

# PPEC

Pacific Postsecondary  
Education Council



National Campus

Report to

# ACCJC

Accrediting Commission for  
Community & Junior Colleges

June - December

# 2022

# American Samoa Community College

## Introduction

In May of 2022, the college reopened after several months of closing its doors to staff and students due to the Territory's Covid-19 "Code Red" state of emergency in late February. All staff was mandated to return to campus in preparation for the spring graduation and the return of students for the summer term. The summer term was restricted to a format of 40% instruction via Moodle and 60% face-to-face instruction while all Lab and College Accelerated Preparatory Program (CAPP) Courses were 20% Moodle and 80% face-to-face. This would change in the fall semester when the territory's declaration had changed lifting many of the Covid-19 restrictions, placing regular courses in a 67/33 format while CAPP courses remain in an 80/20 format and lab courses are 100% face to face. Although the college decided to hold its Spring 2022 Commencement Ceremony outdoors following a "drive-thru" format in adherence to the restrictions under "code red", this December, the college will return to a traditional commencement exercise for the fall graduation.

## Accreditation Updates

Following the affirmation of ASCC's accreditation for the next seven years by the ACCJC in January, the College has continued to engage with the accreditation process. During spring 2022, the Board of Higher Education (BHE), the executive governing body of ASCC, approved an Accreditation Calendar formulated by the Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO). The Accreditation Calendar will serve as a blueprint for the College's accreditation-related activities for the next several years.

During fall 2022, both the ASCC President and the ALO built upon their professional relations with the ACCJC when they were selected as Peer Reviewers, and underwent training to fulfill this function in the accreditation of other institutions. In addition, ASCC President Dr. Pato is currently serving as Chairperson of the Peer Review Team for College of Micronesia Federated States of Micronesia. In September, Dr. Pato represented ASCC as a member of PPEC at a meeting in Washington D.C. with the United States Department of Education. In summer 2022, the BHE attended an ACCJC-required Association of Community College Trustees training in Honolulu, along with trustees from other American Pacific institutions of higher learning.

Also in fall, the institution held the biennial review of its Institutional Set-Standards (ISS) for Student Achievement. The review was held over a period of three days with participation of faculty and staff from the Division of Academic Affairs and Student Services selected to be in the ISS Committee. Concurrently, the institution also conducted its Annual Divisional Program Review process with participation from all divisions.

## Capital Improvements

Work continues at ASCC on a number of capital improvement projects, three of which will result in a new appearance to the campus. As of November, 2022, the new **ASCC Cafeteria** moved closer to completion, with the facility anticipated to open in the coming spring 2023 semester. This two-story building will be the site of a food-vending facility on the first floor and additional office space on the second. Extensive excavation has proceeded on a site behind the Cafeteria to prepare the building site for the **Career Tech High School**, a collaborative project between

ASCC and the Department of Education. A third project, the renovation of an existing building into an expanded facility to be re-named as the **Smart Art and Community Higher Education Building**, is in the planning stages.

### **UCEDD Receives MFP Grant**

A grant of just over \$4.75 million to initiate Home Community Base Services (HCBS) for seniors, those with disabilities, and those in need of other key services has been awarded to the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD), a program hosted by ASCC. The Centers of Medicare and Medicaid (CMS) has awarded the funds to UCEDD for a Money Follows the Person (MFP) planning grant. The MFP model supports initial planning and infrastructure needed to improve availability and access to home and community-based services as an alternative choice to institutional care.

### **TAP Grant to Enable ICT and Cyber-Security Upgrades**

Grant funding from the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) will enable ASCC to make major upgrades in its capacity for instruction in the area of information technology, and will also allow the College to address longstanding technical issues in the area of cyber-security. This summer, the OIA announced nearly \$3 million in grants for American Samoa's government and related agencies as part of its Technical Assistance Program. Of that amount, ASCC will receive \$375k in funding, \$200k of which will go towards upgrading and re-equipping the Computer Science Department (CSD) and \$175 of which will be used to strengthen the College's disaster recovery capabilities by replacing an outdated generator and addressing related issues. The ASCC Computer Science Department has previously offered a Certificate of Proficiency in Information Communication Technology, and beginning this year it will also offer an Associate of Science degree in the subject. Since 2015, the CSD has doubled its course offerings as student enrollment has steadily increased.

### **SSI Establishes Amerika Samoa Language Academy**

The ASCC Samoan Studies Institute (SSI) is engaged in a three-year project funded by the Administration for Native Americans to establish the first-ever Amerika Samoa Language Academy. The project is a partnership with non-government community group Intersection Inc., and the goal of the Academy is to develop a certificate in teaching Samoan Studies as a legitimate credential for local instructors.

