

WHAT IT TAKES TO SUCCEED

# LEARNING FOR LIFE

At EdVenture, you'll quickly discover that lifelong learning is more than just acquiring or refining a skill—it can also be a game changer.



*Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Educational Specialist, Sarah McLane Bryan, assists student Wakea Po on his final project in Ecosystem Management. UHMC is now offering its third semester of GIS in Ecosystem Management.*

Students of all ages and academic backgrounds can expand their personal and professional horizons through EdVenture's unique selection of continuing education, career training and professional development courses.

EdVenture is an educational gold mine, said UH Maui College Chancellor Lui Hokoana. "It's a tool of lifelong learning," he said. "There are innumerable opportunities for intellectual and personal growth."

Anne Ku, a UH Maui College lecturer and project director of the WiTTS (What it Takes to Succeed) television series, said EdVenture allows a continuum of choice for students who want to succeed, both in and out of the classroom.

"The short courses at EdVenture give a taste of a variety of disciplines—an experience not dissimilar to tasting wine before you purchase a crate," said Ku.



Anne Ku with her piano class at UHMC. Her Piano and Mandarin Chinese courses are available this fall at EdVenture



With condensed courses served in easily digestible bites at convenient days and times, students can learn the tools of a trade, brush up on their skills and network with experts in the community. As far as what's offered, the sky's the limit: EdVenture courses run the gamut from art and music to website design and real estate certification—and everything in between.

"It's a customized, student-centered approach to learning," Hokoana said. "It's also a 'real world' approach that sets students up for success in the classroom, at home and in the workplace."

Lifelong learning can also spark an interest in pursuing a new degree. Patty Stemmler started with continuing education classes, then decided it was time to earn her master's degree in Learning Design and Technology from UH Mānoa through the UH Center, Maui.

"Early on I found that I was curious and enjoyed learning new things—mostly for what I could do," said Stemmler. "If I wanted to explore something new, I would learn about it. That was fun to me, and the beginning of a new habit—lifelong learning. I have taken over 20 continuing education courses over many years to increase my computing and digital media skills as technology advanced, including all the Web Development Certification courses. I went from building upon my work in graphic design, to Web development, to creating multimedia, and finally to designing online instruction and learning materials."

Ku said continuing education inspired her to forge new pathways in her professional journey. "There's a saying that the one who learns the most in the classroom is the teacher," she said. "As a lifelong learner who is curious and passionate about learning,

I found my niche and now I'm teaching two subjects closest to my heart: piano and Chinese."

Lifelong learning is mentally invigorating—and in more ways than you might think. A recent MRI study in Sweden determined that learning a foreign language can, quite literally, increase the size of your brain. Research also suggests that learning to play a musical instrument can produce larger volumes in the motor and auditory regions of the brain. Similar studies show that mastering a new skill—such as art, writing or cooking—can boost brain power and improve your memory.

Neuroscience aside, lifelong learning can enhance your understanding of the world and lead to a more fulfilling life. "We tend to think of learning solely in the academic sense, but learning enriches our lives in so many ways," Hokoana said.

Lifelong learning stands on its own merits, but to get in on the action, you'll need to chart a course of action.

"I would like to see education as seamless and necessary as food to curb our hunger," Ku said. "There are many places to get food, but not for education. There is always a lead time, so you can't just show up when you're hungry for education. You have to plan ahead—on the other hand, by registering in advance for it, you also develop an appetite for learning."

Feeling hungry? Register for your EdVenture course at [EdVentureMaui.com](http://EdVentureMaui.com).

*To learn more about lifelong learning and what it takes to succeed, tune in to WiTTS TV on Saturdays and Sundays at 5, 5:30, 10 and 10:30 p.m. on Oceanic Cable Channel 354 or 27.55 or via MCTV. For more information about WiTTS, visit [maui.hawaii.edu/witts](http://maui.hawaii.edu/witts).*