

## HAPERD Scholarship 2019-20 Recipients

It is with great pleasure that HAPERD has awarded three scholarships for the 2019-20 school year. These scholarships are awarded to candidates interested in teaching health, physical education and dance. College applicants receive \$1250 and high school seniors receive \$750. Congratulations to this year's recipients. If you know of anyone interested in applying for the HAPERD Scholarship, applications for the 2020-2021 school year will be posted soon.



### **Nahale Brash**

Nahale graduated from Kaimuki High School in 2019 and is currently attending the University of Hawaii - Hilo campus majoring in dance. Nahale's long-term goal is to return to his hometown of Waianae to inspire passion to the youth through dance. He would like to use his education to create a dance studio for the youth that will be a safe, open and comfortable place for all types for children and teens. He knows through his experiences that dance can be an amazing outlet especially for troubled teens. Dance can be used to channel their emotions and express themselves while learning skills and techniques that can provide opportunities to improve their mental and physical well beings. His greatest desire is to "give a positive alternative to those who are susceptible to going off track." He believes that having an outlet for their passion can make a substantial difference.

Chelsey Nakashima, Kaimuki High School Counselor described Nahale as a charismatic and community oriented young man. He was an Academy Ambassador who's role is to be the face of the academy by providing tours and talking about what's going on in the different learning communities at Kaimuki High School. He is open to all abilities and choreographs and teaches dance to all student in the dance club.

Mindy Westernhaver, Kaimuki High School English teacher say's Nahale was academically sound, well rounded, optimistic and inspirational to all who knows him. In class, he actively engaged in class discussions and puts forth his greatest efforts on assignments. His well-rounded personality and being the president of the Dance Club and an Entertainment Academy Ambassador are examples of his wholehearted and zealous commitment to any activity that he participated in. He has been an inspiration to all as he has included students with special needs in the Dance club's routines shared at school assemblies with genuine kindness and patience. He has a heart of gold. He possesses the leadership ability, athletic prowess, and compassion with which to teach dance in a school setting.



### **Reina Yamashita**

Reina graduated from Kaiser High School with Academic honors and was the class Valedictorian in 2018. She was awarded an Academic Merit Scholarship to the University of Hawaii at Manoa. She grew up dancing ballet and has become a level 5 Student Teacher at the Hawaii State Ballet since November 2016. She currently attends the University of Hawaii - Manoa as a sophomore majoring in Dance.

She aspires to be a ballet teacher that is able to provide the knowledge and support needed to create strong dancers by incorporating an understanding of anatomy and safe ways to move. As a teacher, she enjoys the opportunity to share her passion for dance.

It is her hope that the knowledge she gains through her degrees in dance and physical education will help her teach her students which muscles to use by knowing their bodies and understanding

how to achieve aesthetic techniques as well as knowing what movements could cause injury.

Associate professor Amy Schiffner in the University of Hawaii - Department of Theater and Dance says Reina is passionate about teaching and sharing her love for dance and kinesiology. As a freshman, she was placed in the advance performance group due to her incredible talent and skills as a dancer and movement practitioner. She is skilled at engaging others in meaningful learning activities and being responsive to individual needs. She has a very bright and successful career of teaching ahead of her.

Carrie Siko from Hawaii State Ballet says from a young age Reina has expressed her desire not to be a ballerina but rather a ballet teacher. She is able to analyze and think things out before acting. As a young teacher, she provides thoughtful feedback during class by giving detailed corrections and offers suggestion on how to correct a problem. She pays attention to the minute details that are required to improve performance. It is her passion and love for dance that has brought her to this point of wanting to be the best dance teacher she can be by pursuing degrees in dance and physical education.



**Holly M. Chung**, a 1983 graduate from Punahou is currently attending University of Hawaii Manoa as a Graduate student working on a Master's degree in Fine Arts in Dance. Here is a message from Holly.

Aloha kakou.

I would like to humbly express my gratitude for being awarded a HAHPERD Scholarship for the 2019 - 2020 school year. With the multitude of expenses that I have accumulated while attending Graduate School just in the first year, I am very grateful for your help and support.

It was a pleasure to get to meet some of you at the HAHPERD State Conference on Friday, April 26th, 2019. Thank you all for your kind words of support and encouragement.

My name is Holly Chung, and I have just completed my first year as a candidate for a Masters of Fine Arts degree from the University of Hawaii at Manoa's Department of Theatre and Dance. I am also a Graduate Assistant for the Department of Dance, teaching DANCE 131, Beginning Contemporary Dance, as part of my responsibilities towards the department. My areas of focus are education and choreography. My final thesis project will examine how being born and raised in Hawai'i affects and inspires my art.

I decided to return to school as an older adult who has not been in school for many years. I have been teaching dance and fitness throughout the State of Hawaii for over twenty-five years, with most of my experience being on the islands of O'ahu and Maui. Although most of my past experiences have been working at private studios, I have taught as part of the Artists in the Schools Program, as a teacher for the Kamehameha Schools Kapalama Summer School Academy of Performing Arts, as a substitute teacher at Mid-Pac, as a teacher for Very Special Arts, and as a fitness instructor at the Ritz-Carlton at Kapalua.

I am an original member of Tau Dance Theatre, an O'ahu based dance company that fuses the styles of ballet, modern, and hula, and that shares the stories of the people of Hawai'i and Oceania. I am currently one of the main faculty members for Tau Dance Theatre's Junior Dance Company, called Tau Y2, where I teach modern dance to pre-teen and teenaged dancers.

One of my main goals in returning to school is to become a better teacher.

In returning to school, I have also come to realize that my career as a dance artist, performer, and teacher did need to be refreshed. I have learned so much from my professors at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, and I am grateful for all that I have learned during this past year.

Through a scholarship provided by the University of Hawai'i, I was able to attend an intensive

DanceAbility Workshop with Alito Alessi during December 2019, where we were introduced to teaching dance and creative movement to people with various disabilities. Later, during this past Spring Semester, one of my dance professors, Peiling Kao, directed and choreographed an evening length's work entitled Integral Bodies to be performed on the Kennedy Theatre's mainstage. As part of this production, she brought back Alito Alessi as our guest artist for the semester. Through working with Alito and Peiling, some of us were given the opportunity to go through the rehearsal process and perform with some young adults from The Special Education Center of Hawaii (SECOH). It was a unique and refreshing experience that I would not have been able to experience if I had not been enrolled at the University of Hawai'i.

I have also been given opportunities to grow as an artist in other areas outside of dance, such as filming, editing, and creating videos; developing my acting skills with the students and professors of Theatre Department; and becoming involved with the Hawaiian Theatre division of the Theatre Department.

For the Fall Semester of 2019, I am looking forward to taking classes in Dance Kinesiology, Hawaiian Theatre, Advanced Choreography, Business for Dance, and Advanced Modern Dance Technique. I will have the opportunity to perform in the Hawaiian Theatre production to be performed on the Kennedy Theatre mainstage, entitled 'Au'a 'Ia: Holding On, in October. I will also be submitting my own choreography as part of the Fall Footholds (student choreography) Concert.