

PPEC

Pacific Postsecondary
Education Council



Report to

ACCJC

Accrediting Commission of
Community & Junior Colleges

July - December

2024

AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Introduction

ASCC is an open-admissions, co-educational Land Grant institution offering two-year transfer programs in general education, vocational training, and a B.Ed. teacher education program. The college also provides programs in Samoan and Pacific Studies, Adult Education, and various grant-funded special projects.

The Samoan culture and language are vital aspects of the students' identities and the community as a whole. As the primary institution of higher learning in American Samoa, it is fitting for the College to take a leading role in researching and teaching about the traditional roles and significance of the Samoan culture and language.

For over 50 years, the American Samoa Community College has been the sole provider of post-secondary education in the Territory. Founded in 1970, ASCC currently enrolls 843 students in liberal arts, education, and vocational programs as of Fall 2024.

Enrollment

There were 510 students enrolled at ASCC during the summer term. During fall 2024, ASCC enrolled 843 students. Of the total enrollment in fall 2024, 58% are Full Time students while 42% are Part Time. Majority of enrolled students range between the ages of 17 to 25 years and 93% are of Samoan ethnicity. ASCC continues to develop strategies to attract future student populations through programs such as the recently introduced Strengthening Institution Program and the future development of distance education.

Accreditation Updates

The College's Accreditation Steering Committee is actively preparing to submit its Midterm Report to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) in October 2025. This report is a critical component of the College's ongoing accreditation process and will reflect the institution's progress toward meeting ACCJC standards. The Committee is gathering data, evaluating institutional practices, and engaging stakeholders to ensure a comprehensive and accurate submission.

The ASCC Accreditation Liaison Officers (ALOs) have distributed the approved ASCC Accreditation Guide to all internal stakeholders. This Guide outlines the College's Mission, key processes, and approach to achieving its goals, with an emphasis on compliance with Accreditation Standards. Released on October 27, 2023, the Accreditation Guide was reviewed by the Accreditation Steering Committee to ensure its accuracy before receiving final approval

from the ASCC President. In early November, ASCC welcomed Melynie Schiel, ACCJC Vice President and Liaison for the American Samoa Community College, for a three-day site visit. The visit offered ASCC constituents the opportunity to learn about ACCJC's initiatives, strategic planning goals, and the accreditation process. The visit culminated in an institution-wide presentation on the new Standards of Accreditation, highlighting the enhanced resources and support ACCJC provides to community colleges.

ASCC has been invited by the U.S. Department of Education to participate in its Post-Secondary Success Recognition Program and has successfully submitted its application for this recognition.

General Updates

Data Voyage Project: The ASCC Office of Institutional Effectiveness has completed the first research phase for its contribution to the Data Voyage Project (DVP). This phase focused on the process ASCC students follow when seeking to transfer off-island to continue their education after graduation. The DVP aims to increase access to higher education for students in the U.S. Pacific territories.

SIP Program Gets Underway: In late June 2024, ASCC launched the Pre-Placement Tutorial as part of the Strengthening Institutions Program (SIP), an initiative funded by a five-year U.S. Department of Education (USDOE) grant. The program is designed to help prepare young students for postsecondary education and entry into American Samoa's workforce agencies and private business sector.

The SIP initially targeted high school juniors and seniors through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the American Samoa Department of Education (ASDOE) and ASCC, establishing a Pre-Apprenticeship Program. It also served ASCC students interested in earning a vocational technology workforce certificate. Additionally, the program provided training to ASG workforce employees seeking the SIP training certificate to enhance their skills and career prospects.

The SIP offered a four-week Pre-Placement Program to increase the number of high school graduates prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. All initiatives are available free of charge to qualifying individuals, with costs fully covered by the USDOE grant.

ASCC-TED Holds Summer STEAM Guitar Building Workshop: In July 2024, the ASCC Teacher Education Department (TED) conducted its five-week STEAM Guitar Building Program, offering 18 high school students the opportunity to apply principles from the STEAM disciplines in the construction of a fully functional electric guitar. Now in its third year at ASCC, the program is funded by an Advanced Technology Education (ATE) National Science Foundation (NSF) grant, part of a nationwide initiative to promote STEAM education in American schools. The ASCC-TED runs the program under the supervision of its Director, Ms. Shirley De La Rosa, who also serves as the Principal Investigator for the local ATE-NSF grant.

