

BYU-HAWAII AND POLYNESIAN CULTURAL CENTER: PARTNERS IN EDUCATION

Brigham Young University Hawaii, an undergraduate four-year college, is located in beautiful La'ie, Hawaii, on the north shore of the island of Oahu. Owned by The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, BYU-Hawaii is recognized as the top-ranked liberal arts college in the Chapter Four Western Region of United States by U.S. News & World Report.

Per capita, BYU-Hawaii is the most diverse campus in the United States. Forty-nine percent of the university's 2,400 students, represent over 70 different countries. Forty-four percent of those students come from Asia and the South Pacific. Because of the small student body, the student to teacher ratio is excellent: 15 to 1.

Return-ability, a coined phrase, encapsulates one of the main goals of a BYU-Hawaii education—to prepare and encourage students to return to and succeed in their homelands.

Rather than placing the sole responsibility for this task on the students, the university is an active partner in creating opportunities for students to find or develop meaningful employment in their home countries.

In 2006, BYU-Hawaii placed student interns in a variety of corporate and educational settings around the world including: Bangkok, Thailand; Guangzhou and Shenzhen, China; Hong Kong; Hamilton, New Zealand; and Manila, Philippines.

BYU-Hawaii is one of the world's most remarkable institutions—a place where students are offered a superb education that is filled with rich spiritual and cultural experiences.

Adjacent to the BYU-Hawaii campus is the Polynesian Cultural Center (PCC), which provides students the opportunity to gain internship-quality experience while working in the scope of the Center's very successful enterprise.

The PCC International Work-Study Internship program for BYU-Hawaii students is currently assisting hundreds of students who might otherwise not have the means to obtain a university education. Students in this program are able to study at BYU-Hawaii and then in the "living laboratory" of the PCC, apply in a meaningful way what they are learning in the classroom.

The partnership of BYU-Hawaii and the Polynesian Cultural Center might be likened to a double-hulled voyaging canoe in that both institutions are "equally yoked" in the spirit of faith and sacrifice. Close in proximity, they are also joined at the heart spiritually.

Together they provide an educational experience that is unique in all the world in preparing students to fulfill the prophetic mandate of the university's founder, David O. McKay, to establish peace internationally and become leaders who cannot be bought or sold—"Genuine Gold."



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