Get ready, prep, and go to college! Preparing Students for College Level Courses using EdReady and Cybermentors

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Abstract: For Hawaii’s students to be competitive nationally, there must be an increase in implementing college- and career-ready courses. The Online Learning Academy, an affiliate of UH, conducted an online pilot program in 2014 with the hopes of increasing the number of students qualifying for enrollment in college-level math courses. The pilot program included two components: EdReady, a little open online course (LOOC) platform and cybermentors. This session will present lessons from the pilot, based on program data and feedback surveys, as to whether the intended goal was met. Best practices for e-learning, college readiness preparation and online mentoring formed the foundation for this pilot program and will be discussed as part of the presentation. The presentation will also discuss future plans for implementing EdReady and cybermentoring to a wider audience.

Description: For Hawaii’s students to be competitive nationally, there must be an increase in implementing college- and career-ready courses. By the year 2018, 65% of all jobs available to Hawaii students will require some postsecondary training or education1. Partnerships among the State of Hawaii Department of Education (DOE) and the University of Hawaii (UH) are striving to prepare students for successful futures. More UH System students were enrolled in remedial or developmental math courses (36%) than college-level math courses (24%) in 20122. The Online Learning Academy, an affiliate of UH, conducted an online pilot program in 2014 with the hopes of increasing the number of students qualifying for enrollment in college-level math courses.

The pilot program included two components: little open online course (LOOC) platform and cybermentors. The LOOC, EdReady, was utilized to assess student math skills and deliver a personalized, self-paced study plan complete with interactive lessons (e.g., audio, video, presentations, simulations, practice problems and online textbook). Cybermentors, undergraduate academic tutors at UH, provided support via program progress tracking, academic coaching and mentoring. This session will present lessons from the pilot, based on program data and feedback surveys, as to whether the intended goal was met. Best practices for e-learning, college readiness preparation and online mentoring formed the foundation for this pilot program and will be discussed as part of the presentation. The presentation will also discuss future plans for implementing EdReady and cybermentoring to a wider audience.

1 Georgetown University Center on Education and the Workforce, https://georgetown.app.box.com/s/el19uvjv4m1rgdumj4a6
2 Additional report measures not available at the time of proposal submission.