Natural Resource Committee Visit: During the fall 2024 semester, ASCC hosted a brief visit from a delegation of representatives and staff from the U.S. Congress Natural Resources Committee. The visitors, accompanied by American Samoa Congresswoman Uifa'atali Aumua

Amata Coleman Radewagen and members from both the D.C. and District offices, were welcomed with a traditional Ava Ceremony. After the ceremony, they toured the campus and received a presentation on ASCC's priorities from Acting President Dr. Letupu Tauanu'u Moananu. The discussions focused on potential support for the College's infrastructure projects and funding needs.

IEM Degree Introduced by ASCC-PCHS: The Pacific Center for Human Security, based at ASCC, introduced a new degree program in fall 2024. Students now have the opportunity to earn an Associate of Science degree in the field of Inclusive Emergency Management (IEM). The IEM degree program aims to equip students with the knowledge and skills to effectively plan for, respond to, recover from, and mitigate against disasters and emergencies while prioritizing the needs of all community members.

ASCC Hosts Congressional and Gubernatorial Forums: As a means of encouraging participation in the democratic process among students and the community, ASCC hosted two forums in which all candidates for American Samoa's congressional and gubernatorial positions participated. These forums were a joint effort by the Student Government Association and the Political Science Club.

The College of the Marshall Islands (CMI)

Introduction

The College of the Marshall Islands (CMI) provides its community with access to quality, higher and further educational services, prioritizes student success through engagement in relevant Academic, Career and Technical Education, and is a center for the study of Marshallese Culture. Current academic programs include a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education, five associate degrees, and a variety of certificates. The college additionally offers workforce development, training for unemployed youth, and high-school equivalency programs. It has campuses at Uliga and Arrak (Majuro Atoll) and Ebeye (Kwajalein Atoll), centers on Wotje Atoll and Jaluit Atoll, and sites offering adult basic education and informal training on Ennibur (Kwajalein Atoll) and Kili Island, with plans to expand adult basic education to two more atolls.

General Updates

CMI welcomed its new president, Dr. [David Newnham](#) on October 1, 2024. During his formal

inauguration, he emphasized the importance of Student Access, Student Success, Student Equity, and Student Completion.

This fall also saw the initial implementation of the English Bridge program. Developed over two years of discussion between CMI faculty and Public School System (PSS) teachers, the English Bridge curriculum covers the gap between high school English and college expectations. Starting this academic year, all PSS twelfth-graders will complete this curriculum as part of their normal coursework and, depending on their score on the assessment, can enter credit-level courses directly without completing the placement examination. This shared initiative is parallel to the Math Transition course that has been in place since 2019 and which recently expanded from the public schools to its first private school, with the first graduates to complete the course at a private school entering CMI this fall.

In addition, CMI has signed an agreement with the University of Hawai'i at Manoa's School of Social Work for educational collaboration, including the development of transfer pathways. This agreement is part of CMI's commitment to provide pathways to ongoing education for its students that align with the workforce needs of the nation.

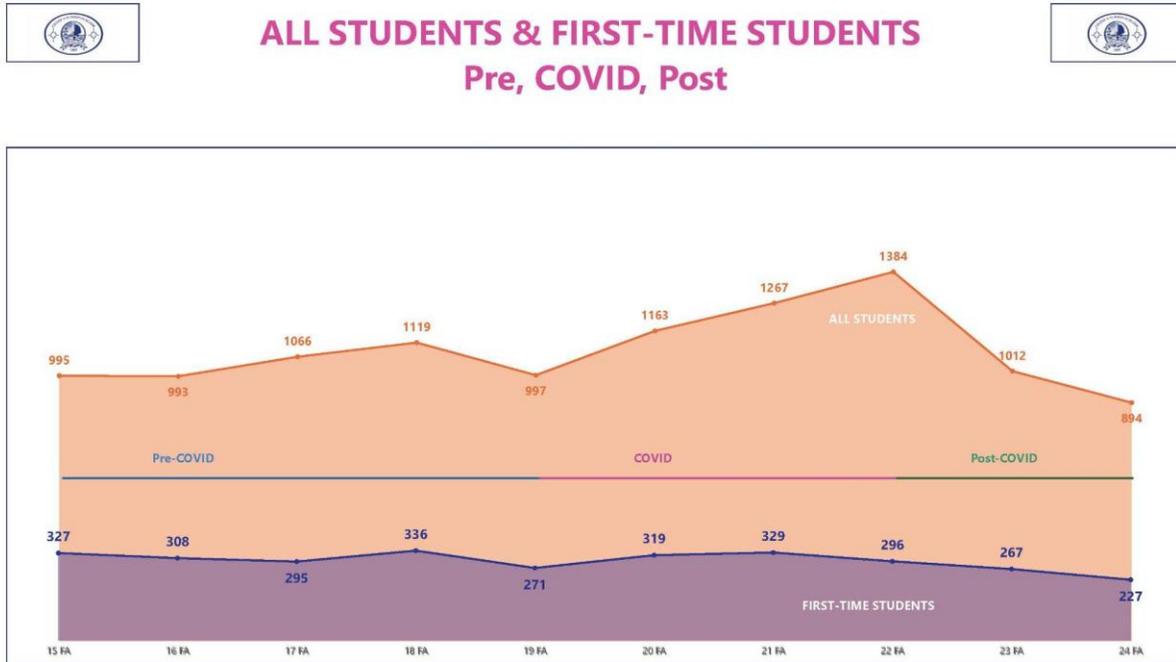
During the one-week break at the midterm of the fall semester, the STEM department held a camp to engage students in learning about science and math in a safe, fun, and culturally relevant environment. The camp culminated with students applying what they had learned to build mini-outrigger canoes from trash. The canoes were tested in a small pool and all were found seaworthy.



