

Dr. Gerry Ebalaroza-Tunnell – 2025 Society of Distinguished Alumni Inductee Interview Transcript

Description:

Soft instrumental music plays throughout. The WSU Global Campus logo appears on screen, followed by the words “Society of Distinguished Alumni – 2025 Inductee.” Dr. Gerry Ebalaroza-Tunnell appears on screen.

Dr. Gerry Ebalaroza-Tunnell: Trust your voice because the world needs the medicine of your perspective.

On-screen text: What was your educational journey and how did you find the Global Campus?

Dr. Ebalaroza-Tunnell: My journey started a little later in life. I was actually in my early forties when I finally understood the deeper purpose of higher education.

When I joined WSU Global, I was an older student, and I was surrounded by classmates who were younger than my own sons. At first it felt awkward, but then I realized something profound: learning is circular, not linear. Each of us carries wisdom, and we can find the wisdom that other people need.

In that digital classroom, generations met in what I often describe as being in the same canoe. We were all paddling toward understanding—sharing stories across the waves and reminding each other that we are voyagers on the same ocean of knowledge.

On-screen text: How did you balance work, life, and getting a degree?

Dr. Ebalaroza-Tunnell: Balance for me was not about managing time. It was about learning to navigate life’s storms while working full-time and being a student.

Like a wayfinder at sea, I had to read the winds and currents of circumstance and adjust my sails with every unexpected turn. Each challenge was a wave—and with every wave I faced, I learned to balance not by avoiding the storm, but by trusting my canoe, my ancestors, and the steady rhythm of my own heartbeat.

On-screen text: What lessons would you offer others who are thinking about attending WSU Global Campus?

Dr. Ebalaroza-Tunnell: If you’re thinking about attending WSU Global, know that education is not limited by age, geography, or circumstance. It is guided by the rhythm of your own becoming.

In Hawaiian culture, we say, ‘A‘ohe pau ka ‘ike i ka hālau ho‘okahi,’ which means all knowledge is not taught in one school. True learning happens across a lifetime—through the relationships we build, the stories we carry, and the courage to begin, and sometimes begin again and again. And that’s okay.

So to those considering this path: trust your timing. Trust your voice because the world needs the medicine of your perspective.

I also want to leave you with the words ‘Imua,’ which means to strive for the highest. But the summit is not the destination—it is a way of being. Learning is a lifelong voyage. Always guide yourself by aloha, by curiosity, and by the deep knowing that we are all students of this great school called life.

So—Go Cougs.

Description:

The WSU Global Campus logo appears again as the music fades and the video ends.