**Intro:**

Ladies and gentlemen boys and girls welcome to the class act that kawaii

Community College the show that highlights camp is happening that goes deeper with its professors and students so you can hear why this is where you want to be it's that time let's get it on

I've got the pleasure of sitting down

with is a professor doctor

I guess

technically technically I am assistant

professor Dressler

ok yes mr. Dressler I

just want to make sure that I get that

correct I never want to make that

mistake especially as a student well

professor dresser I want to take the

opportunity to sit here with you and I

want to say I appreciate you taking your

time to stay here with me because you

and I have seen each other a lot around

campus but we've never really had the

chance to get to know one another and

talk story so I know that you are a man

that wears quite a few

hats here at Kauai Community College

tell me about all the different things

that you do here sure so I do teach some courses for

about half of my load but I do a lot of

other things and one one of the things

that's new that we've been working on

that I like to share a little bit is we

started a food pantry on campus

back in January so it's called oh no may

I and it is located in the second floor

of the Campus Center above the cafeteria

okay and right now it's open two days a

week Mondays and Thursdays from noon to

1:00 but we are gonna be expanding those

hours and I think it's a really

important service because basically

anyone who's a student on campus if you

need some food you can come and take a

bag full of food home with you and you

know if we're the goal is to be open

every day of the week so that we can

provide that service because we know

that many of our students come in with a

lot of different needs it's definitely

hard to focus on writing an essay or

figuring out a math equation if you're

worried about what your family's going

to eat tonight

so I think things like that are really

important things that we're doing at the

campus and it's something that I've been

excited to be a part of well

congratulations on it because that's

been an incredible effort and I've been

very fortunate to actually see the

project in action and see students take

advantage of it who are really in need

and so it's hats off to you and all your

hard work for getting that started and

the team that you have because you guys

have a great team of people here at

Kauai Community College that is second

to none so that's a great program tell

me about the things within the classroom

tell me what subjects you teach because

I know during I believe the during that

I believe it's during the summer time

with along with the white Alitalia

project you teach a specific course that

they encourage new students to take can

you tell me about that course yes so the

core Chetty the course I teach in the

summer is called is 50

Summer Bridge so the is stands for

interdisciplinary studies okay so I

teach a couple of those ones the Summer

Bridge is specifically in the summer for

why Ali Ali students okay and during the

year I also offer an is 103 which is

open to all students and it's a semester

long course okay but both of them deal

with a lot of the same things it's sort

of to get students ready to do well in

school sort of my goal is to for

students to not just learn about but to

like copy the behaviors of good students

so like I can give you an example one of

my assignments is to take a selfie with

one of your instructors and it's really

simple because I know that if students

have a relationship with their

instructors they're more likely to talk

to them and ask questions and ask for

help if they need it and so just by

breaking down that bear cuz I mean we

live in kind of selfie culture now I was

born before cellphones so I was born and

raised in the pre cellphone age so it's

a little different for me but I know

ours young people often take selfies

with each other so use their phones all

kinds of ways so simply by assigning

them to get to know to kind of connect

with their other instructors a little

bit it helps to break down the those

barriers certainly because I think

people may come and they may be

intimidated at college they may not want

to talk to their professor it's a little

scary so I think what that does is kind

of break down the the barriers a little

bit sort of break the ice and get people

interacting with their instructors more

that's really really cool and actually

that course just from what I gather and

from the students that I know that have

taken it it is really truly a

foundational course as you said to be

able to engage with your professors and

just be able to engage peer to peer it's

a really important course and that is

offered every semester yeah it is

offered every semester so lately I've

been able to offer one courses semester

there's only one of me but I do offer it

every semester and also lately I've also

offered it as a writing intensive course

and that's helpful for students because

to earn an A a degree you are required

to get I think now it's two writing

intensive courses Wow and so this helps

to fulfill that graduation requirement

because I know it's hard to sell

students to take a course if it's not

going to you know move you concretely

towards your degree right so by

fulfilling a graduation requirement it

kind of gives a little motivation to

take it and it's a course that students

can take in their first

right away so and I actually if you feel

nervous about writing that would

actually be my top recommendation to

take that writing intensive in your

first semester because you'll get a lot

of experience and in my course we do a

lot of low stress writing kind of

journal writing I'm not gonna mark and

read all over your stuff right we're

just using writing as a way to learn

that's awesome

so take me through a successful day in

your class I mean if you can tell me

about whatever what a good day looks

like in your class on any given day mmm

yeah when you said what does a good good

day in the class look like I remember

once I had prepared this this lesson

plan where it was a kind of thing where

I would set it up and let students sort

of explore things on their own and I

remember hearing students say over and

over like wow this is really interesting

it says you know giving them little bits

of information on the topic and just

that's good whenever students can

actually get engaged because it's really

depressing as a teacher if you're in

front and no-one's engaged they're just

sitting there quietly you have no idea

if they're paying attention right so I

really I try to avoid lecture as much as

possible I mean sometimes it is a good

way to deliver information but as much

as possible I want my class to be not

focused on me but focused on each other

and right everyone doing a role not just

sitting and taking notes but you know

really actively thinking and actively

writing I like to make a lot of posters