The college also took a major step towards catching up with its annual audit requirements with the completion of its FY 2021 audit in September.

Enrollment

Postsecondary enrollment at CMI has continued to decline in the post-covid period. While both new and continuing student numbers have declined, retention rates are the primary challenge.



Overall, the trend of slightly more women than men enrolling (53.7%) continued. Declines were general across locations and programs, with the exception of the AS in Agroforestry Education for Health and Sustainable Livelihoods, which saw its enrollment increase from 8 to 10, and the Marshallese Studies certificate programs, which saw their enrollment increase from 2 to 4.

While the headcount numbers are decreasing, the number of students enrolled full-time and especially the numbers enrolling in 15 or more credits each semester, have increased. As a result, full-time equivalent enrollment has not decreased as much as the headcount, and these numbers should lead to increases in the 150% graduation rate in the future.



A typical CMI student is female, single, Marshallese, and a graduate of Marshall Islands High School. She is in credit-level Math and English, taking courses toward the AA in Liberal Arts degree program. She is in good academic and satisfactory financial standing, taking classes at the Uliga Campus while residing off-campus.

Accreditation Update

The college’s standing Accreditation Steering Committee shared an early draft of its 2025 midterm report with the college community at its fall 2024 retreat in November. The college retreat involves all employees, and the committee provided the draft report a few days ahead of time and gave a short presentation outlining the content before encouraging participants to write down their questions, suggested additions to the report, and ideas for how the college can continue to improve based on the report. The committee will continue to refine the report and then it will be approved through the college’s participatory governance structure.



In addition, the college's Vice President for Academic and Student Affairs, Student Government Association President and Student Regent, and one other Regent attended ACCJC's Transparency, Storytelling, and Value Literacy Project. This event enabled the team representing CMI to reflect deeply on the college's strengths and areas for improvement when it comes to sharing key data.

Both these activities are helping the college to gear up for the preparation of its institutional self-evaluation report, which is due in 2027.

