

KAI ULU

HPU Alumni Currents

A message from Acting Senior Vice President and Provost Brenda Jensen:

As we kick off the new academic year, I am thrilled to share the exciting developments at the College of Natural and Computational Sciences (CNCS) as HPU continues to push boundaries in innovation and growth. This fall, we're opening the state-of-the-art Downtown Science Labs in Fort Street Mall, featuring new biology, chemistry, and environmental science teaching labs, as well as research labs for natural sciences, biomedical engineering and biotechnology engineering.

Additionally, our enhanced engineering facilities at Waterfront Plaza now house a biomechanics lab, bolstering biomedical research. These upgrades advance our research capabilities and foster interdisciplinary collaboration, crucial for solving today's scientific challenges.



Brenda Jensen, Ph.D.
Acting Senior Vice President and
Provost at Hawai'i Pacific University

[Full Message](#)

Hawai'i Pacific University Receives \$1.2 Million for STEM Education Scholarships

Written by: Gregory Fischbach



who are passionate about teaching STEM subjects to make a difference in

Hawai'i Pacific University (HPU) has been awarded a \$1.2 million grant from the National Science Foundation's Noyce Teacher Scholarship Program. This support will enable students in HPU's College of Natural and Computational Sciences (CNCS)

THE CURRENTS

[HPU Team Moves One Step Further to Develop Drug to Treat Brain Injury in Newborns](#)

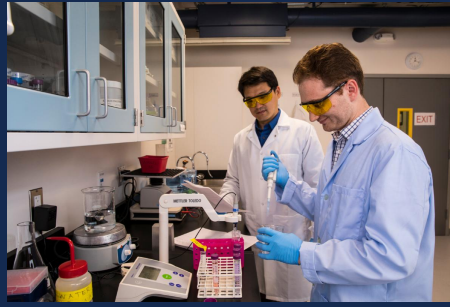
[HPU's Physician Assistant \(PA\) Program Granted Accreditation-Provisional Status](#)

[Military Campus Programs Student](#)

underrepresented and high-need schools across the country.

on His Journey to HPU

We are extremely grateful for this grant and our vibrant partnership with the Hawai'i Department of Education that makes this program possible. The Noyce scholarship funds will allow us to expand our recruitment and preparation of talented STEM educators who can inspire the next generation of scientists and innovators, thereby positively benefiting our local communities for years to come," said HPU Senior Vice President of Strategic Initiatives and Chief Strategy Officer Jennifer Walsh, Ph.D




[Learn More](#)

National Science Foundation (NSF)
Honors Marine Science Graduate
Student

Alumni Spotlight: Caitlyn Ogbaekwe

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THE CURRENTS



HPU Team Moves One Step Further to Develop Drug to Treat Brain Injury in Newborns

HPU Professor of Chemistry David Horgen, Ph.D., and four alumni published research progress identifying compounds in the Hawaiian soft coral *Sarcothelia edmondsoni* that can block a specific ion channel in brain cells. The National



HPU's Physician Assistant (PA) Program Granted Accreditation-Provisional Status

The HPU Master of Medical Science PA Program, the first and only program delivered out of a Hawai'i institution, will welcome its inaugural student cohort in January 2025

a specific ion channel in brain cells. The National Institute of Neurological Disorders in Stroke awarded a 2023 grant to HPU and its research partners, and Horgen is the co-principal investigator and project coordinator.

[Learn More](#)



Military Campus Programs Student on His Journey to HPU

Originally from California, Corporal Caden Villegas, a military police officer dog handler based at Marine Corps Base Hawai'i in Kaneohe, is near completing his associate degree and plans for a bachelor's degree in criminal justice.

[Click Here](#)

The Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant has granted the program accreditation-provisional status.

[More Info](#)



National Science Foundation (NSF) Honors Marine Science Graduate Student

Sophi Samus received an honorable mention from the highly competitive NSF Graduate Research Fellowship Program. Originally from Texas, Samus researches the blackfoot 'opihi, a marine gastropod mollusk endemic to Hawai'i.

[More Info](#)

ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

HPU ALUMNA CAITLYN OGBAEKWE
'23

Alumni Involvement

The HPU alumni 'ohana is worldwide, all opportunities are available in-person or virtually. We

encourage you to consider how you can contribute your time and talents to support our students. Your involvement can have a lasting impact on student personal and professional growth.

HPU Connect

HPU Connect makes it easy to get in touch with fellow alumni and support current students. Every HPU member adds value and prestige to our community.

[Sign Up Today!](#)

Career Connections

Networking, mentorship opportunity, and continued involvement with the HPU campus.

Upcoming Events:

[Alumni Learning Consortium](#)

Turning Anxiety Into a Blessing: How to Use Anxiety to Thrive

David H. Rosmarin

Tuesday, September 10, at 9AM (PDT)

[Sign Up!](#)

Strategies for Leading Through Inevitable Setbacks

Amy Shoenthal

Wednesday, September 19, at 9AM (PDT)

[Sign Up!](#)

Stay Connected with Us:



Discover how HPU alumna Caitlyn Ogbaekwe transformed her life from aspiring vocalist to marine science lecturer. After a childhood in Pittsburgh's performing arts scene, Caitlyn's unexpected interest in oceanography led her to HPU, where she thrived through the concurrent registration program, earning both her bachelor's and master's degrees. Now a dedicated lecturer and mentor, Caitlyn shares her passion for marine science with students aboard the University's research vessel, The Kaholo. Click to read about her inspiring journey, her role in shaping the future of marine science, and how she's making waves at HPU.

[Full Article](#)

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