Our Speakers



Colette Higgins - Dean of Academic Affairs at Windward **Community College**

Colette Higgins - Dean of Academic Affairs at Windward Community College. Colette Higgins has been researching and presenting lectures on the life and legacy of Queen Kapiolani since 2002 emphasizing the queen's visit to Kalaupapa in 1884, and her journey to London in 1887. Colette appeared on the Jessica Lani Rich Show to discuss her journey on KWHE-TV (Channel 14) on August 6th. (view video)

Colette was born and raised in Hawaii, she grew up mostly in Kaimuki and now lives in Kaneohe. She is a graduate of St. Patrick School (1980) and Kaimuki High School (1984). In 1988, she received an AA in Liberal Arts from Kapiolani Community College (KCC), then transferred to UH Manoa where she earned a BA in History and Anthropology (1990), and an MA in History (1992). While attending UHM she was inducted into the Phi Beta Kappa Society (1990) and she was a recipient of an East West Center grant (1990-1992). Colette was a Professor of History at KCC where she taught Hawaiian History for nearly 20 years and for which she received the Frances Davis Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching (2002) and the UH Board of Regents' Excellence in Teaching Award (2007).

Colette has been on the Board of Directors for Pacific Historic Parks since 2011, served on the board of the Waikalua Loko Fishpond Preservation Society for four years (2011-2015), and has been a member of the St. Anthony of Padua School Board for the past year. She started serving as a Lector when she was 13 years old at the encouragement of her teachers at St. Patrick School and has been a Lector ever since. In addition to her ministry as a Lector, Colette and her husband Gary have served as Homebound Ministers for St. Anthony of Padua in Kailua for nearly 22 years.

Colette's travel blog can be found at InTheFootstepsOfKapiolani.wordpress.com.

For her curriculum vitae with more information, including links to various resources, go to: http://www2.hawaii.edu/~chiggins/aboutchiggins/resume.html

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