College of Micronesia-FSM

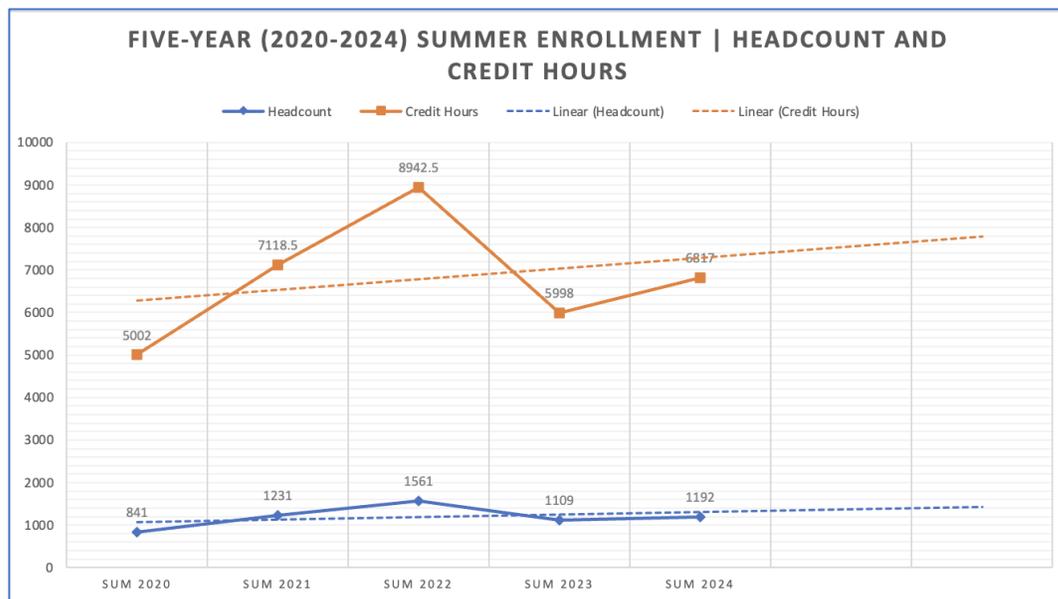
Accreditation Updates

The COM-FSM Board of Regents endorsed COM-FSM's Strategic Plan 2025-2030 and its new Integrated Educational Master Plan 2024-2034 at its September 2024 meeting in Kosrae, FSM. Prior to the September meeting, a Strategic Plan summit was held on August 20, 2024 with the college community and external stakeholders to provide an avenue for input and recommendations that were incorporated into the strategic plan. The ALO, Vice President for Institutional Effectiveness & Quality Assurance, Jennifer Helieisar and Vice President for Instructional Affairs, Delihna Ehmes participated in the ACCJC Transparency, Storytelling, and Value Literacy Project Regional Convening held at Honolulu Community College on October 29th as part ACCJC's 2030 Strategic Goals. This event assisted with increasing transparency for students and the community through the use of public dashboards and websites as well as other relevant reports. The convening is one of a series of seven grant-sponsored convenings scheduled throughout the year to allow for maximum participation from member institutions.

Enrollment Updates

For summer 2024, the college registered 1,192 students (or headcount) with 6,817 credits, which is equivalent to 1,136 full-time equivalent (FTE) students. Figure 1 below illustrates a five-year summer enrollment summary.

FIGURE 1. FIVE-YEAR (2020-2024) SUMMER ENROLLMENT IN HEADCOUNT AND CREDIT HOURS



For Fall 2024, the college's Registrar reports a total enrollment of 1,733 students, showing a slight decrease of 0.40% from last fall's headcount of 1,740. Despite this minor drop in student numbers, credit hours have seen a significant increase. This fall, students collectively registered for 21,474 credit hours, reflecting a considerable rise of 2.69% compared to the 20,911.5 credit hours recorded in Fall 2023. The table (Table 1) compares the college's Fall 2024 enrollment headcount and credit hours by campus to Fall 2023 figures.

TABLE 1. FALL 2024 ENROLLMENT VS. FALL 2023 ENROLLMENT

Campus	Headcount			Credit Hours		
	Fall 2023	Fall 2024	%Diff (-/+)	Headcount	Credit Hours	%Diff (-/+)
National	899	829	-7.79%	11,490.5	11,023	-4.07%
CTEC	351	381	8.55%	4,162	4,464	7.26%
Chuuk	220	248	12.73%	2,594	2,934	13.11%
Kosrae	122	101	-17.21%	1,183	1,031	-12.85%
Yap	148	174	17.57%	1,482	2,022	36.44%
Total	1,740	1,733	-0.40%	20,911.5	21,474	2.69%

Source: Registrar's Office, EMSS Department

General Updates

The college is currently in its transitioning phase for its online Learning Management System from Canvas to Moodle, with training workshops (conducted by the Learning Design Team) ongoing for faculty for course design and the provision of IT support for migration of courses.

The CTEC Multi-Technical Building was completed and turned over on November 1, 2024 with civil engineering work on the lower parking lot and generator building being scheduled for completion by January 2025. Construction of the Teaching Clinic building is progressing well. The project is approximately 80% complete and is on track to be completed by December 31, 2024, ahead of the original February 18, 2025 deadline. A groundbreaking ceremony was held on December 3rd, 2024 for the construction of a classroom building and a dormitory building for the FSM-Fisheries Maritime Institute in Yap funded by the Japan International Cooperation System (JICS).

Cooperative Research Extension (CRE) Projects

Enhanced Crop Production

CRE initiatives have supported farmers in the following:

- Established 60 new demonstration gardens.
- Established 135 new home gardens.
- 18 commercial farmers had a total profit sale of \$44,581.75.
- Distributed 30 educational posters to promote home gardening.
- Farmers utilized compost to improve soil health and used agricultural waste as dry litter for pig pens to minimize waste run-off into rivers.
- Local farmer in Pohnpei created 13 jobs.
- Boosted local vegetable production by 13,000 pounds (Pohnpei).
- Kosrae increased use & adoption of organic fertilizer and utilized invasive Giant African Snail as fertilizer.
- 16 schools in Yap have a school vegetable garden with 3 ECE and 1 public Elementary school supplying their school cafeteria for student consumption.

