H. Kosaki, the first University of Hawaii Vice President for Community Colleges, describes the early development of the colleges. Ralph M. Miwa, Provost of Leeward Community College, examines the colleges today, and State Senator Francis A. Wong, Chairman

of the Senate Committee on Higher Education and national board member of the AACJC, projects the future of the community colleges. The predecessors of Hawaii's community colleges were vocational and technical schools: Samson S. Shigetomi, the State Director for Vocational Education, and UH professor Lawrence F.H. Zane collaborate to analyze vocational education in the colleges today; Herbert P. Halberg discusses humanizing vocational education. Finally Honolulu Community College faculty member Barbara Peterson and UH professor John Baker review the efforts of the colleges to serve Hawaii's disadvantaged students.

Less material is published on the topic of community colleges and their programs because faculty members in those institutions specialize in outstanding teaching rather than research and publications. This issue of the journal is one step in giving the community colleges the written recognition they so justly deserve.

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