### **General Highlights**

- In November, UCEDD Director Tafaimamao Tua-Tupuola was appointed to the FEMA Advisory Council. This is the first time a member of the ASCC staff has been appointed to FEMA.
- ASCC Phi Theta Kappa (PTK) Honor Society President, Miss Trish Andrea Dela Cruz Buenavista has been selected by the regional PTK leadership to serve as a Regional Officer. She will serve as one of four Regional Officers for the PTK's Division IV, which includes 11 states and the American Pacific.
- ASCC student and Natural Resources major Talofa Fe'a received a 2022 SACNAS Student Presentation Award at the Society for Advancement of Chicanos/Hispanics & Native Americans in Science (SACNAS) 2022 National Diversity in STEM Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico held from October 27-29, 2022.

# **The College of the Marshall Islands (CMI)**

## ***Mission***

*The College of the Marshall Islands will provide our community with access to quality, higher and further educational services, prioritize student success through engagement in relevant Academic, Career and Technical Education, and be a center for the study of Marshallese Culture. It will also provide intellectual resources and facilitate research specific to the needs of the nation. (Revision approved December 1, 2020)*

The College provided educational services to 1384 students during the Fall Semester 2022 which represents a 9% increase from Fall 2021. However, compared to Spring 2022, when the headcount was 1218, this represents an increase of 11%. The Fall-Fall FTE increased from 828 to 852 indicating that students continue to enroll in more credits than before. Liberal Arts students increased to 32% of enrollments. Increases were noted in enrollment in the CMI AA Business, which increased by 4% (to 23%), and enrollments in the BA Education decreased to 10%. Small declines were noted in the AS Nursing (-2%) and the AS Education (-1%)

The average age of students registered in Spring was 23 years. Of those, there were 43% full-time and 57% part-time students and 95.8% were Marshallese citizens. First time students were 284 or 20%, 27% were Continuing and 42% returning students. Out of all students, the proportion of female students continues to be higher than males at 55% this Fall, an increase of 2% over Spring.

## ***General Accreditation Updates***

CMI's standing Accreditation Steering Committee continues to meet on a monthly basis to review and update progress on the college requirements, team recommendations, and improvement plans from the ISER. The Follow-Up Report was submitted Oct. 1 and the follow-up visit held virtually Oct. 18-19 during which time two members of the team from the comprehensive review—Dr. Rachel Solemsaas (Chancellor of Hawai'i Community College) and Roselle Togonon (Comptroller of COM-FSM) met with the President, VPBAA, Financial Aid Director, Internal Auditor, Assistant Internal Auditor, Payroll Manager & Student Accounts, and the Budget Committee/Budget Managers. They have submitted their report to ACCJC, and the Commission will take action based on the report at their Jan. 11-13, 2023 meeting. If the outcome is favorable, our next report will be the midterm report, which discusses improvement plans from the ISER, recommendations for improvement from the team, and the Quality Focus Essay projects.

## **Substantive Change**

The AS in Agroforestry Education for Health and Sustainable Livelihoods (already endorsed by the Board of Regents) and the linked Certificate of Completion in Community Health Outreach Worker and Certificate of Completion in Outer Atoll Health Assistant were confirmed by ACCJC. Kwajalein Campus was approved as a new location in May 2022.

In other accreditation related activities, VPASA Dr. Elizabeth Switaj has been appointed to the ACCJC Appeals Panel, the CMI President will serve as Vice Chair for the 2022 Formative-Summative Review of Palau Community College, and VPBAA Stevenson Kotton as a member of the ACCJC Comprehensive Evaluation Peer Review Team for Fall 2022/Spring 2023 for COM-FSM.

## ***Governance***

### ***General Highlights***

During this reporting period, meetings of the CMI Board of Regents were held May 23, August 8 and November 28. Special Meetings occurred on September 12 and November 4. An AGB consultant, Dr. Jill Derby met with the Board on December 5 as part of the Board's comprehensive Board Assessment process, which commenced in September. The President and members of the Board of Regents participated in the ACCT Governance Leadership Institute in Honolulu, Hawaii June 15-18 and the ACCT Leadership Congress in New York October 26-29. Four members of the Board participated in the first Convening of Micronesia College Boards December 9-10.

During this reporting period, the College undertook an analysis of the progress of the 324 Strategic Activities listed in the 2019 - 2023 Strategic Plan. Of these, 59 are achieved (20%) 211 are on track (65%), 56 deferred (17%). \$150,000 is allocated annually since 2021 for Strategic Activities each year by the Budget Committee to implement prioritized strategic activities.

Student persistence and retention remains a CMI priority focus: The Fall to Fall retention rate increased from 55% to 58% (ISS is 55% with a 73% stretch goal). The CMI 15 to Finish effort, which commenced Fall is encouraging persistence and enabling completion: 219 or 16% of students are taking 15 or more credits this Fall. 129 students who completed fifteen or more credits in Spring received their incentive laptops during a special recognition event when First Generation students were honored.

A consultant, funded by the RMI World Bank *Education and Skills Project* completed work on the review of the current program and courses of the CMI Maritime Center and the development of two new programs in Deck Technology and Maritime Engineering designed primarily to meet the needs of the Marshall Islands domestic shipping industry. This will include a new course on Traditional Navigation and Seafaring and a focus on the recruitment of women in maritime careers.

