Mid-Pacific Institute’s vision . . . 
making a difference in the world by embracing change 
with creativity, collaboration, critical thought, and global 
awareness, guided by moral and ethical values.
July, 2012

Dear Mid-Pacific Institute Family and Friends:

I am writing to let you know that I have decided to retire from Mid-Pacific Institute at the end of the 2012-2013 school year, which is my 17th year here and my 42nd in education. It has been a privilege for me to serve what was once known as “that quiet little school in Manoa.” As you might imagine, it is both poignant and agonizing to consider leaving a school with the educational vision and direction now present and a community so wonderfully unique and special with its blend of Aloha and ‘Ohana. There is nowhere else on earth but Hawaii where these two concepts come together to change one’s life. They have for me. Because of this, I am sad about leaving Hawaii, Mid-Pacific Institute, and all of you.

There is never a perfect time to leave a place you love, but thanks to the vision and guidance of our trustees, the leadership of our administrative staff, and the daily exemplary efforts of our faculty and staff, I know we rest on a solid foundation and one which supports a very bright future. I am honored to have worked with all of you and am appreciative of the trust you placed in me.

Today, I am filled with admiration for what we have created and accomplished: a school that has developed, implemented, and expanded programs expressly designed to meet the unique needs, talents, and gifts of our students. I know that if Mid-Pacific Institute were presented in a painting done by our students, parents, faculty and staff, it would be filled with joyful pictures of children actively creating knowledge and meaning, vibrant colors representing the diversity of our ‘Ohana, and the depth and breadth of our efforts to get better and be better at preparing those entrusted into our care. With Mid-Pacific’s leadership efforts in incorporating technology into its curriculum, this painting can and will effortlessly adapt and evolve as we keep pace with the ever-evolving educational scene.

In 1996 when I arrived, we struggled to have a thousand students in grades 7-12. Today, after the addition of a middle school, elementary school, and preschool, our enrollment is at an all-time high with waiting lists of families who feel confident in our achievements and in the vision that guides us. Our program offerings are extensive and exceptional and have led to standards that are admired throughout the country. The skills, knowledge, and abilities of faculty and staff are notable. Our students are filled with curiosity, energy, and spirit. They want to make a difference in the world!

Florence and I have enjoyed our years here. Everyone ~ trustees, alumni, parents, students, faculty, staff, and friends ~ contributed to making our time and experiences at Mid-Pacific Institute the most meaningful in our professional and personal lives. Thank you for the opportunity of a lifetime!

With Warm Aloha,

Joe C. Rice, President
July, 2012

Dear Mid-Pacific Institute ‘Ohana:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I wish to inform you that Joe Rice has announced that the 2012-2013 school year will be his seventeenth and final year as our President.

Our school – and Hawaii’s close-knit academic community – is fortunate to have had Joe’s visionary leadership and unwavering commitment to advancing the educational paradigm. Joe is all about playing it forward, guiding each of our teams on paths to success, and helping each student reach his or her potential.

Under Joe’s leadership, our accomplishments are many and varied. When he arrived in 1996, Mid-Pacific Institute was a quiet school of a thousand students in grades 7-12. Today, Mid-Pacific is a nationally recognized, comprehensive independent school that has increased its enrollment significantly with grades extending from preschool through grade 12. Following Joe’s lead, Mid-Pacific Institute’s beautiful campus has grown; many new buildings grace our grounds; and our educational impact, within Manoa and beyond, has meaningfully expanded in both real and virtual terms. Joe’s steadfast belief in all of our people has become part of our culture.

Having Joe and his family in our community has been, in many ways, a partnership. Over the years, Florence Coletta-Rice graciously hosted thousands of guests in their beautiful campus home, Atherton House. We wish to thank Florence for her extraordinary efforts in beautifully decorating Atherton, her farsighted initiation of a public junior art exhibit on campus, and her untiring efforts as the KeAnuenue adviser. Our yearbook has never looked better!

As we look ahead, a search committee will be formed under the leadership of the Board of Trustees; and Wickenden Associates, one of the leading independent school search firms in the country, will be assisting us. There will be ample time for conversations and consultation with faculty, staff, administrators, alumni, board members, students, parents and the school-wide community.

Joe leaves Mid-Pacific Institute stronger than it has ever been – educationally, financially, and organizationally. We are indebted to him for his dedicated and inspirational leadership in a time of significant change not only for Mid-Pacific Institute, but also for the education world. On behalf of our entire ‘Ohana, I wish to convey our deepest gratitude to Joe for his caring, consistent, and visionary leadership of Mid-Pacific Institute. Joe Rice has not just been our President, but more importantly, also our friend. Our Aloha and very best wishes to Joe, Florence, and their entire family for a joyful life in the State of Washington.

Sincerely,

Kenneth R. Kupchak, Esq.
Chair of the Board of Trustees
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