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## News Release

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### **ECMC Foundation and Leeward Community College GEAR UP Project sponsor “Realizing the College Dream” curriculum guide trainings for education professionals**

More than 175 Hawaiian college professionals, and high school counselors and educators attended a full-day training session on ECMC Foundation’s college access curriculum, “Realizing the College Dream.” The GEAR UP Project from Leeward Community College partnered with ECMC Foundation on the Nov. 30, training session at the Okinawa Center in Waipio, Hawaii. Developed for middle and high school students and their parents, the guide conveys the value of higher education and demystifies the process for first-generation college-going students. Some representative comments from the participants about this interactive training include:

“I am a first-generation college student. I wish this was available or promoted when I was at high school.”

“Excellent! Your manual is definitely something our school can use.”

“Handbook is excellent and easily shared. I’ll use it with our guidance classes.”

“I’ve been to a lot of workshops but I must say this was a super one.”

“I like the tools given to us so that we might remind youth that dreams can come true.”

“Making financial aid information basic and easy to understand.”

“The whole day was a wonderful experience.”

Peter Quigley, chancellor of Leeward Community College, opened the session and welcomed all attendees, and Jennifer Lea Wise, ECMC Foundation president, set the stage for the day’s events. Attendees participated in a full-day, interactive session on how to use the guide to promote higher education for low-income, first-generation college-going students. The trainings were led by: Johnnie Hill-Marsh, director, Upward Bound, LeMoyné College; Steven Baumann, director, Learning Resources, University of Utah School of Medicine; Rebecca Dukstein, associate director, Educational Talent Search, University of Kansas; Drey Kharem, director, Student Support Services Program, Penn State Multicultural Resource Center; and Adeluisa G. Judal, consultant, trainer, 10-year Federal TRIO Programs veteran, and Northwest Association of Special Programs (NASP) past president.

(more)

Sponsored by ECMC Foundation and developed by the University of California, Berkeley's Center for Educational Outreach, "Realizing the College Dream" includes 10 lessons and workshops that can be used in a variety of settings (classroom, after-school, and faith- and community-based organizations), and are geared for youth in middle school and high school as well as parents, family members, community college students, and other adult learners. Instructional strategies are hands-on and interactive, and the lessons are aligned with national curriculum standards in writing, mathematics, social studies, and technology.

The primary content of the guide is divided into three sections:

- Thinking of Yourself as a College-Bound Student: Lessons and Workshops for Students
- Debunking the Myth that "You Can't Afford College:" Lessons and Workshops for Students
- Getting Involved and Staying Involved: Workshops and Presentations for Families of College-Bound Youth (available in both English and Spanish)

The "Realizing the College Dream" curriculum guide can be downloaded in its entirety from the ECMC Foundation Web site at [www.ecmcfoundation.org](http://www.ecmcfoundation.org).

ECMC Foundation will pay for trainings of 100 plus high school counselors and/or college access professionals. If your school or organization is interested in scheduling a training, please contact March Kessler at 866.FDN.ECMC or [mkessler@ecmc.org](mailto:mkessler@ecmc.org).

#### **About ECMC Foundation**

ECMC Foundation, an ECMC Group company, helps underserved and disadvantaged populations further their educational goals. Through innovative outreach programs, we convey to students the importance of completing high school, and continue our mission by developing and distributing programs that focus on college access, retention, and success. ECMC Foundation partners with government agencies, educational institutions, and other foundations to make the dream of higher education a reality. ECMC Foundation's affiliate, Educational Credit Management Corporation (ECMC), also serves the higher education industry as the designated Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) student loan guarantor for the Commonwealth of Virginia and state of Oregon. For more program and service information, visit [www.ecmcfoundation.org](http://www.ecmcfoundation.org) and [www.ecmc.org](http://www.ecmc.org).

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