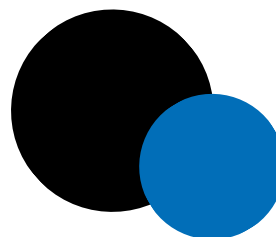


STUDENTS SPEAK TO NORA K. HARMSEN



The Hogan Entrepreneurial Leadership Program was honored to host Dr. Nora K. Harmsen, past owner of Hawaii Fill-In Dentist and former owner of a private practice on the island of Lānaʻi. Dr. Nora Harmsen's presentation was an honest, experience-driven reflection on leadership, entrepreneurship, resilience, and the discipline required to build something meaningful over time. Her story was not framed as a straight line to success, but as a series of decisions, pivots, and setbacks—each shaping her philosophy of leadership and service. What stood out immediately was her unconventional path. She did not begin with a rigid blueprint; instead, she followed opportunity, recognized gaps, and adapted when circumstances changed. At the center of her journey was a clear value: build community, not just income. Throughout her career, Dr. Harmsen navigated major disruptions—relocation, selling a successful practice, working in toxic environments, starting over in Hawai'i with the purchase of a new practice, embezzlement, personal challenges and financial strain. Rather than defining her, these challenges refined her leadership. Her story illustrates that leadership is not built in comfort, but in resilience. Success is rarely linear; it is shaped by experimentation, accountability, and the courage to pivot. Her message was clear: pursue your passion with discipline, serve your community with integrity, and when life shifts—as it inevitably will—keep moving forward.



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For more information, stop by Kieffer Hall rm. 12,
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