Guam Community College

Introduction

Since its inception through the Community College Act of 1977 (as amended by Public Law 31-99 in 2011), Guam Community College continues to fulfill its mission to be a leader in career and technical workforce development, providing the highest quality, student-centered education and job training for Micronesia. GCC serves as Guam's State Agency for Career and Technical

Education under the United States Vocational Education Act of 1946 (and subsequent amendments). As a multi-faceted, public, career and technical education institution, the College currently offers one (1) bachelor degree, 27 associate degrees and 18 certificates. GCC delivers postsecondary education on campus in fall and spring semesters and during summer. Off-site, the College primarily delivers secondary career and technical education programs at six Guam public high schools, as well as short-term, specialized training at local businesses. Additionally, GCC offers adult education programs and services, namely English as a Second Language, Adult Basic Education, High School Equivalency preparation and testing, and Adult High School Diploma.

General Updates

Student enrollment for the Fall 2024 semester was 1,587, which represented a four percent (4%) increase in enrollment from the prior year Fall semester. When compared to the enrollment five years ago (Fall 2019), the Fall 2024 semester enrollment dropped by twenty percent (20%). The Fall 2024 enrollment consist of the following:

Gender	
Male	899
Female	684
Unknown	4

Age	
20 & Under	687
21-25	407
26-31	169
32-41	193
42-54	96
55 & Older	35

The Fall 2024 College Assembly was held at the Multi-Purpose Auditorium with faculty, administrators, and staff in attendance. The main activity of the College Assembly is to gather valuable information from the staff, faculty and administrators for the purpose of updating the College’s Institutional Strategic Master Plan 2026-2032. In addition, a refresher session on Shooter on Campus was presented by the Guam Homeland Security/Marianas Regional Fusion Center. There were also sessions on Suicide Prevention and Title IX.

Since June 2018, the College offered Fifty-One (51) bootcamps in various areas including construction, ship repair, truck driving, information technology, medical home health aide, engineering technician, HVAC, certified nursing assistant, medical code and billing, medical home health, diesel mechanic, bus driving, childcare, childcare leadership and cybersecurity. The total number of bootcamp completers since June 2018 is 555, with a completion rate of 66%. Bootcamps which completed during this reporting period include: Construction V (Furniture Installer), Ship Repair Boot Camp XII (Cabras), Medical Home Health Aide V, Plumbing Boot Camp I, Bus Driving II (GRTA Incumbents), Certified Nurse Assistant (CNA) III, GWA

Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW) Training and Environmental Technician (DPHSS,GEPA). The following bootcamps are currently ongoing: Furniture Installer Bootcamp, Truck Driving Bootcamp V, Construction Bootcamp V, Administrative Officer (Mayors Council) Bootcamp and Ship Repair Bootcamp XII.

The Center for Student Involvement (CSI) facilitated student activities this Fall semester. The Council for Postsecondary Student Affairs (COPSA) hosted the BOLD “Building Opportunities for Leadership & Development” on September 27, 2024. Training sessions included “Navigating Leadership Challenges: Building Resilience and Conflict Resolution Skills”, “Mastering Communication: A Must-Have Skill for Leaders” and Breakout Sessions which included “Leading Under Pressure”, “Strategic Planning & Decision Making” and “Working Smarter, Not Harder”. The Fall Festival Tour of the Pacific was held on October 24, 2024 which showcased the different GCC Student Organizations booths.

The updated GCC portal (MyGCC) went live on July 1, 2024. At the same time, the Multi-Factor Authentication was implemented. This assures MYGCC portal users of an added layer of security when accessing user’s data in the College’s Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system.

Accreditation Updates

GCC’s Institutional Self Evaluation Report (ISER) was approved by the Board on July 12, 2024 and submitted to ACCJC on July 15, 2024. The College responded to requests for additional evidence by Peer Reviewers in October 2024. The College’s focused site visit is scheduled for the March 4-5, 2025.

Palau Community College

Accreditation Updates

Palau Community College has been an accredited institution under the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACCJC-WASC) for 47 years. First attaining accredited status in 1977, PCC has maintained this status, with the most recent reaffirmation taking place in 2023.

The college will be submitting its midterm report on March 15, 2027. In preparation for the next accreditation cycle, the college has created a new accreditation steering committee, which will lead the college’s accreditation activities. PCC’s Board of Trustees was oriented on the updated accreditation standards in February 2024.

College Program Highlights

- On July 4, 2024, Dr. Sinton Soalablai hosted a training/workshop to educators of Palau. The training was to look for ways to improve teaching methods for the students and to

improve the work environment for the educators to work efficiently.

