

Chaminade University Economic Education Center for Excellence (EECE)

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EECE Director & Associate Professor of Economics
Sector Strategies and Career Pathways Committee Meeting
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Common Goal: Community First



Chaminade University offers its students an education in a collaborative learning environment that prepares them for life, service and successful careers.

 Ranked #29 in Top Performers on Social Mobility in 2023 (U.S. News & World Report College Rankings).

The Sector Strategies and Career Pathways Committee's goals are:

- Identify best practices and sector strategies that result in meaningful work, and
- Prepare an educated and skilled workforce.

Common Ground: Community Needs



44% of Hawai'i households are struggling financially¹. → Improving employment opportunities (higher productivity/higher-compensation) is necessary for our community.

69% of Hawai'i residents are considered financially unhealthy². → Education on financial

literacy is essential for the current workforce.

25 (23) states nationwide require high school students to take a course in economics (personal finance) to graduate. Unfortunately, Hawai'i is not one of them³. → Financial literacy education is critical for the future workforce.

References: 1. 2022 ALICE in Hawaii Report. 2. Financial Health Network 2020 Financial Health Pulse. 3. National Council of Economics Education 2022 Survey of the States.

Who We Are



Launched in April 2021, Chaminade University Economic Education Center for Excellence (EECE) is dedicated to supporting our community's needs with a mission to advances prosperity and economic justice in Hawai'i and the US-affiliated Pacific through integrated economic education, training, and research.

We believe financial health allows people to become more resilient over time and empowers them to pursue better future opportunities.

What We Do

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Teacher Training Program

- Equipped 46 teachers from 22 Hawai'i K-12 schools (45% Title I schools) to teach economics and personal finance at their grade levels since 2022.
- Training the trainers (multiplier effect)

Educational Enrichment Program

- Foster healthy relationships with money
- Grow K-12 students to become financially responsible adults who will contribute to Hawai'i's resilient, vibrant future economy.



See <u>EECE Website</u> for more information and program reports.

Our Aims: Achieving Financial Health Together



Financial literacy programs for current and prospective employees (e.g., Adult Educators Training Program):

- 1) Healthy spending behaviors
- 2) Healthy saving habits
- 3) Managing debt
- 4) Planning for a resilient future



Financial knowledge → Financial health¹ → Better mental health and cognitive function²

→ Enhanced productivity and stable employment → Happy Employees and Employers

Thank You!

Questions and comments?
Please contact Dr. Guanlin Gao at guanlin.gao@chaminade.edu