in class to help bring out the sort of

artistic element and students but for me

a good day is when students are out of

their chairs as much as possible when

they're not daydreaming and sitting on

their cell phones that's really really

cool and actually if you think about it

that's actually quite different than

what you are probably used to in your

days as a student right oh absolutely

and I think that you know the more that

you can as an instructor engage your

students and allow them to be creative

on the different levels that just

creates even more opportunity for them

to grow as individuals so for you as an

instructor and a professor obviously

that must be a really rewarding feeling

to be able to see that you know unfold

on a daily basis yeah yeah and one thing

I noticed is that a lot of students come

to us with an idea of I'm just gonna sit

in my chair and not rock the boat I

don't want to talk too much you know I

think that's the mentality if you don't

cause any trouble you'll be okay whereas

I think you you learn best by making

mistakes and standing up and trying and

it's okay if you're wrong and it's

really really hard to get people over

that hump of realizing it's okay to make

a mistake because it doesn't have to be

embarrassing it's just part of the

learning process wow that's really cool

I love the insight here tell me about

your class sizes are they

massive are they quite small or what

kind of class sizes do we yeah the class

sizes here where I teach is a lot

different when we're I was an undergrad

because I would University of California

at Berkeley in California and one of my

first classes had about 6 or 700

students in it in a huge auditorium with

a lecture we're talking about a single a

single class six or 700 people both yeah

I think six or 700 people was like my

brother's waiting yeah I can't imagine

that being in one class as a student

myself Iroquois Community College I have

been very fortunate to be in class sizes

that I would say don't usually go too

far above maybe 20 yeah usually 20 is

the max for my courses and okay a lot of

times you'll have 10 or 15 students in

them yeah that's really really awesome

okay very cool so tell me about yourself

tell me about your journey to getting to

Kauai Community College okay I want to

hear this well it all started like I

said I was born and raised in California

and when I graduated from college I

really didn't know what I want to do so

I find it interesting being in a

community college now where were we seem

so intent on getting students you know

we have something called focus first I

really you know purpose first you know

where you should identify your career

goals we know when people are 18 years

old I'm like I had no idea my career

goals even when I was 25 so okay but

okay so we were talking about class

sizes or what we're talking about we'll

start again you tell me about yourself

in your journey

oh my getting too kawaii community

that's right that's right so I was a

graduated and I was working for Charles

Schwab the financial services and while

it was sort of interesting I could tell

I didn't really care that much about it

and so I talked to my co-workers who had

been there for about 10 or 15 years and

I said you know I'm thinking of moving

to Mexico to teach English or staying

here in every single one of them said

move to Mexico I said yeah that's kind

of a sign so I was young and single

didn't have any children so I packed up

and I moved to Mexico and I did training

to become an ESL teacher denim horn by

art so I did some traveling around the

world and as part of that process at one

point I found myself in Indonesia

hanging out for a long time I wasn't

working because I mean I think the

salaries were about 50 cents an hour so

I'd rather just sit on the beach if it's

going to be fifty cents now I agree and

I and I thought that was sort of an

epiphany that this is the sort of

lifestyle I want to cultivate and so I

got I had never been to Hawaii before I

realized that I enjoyed teaching so I

need to get a graduate degree so I found

the University of Hawaii and applied

from from Indonesia from the island of

Bali and they offered me a scholarship

and that sort of really changed things

for me I've been yeah and I still

remember clearly the first time that I

arrived in Hawaii so I arrived in

Honolulu Airport and you know I needed

to find a place to live I didn't have

any family or friends in so I was

staying at the the YMCA right across the

street from the home on a hotel okay I

checked in put my bags down and it was a

Friday and I walked out and sat down on

Ala Moana Beach and within five seconds

of sitting down the firework show

started and I think it felt like oh that

just feels like a welcome to me I didn't

know that every Friday at 6 or 7 o'clock

they do a firework show in Waikiki that

was just for you felt like it was just

for me to spin it that was in 2001 so

it's been 19 years since then since I

moved to Hawaii yeah I moved to Kauai

about 12 years ago and you have been at

Kauai Community College now how many

years / so I moved here in 2008 okay

so 12 years now right on well we are so

happy that you took the time to sit down

with us and in closing I want to just

give you the opportunity to touch on

anything that you may feel is important

that I didn't really bring out of you

for it so to speak and I also want to

give you an opportunity to encourage

anyone that may be a potential student

here at koi Community College may be

your thoughts on why Kauai Community

College is the best place to be and

maybe why a first time college student

would be benefiting by getting started

here Kauai Community College yeah I

would encourage anyone who has an

interest to to go ahead and apply and

speak with our admission staff and one

thing that I would a couple of reasons

why I think KCC is a really amazing

place one

affordability if you plan ahead and

apply for scholarships it's really very

doable to have your whole education paid

for through scholarships on financial

aid you don't need to bear yourself in

debt the way you might have to do if you

went somewhere else and another really

good feature is we talked about earlier

in this was our the small class sizes so

it's really easy to know your professors

and you can get a lot of extra help from

them

and especially if you are thinking about

you know pursuing your education farther

down the line like a bachelor's degree

or a master's degree or even later we

provide a really good foundation and

getting to know those professors you can

develop good relationships they can give

you recommendations for moving on very

very cool well from me to you thank you

so much for sitting down and talking

with me it's been a pleasure we need to

do this more often I think absolutely

all right Kay thank you very much

professor dresser thank you all right

thank you for listening to the class act

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