- On July 16, 2024, the United States Marine Corps (USMC) in Palau visited Palau Community College (PCC) and had the opportunity to meet with the PCC Vice President of Administration and Finance. Among them was the first Palauan in the USMC to achieve the title and rank (E-9), Master Gunnery Sergeant Milton Donatus. They were able to do a basketball clinic/training for the college students, offered medical expertise to PCC's Nursing Faculty, and did two (2) Noontime Seminars. One on Photography & Marketing, and the other on joining the USMC, and how it has the potential to save lives.
- On July 3, 2024, the 30th Caregiver Training concluded as their instructors, along with PCC President Dr. Patrick U. Tellei, Continuing Education's Dean Hedrick Kual, and Palau AHEC's Dr. Gregory Dever awarded the students for passing all the courses.
- On July 18, 2024, a PCC Information Technology (IT) student delivered her exceptional database project for the Palau Severely Disabled Assistance Fund (PSDAF). The database project assists PSDAF in storing all essential information and drastically improves its efficiency, effectiveness, and report generating capabilities. As a result of the student's coding and hard work, the project was a success and the PSDAF began utilizing it as soon as they were trained to operate it.
- On July 18, 2024, Dr. Paul Tauiliili, a professor of Ethnomathematics at the University of Hawaii, Manoa, University of Hawaii Pacific Leadership (PACMED) Master's Degree Program, visited the college to meet, teach and interact with all his students in class. It was their first face-to-face contact. His class focuses on research and practice in Ethnomathematics and STEAM from an interdisciplinary framework. The students participated in tasks related to STEAM and Ethnomathematics, which will enhance pedagogy and practices relevant to instructional strategies in the Pacific, as well as build sustainable campus-community networks.
- On July 22, 2024, PCC in collaboration with the Eastern Oregon University (EOU), held a Noontime Seminar in the PCC Assembly Hall. The Eastern Oregon University visits PCC annually to speak to students and all those who might be interested about the various programs that they offer. Dr. Cori Brewster, the Summer Bridge Director and a Professor for English/Writing and Bennie Moses Mesubed, MBA, who is the Associate Vice President for Diversity, Equity Inclusion and Belonging, focused their presentation on the Summer Bridge Program.
- On July 25, 2024, the Ocean Thermal Energy Conversion (OTEC) Survey Team handed over to the college, laboratory equipment that was used for microalgae analysis under the survey. Among the equipment are biological microscope, camera for a microscope, a 13.3" monitor and other accessories. The equipment are being used at the PCC Cooperative Research and Extension for Microalgae Research.
- On July 25, 2024, the United States Agency International Development (USAID) Mr. John Avila, Ms. Paula Miller and Ms. Anju Mangal visited the college to meet with PCC President Dr. Patrick U. Tellei, Director of Computer and Data Services Mr. Bruce Rimirch and Systems Analyst Ms. Johvanna Yaoch. The meeting was to discuss ways of improving the college's technology for the convenience of the faculty, staff and students. As the adoption of digital technology rapidly advances across the globe, Digital Connectivity and Cyber security Partnership (Digital Partnership or DCCP) works with

partners to ensure this transformation promotes inclusive growth and fosters resilient and democratic societies.

