

Aloha. Eight minutes is not enough time to describe all of the nuances of our statewide articulated programs of study. First, though, we do have STATEWIDE dual credit articulated program of study agreements that allow high school students who successfully complete a particular program of study and all requisite assessments to receive free community college credit. These students earn the dual credit in courses taught by high school teachers in their high schools. All of our statewide agreements include all high schools and all community colleges offering the articulated program of study.

These agreements would not have happened if we had not developed a dual credit articulated program of study procedures and guidelines document and had it approved by a statewide council. Our procedures and guidelines were approved by the statewide Coordinating Advisory Council for CTE that includes three members each from the Board of Education, the Workforce Development Council, and the U of H Board of Regents which encompasses our university and community college system.

As with any project, we've experienced some unplanned outcomes. For example, the chairperson of the Hawaii State Board of Education surprised us by introducing policy that would include a special recognition on high school diplomas of students who complete CTE programs of study at specified levels of mastery—sort of an honors recognition. This may sound trivial but there are no other special recognitions on diplomas in Hawaii. This policy will go into effect next year.

We attribute our successes to the very strong involvement of our business and industry partners in our Career Pathway System. That partnership begins with our Pathway Advisory Councils (PACs). Each of the six pathways in our Career Pathway System has a statewide PAC composed of a majority of business and industry representatives and 2 to 4 representatives total from secondary and postsecondary education.

Our PAC members are actively involved in all aspects of our program of study development efforts. Because of their very active involvement, our PAC members are well-versed in the language of standards, assessments, articulation—you name it. This is a huge advantage because they understand the intricacies of the program and they can “speak the language” when they advocate for our Career Pathway System.

The active involvement of business and industry in our standards development has resulted in standards that are rigorous and truly prepare students to succeed in an occupation or, for those students who earn dual credit, to succeed in advanced placement in postsecondary CTE programs. Of course, having high standards is just the first step. Assessment of student mastery of the standards is another crucial element. Our assessments, like our standards, are statewide and approved by our PACs.

We have turned our performance-based assessments into a statewide competition that generates great publicity. Business and industry provides enormous support for the event: everything from monetary donations to serving as judges. Rather than talk about this event, I would like to show you a piecemeal very drafty DVD that is an attempt to give an overview of just a little bit of what is involved in the two-day performance-based assessment competition.

As I said, this is a drafty draft—but I hope it was enough to entice you to come to our competition next year and see for yourself what rigorous programs of study can do for your CTE system.