- On July 28 to August 1, 2024, Palau Community College hosted the Western Association of Educational Opportunity Personnel (WESTOP) - Pacific Islands Chapter, Professional Development Seminar (PDS). Off-island participants arrived on the 28th and they include those from Guam, FSM, and Hawaii. PCC was fortunate to have the President of WESTOP Ms. Dalia Hernandez join the Seminar.
- On July 31, 2024, the 31st Caregiver Training concluded as their instructors Dr. Sylvia Osarch (lead instructor), Dr. Louisa Santos (Dentist), Mr. Jason Nolan (Physical Therapist), and Ms. Vanessa Espangel (Home Health Nurse), along with Palau AHEC's Dr. Gregory Dever awarded the students for passing all the courses.
- On August 14, 2024, PCC's Board of Trustees welcomed its newest member, Mr. LeoBen Teriong. He was sworn-in by the Chairman of the Board, Kione J. Isechal. He took an oath to serve a four-year term. The ceremony was witnessed by PCC President Dr. Patrick U. Tellei, PCC Vice President of Administration & Finance Jay Olegeriil, Board of Trustees Vice Chairman Dr. Emais Roberts, Student Trustee Weber Santiago and former Student Trustees Mr. Kobe Moses and Mr. O'Keef Kokichi.
- On August 15, 2024, three PCC Board of Trustees (BOT) members were able to attend the Asia Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies (APAFS) Summer IGE Training. Lindsay Timarong, President and CEO of Pacific Islands Development Bank (PIDB) was the only speaker for all topics on the agenda, which included Introduction to Stewardship, Knowing Standards, Law and Trust Provisions, Addressing the Fiduciary Duty to Diversify Components of an Effective Investment Policy Statement, Hiring Prudent Experts, Documenting Required Due Diligence, Controlling and Accounting for Investment Fees and Costs, Monitoring Performance and Governance, Avoiding and Managing Conflicts of Interest, and Portfolio Construction.
- On August 16, 2024, PCC held its Annual Convocation at the PCC Auditorium. More than 140 staff and faculty members attended this important event which aimed to introduce new members - faculty and staff, provide updates on the college's 15-Year Master Plan, ISSA, Accreditation, and highlight key initiatives within various departments and offices.
- This summer, the Pacific Short-term Research Experience Program to Unlock Potential (STEP-UP) had five Palau High School seniors participate and work with PCC-CRE. For 6-8 weeks, the five students worked under the Vice President of CRE, Dr. Christopher Kitalong, who is Palau's local coordinator for STEP-UP and Researcher, Elchung G. Hideyos who is the mentor/supervisor of the students. The students did research on different critical issue topics that include Dengue Fever and Public Awareness, Effects of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB), and Salt-tolerant Taro Varieties. After the end of the summer, they were selected to travel to Maryland to present their research to other STEP-UP cohorts and the National Institute of Health (NIH) at the National STEP-UP Symposium 2024. From August 3-8, 2024, PCC-CRE Researcher Elchung G. Hideyos, chaperoned the five students to Maryland, USA. This experience was great exposure for Palauan students to learn about other research projects in the health and medical field. During the symposium, the Palau students were very fortunate to have a special guest,

H.E. Hersey Kyota Ambassador of Palau to the United States, join the symposium and learn about their individual research projects.

- On August 31, 2024, Palau Community College successfully hosted a pivotal Pacific Financial Aid Association (PacFAA) training session led by PacFAA Past-President Jeff Anderson for the Freely Associated States (FAS) Financial Aid and Business Office staff in the PCC Assembly Hall. The session focused on several critical areas, including the updated Pell Grant awarding process, Federal Work Study (FWS) and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) guidelines and application processes.
- Through the College of Micronesia, Federated States of Micronesia (COM-FSM) and Doctors and Dentists for Tomorrow (DDFT), Palau AHEC at PCC was able to enroll Palauan students to join the Dental Assistant Program. The program was completely funded by the DDFT Grant and free for students to attend Penn Foster College. This is the first Palau Cohort of Dental Assistants to graduate in 35 years. This opportunity came to light due to the shortage of Oral Health professionals and the need for Dental Assistants. The program concluded with a ceremony to award the four participants on August 27, 2024.
- “Telling Your Pacific Story” is a media workshop that was held in Palau this year. The workshop was led by experienced regional journalists including Floyd K. Takeuchi, Giff Johnson, Ann Auman, Samantha Magick and PF Bentley. The media workshop was supported by USAID’s PROJECT (Promoting Just, Engaged, Civic-Minded and Transparent) Governance and hosted by the Pacific Media Institute, Pacific Islands Development Program at the East-West Center, Palau Media Council and Palau Community College. Over 25 aspiring and current journalists, public information officers, and media professionals from all over Micronesia attended this week-long collaborative learning experience that took place in the PCC Assembly Hall from September 9 to September 13, 2024.
- On Wednesday, September 11, 2024, PCC hosted the 24th 9/11 Memorial Ceremony in honor of the victims, first responders and all those affected by the events of September 11, 2001. Fallen heroes and members of the U.S. Armed Forces Veterans Association of Palau were also honored for the sacrifices that they made for all of us.
- Director of PCC Library Services, Ms. Cecil Emengel Meteolechol, received the opportunity to attend this year’s International Conference of Indigenous Archives, Libraries, and Museums (ATALM2024) as one of the 25 Pacific Island delegates. The conference was in Palm Springs, California, from November 12 to 14, 2024.
- On September 16-18, 2024, the Pacific Basin Medical Association Conference, Tides of Change: Embracing One Health in the Pacific Medical Practice was held in the PCC Auditorium. The Belau Medical Society had the honor to host this year’s conference with the theme “One Health,” which focuses on the integration of Human, Environmental, and Animal Health concepts into patient care and community health across the Pacific Basin. PCC was able to donate to assist the Belau Medical Society in hosting the conference.
- On September 30, 2024, Mr. Jason Miyashita, Managing Director, Senior Vice President, Investments and Senior Institutional Consultant of Raymond James visited PCC President Dr. Patrick U. Tellei to establish a scholarship in memory of his late grandfather, Mr.

Kazuo Peter Miyashita. During their meeting, they signed the establishment of the scholarship called Kazuo Peter Miyashita Memorial Scholarship.

- On October 4, 2024, PCC student Mr. Quinlan Yaoch presented his revitalized experience during his three weeks in Japan. The student attended Sophia University's Summer Session that was fully funded by the Association for Promotion of International Cooperation (APIC) program. Mr. Quinlan Yaoch was able to present what he learned at Sophia University, and in Japan as a whole, and how these experiences have benefited him and developed both his personal and professional abilities.
- On October 7, 2024, the Computer Services Division and PCC President Tellei had the opportunity to meet with researchers from the Institute of Marine Geodynamics (IMG), Japan Agency for Marine-Earth Science and Technology (JAMSTEC). Mr. Yasushi Ishihara, Director In-Charge of Earthquake Observation in Asia-Pacific Region, Principal Research Technician of IMG, JAMSTEC, Japan and Ms. Junko Yoshimitsu, Research Technician, Geophysical Research Group of IMG, JAMSTEC, Japan were here to meet with the Director of the PCC Computer Division Bruce Rimirch, Systems Analyst Johvanna Yaoch and Computer Technicians Alik Ulechong and Shaik Higa to discuss conducting large-scale research and observations using JAMSTEC-owned research vessels and equipment to elucidate the occurrence of and circumstances affecting earthquakes and volcanic activities. These data and information are provided to the government and related organizations to mitigate disasters.
- On October 8, 2024, PCC Student Services held its Induction Ceremony for officers of the Associated Students of Palau Community College (ASPCC) and ASPCC Senators in the PCC Assembly Hall. On the same day, PCC Board of Trustees Chairman Kione Isechal administered the oath to the Student Trustee of school year 2024-2025, Ms. Suanda Obakerbau.
- On October 23, 2024, Mr. Yuma Kondo, Commercial Manager of IVSG Project of Kawasaki Heavy Industries, Ltd., Mr. Ibuki Masuda, and Mr. Taisei Segami (both Consultants of Mitsubishi Research Institute, Inc.) met with PCC President Patrick U. Tellei. The three of them are currently working in collaboration with Palau Public Utilities Corporation (PPUC), with the support of Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), to explore the introduction of new technologies aimed at strengthening the energy infrastructure in Palau. As a part of this initiative, they wanted to contribute to the development of human resources and promote the empowerment of the young generation in Palau's energy sector.
- On October 23, 2024, the Saipan (CNMI) Pickleball Federation and Life in Son Christian Fellowship Guam/Saipan donated pickleball equipments to PCC. Presenting the donations were Pastor Eric Abragan and Worship Pastor Elmor De Rosas. Along with the donations, they did a Pickleball Clinic at the PCC Mesekiu Gym on October 22 and 23, 2024 with the PCC students, staff and faculty, as well as community members. The equipments donated include a portable pickleball net (full), a bag, eight (8) pickleball paddles, six (6) pickleballs, and a kids pickleball net.
- On October 31 – November 2, 2024, a second-year PCC student had the opportunity to attend the 2024 NDiSTEM Conference, also known as SACNAS (Society Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics and Native Americans in Science) at Phoenix, Arizona. Ms.

Daissy Demei was fortunate to be among the 1,101 individuals selected to present from the total of 1,700 applicants. Her presentation was about botanical plants in Palau and Guam that she worked on during her summer internship at the University of Guam.

- On November 7, 2024, Mr. Robert Machado and Mr. Joseph Diego from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development paid a visit to PCC President Dr. Patrick U. Tellei and Computer Systems Analyst Johvanna Yaoch. Mr. Robert Machado is a Loan Specialist for the USDA and Mr. Joseph Diego is the Area Director of the USDA Rural Development Office for the Western Pacific. The meeting was to discuss grant opportunities, specifically the Distance Learning and Telemedicine (DLT) Grants that can support the procurement of hardware and software to support and enhance online and hybrid courses.
- On November 20, 2024, PCC initiated a campus-wide emergency fire drill to all students, staff, and PCC guests as well as neighboring businesses. PCC Board of Trustees policy 18-01 established the Campus Emergency and Security Committee to develop emergency procedures and conduct emergency drills, activities, and management training to prepare and protect everyone within the PCC campus.
- On November 27, 2024, PCC held its Annual Thanksgiving Endowment Fundraising. The fundraiser was a success, raising over \$73,000. The PCC Endowment Fund is now only six hundred thousand dollars shy of its goal of ten million.