CMI has been awarded of \$1,794,628. by NTIA under its Connecting Minority Communities (CMC) Pilot Program. This two year project supports Broadband Access for Remote Learning Opportunities and Training Program (BARLO) and will ensure all eligible students and learning centers have access to broadband Internet access for remote learning, telework, and entrepreneurship, contribute to the improvement of standard of living by providing higher education to remote communities, strengthen the College's IT technical and human capacity to help provide better broadband education and training, access, and technical support services.

# College of Micronesia-FSM

## *Introduction*

The College of Micronesia-FSM Mission Statement reads, “*The College of Micronesia-FSM is a learner-centered institution of higher education that is committed to the success of the Federated States of Micronesia by providing academic and career and technical educational programs characterized by continuous improvement and best practices.*”

The College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM) is a multi-campus institution with the National Campus located in Palikir, Pohnpei, and a state campus in each state. COM-FSM also includes the FSM Fisheries and Maritime Institute located in Yap. The area most directly served by the college is the Federated States of Micronesia, which includes approximately two-million square miles of the western Pacific Ocean and a population of over 110,000. The college offers 2 baccalaureate degrees, 14 associate degrees, and 17 certificate programs. The college offers fisheries and maritime instruction for fishing, navigation and engineering that meet the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) regulations and traditional navigation.

## *Accreditation Updates*



COM-FSM’s Institutional Self-Evaluation Report was submitted in June 2022. In September, Interim President and ALO had a preliminary meeting with the ISER Chair and Vice Chair and ACCJC staff liaison . The ISER Review Team had a virtual meet and greet with the college’s ISER writing team followed by an open forum with the college community on September 30, 2022. The college provided additional evidences requested by the ISER Review Team prior to their October 4<sup>th</sup> meeting. The college received the Team’s Core Inquiries Report on November 15, 2022 and a meeting was held with the ISER Review Team Chair and Vice Chair on December 2, 2022 to review the content of the Core Inquiries Report. The peer evaluation team visit is scheduled for the week of March 13, 2023. “Welewele” is a traditional navigation term meaning to stay on a straight and honest path.

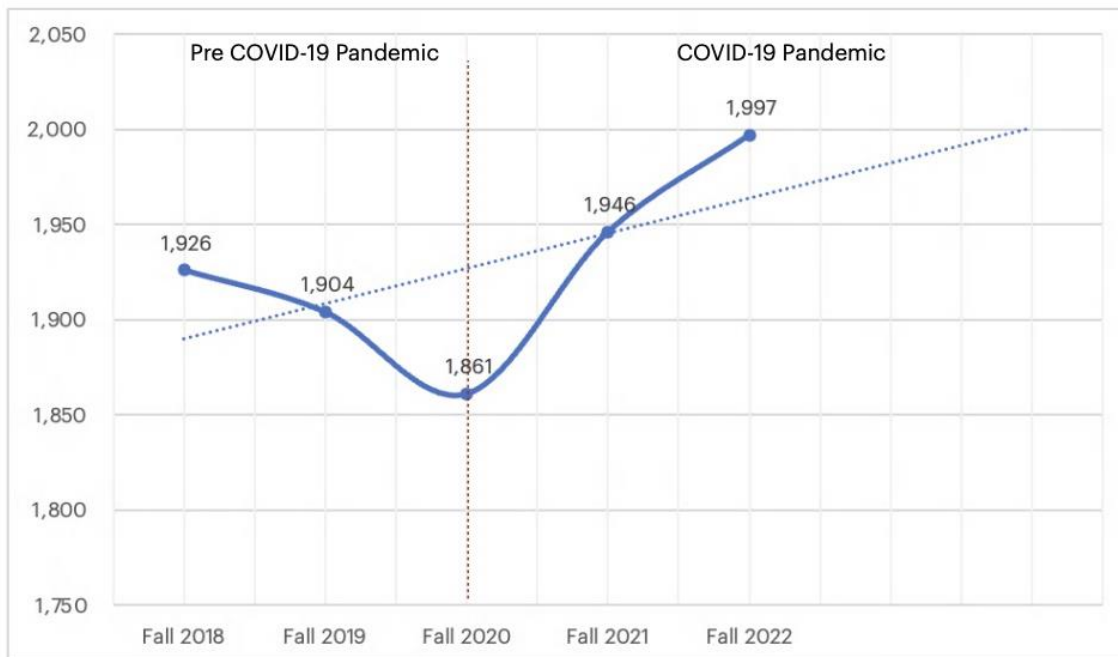
## *General Updates*

- At their November 2022 meeting, COM-FSM Board of Regents announced the completion of the presidential search process and selected Dr. Theresa Koroivulaono as the college’s 6<sup>th</sup> president. Dr. Koroivulaono will begin her tenure at COM-FSM in February 2023.
- A contractor has been awarded to build the new Teaching Clinic at National Campus and will soon commence construction within the next few months. The project is funded by the US-DOE under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds.
- The FSM President signed an amendment to the Permanent Regulation Implementing Public Law 22-134 that stipulates that any person traveling to the FSM still requires to be vaccinated, but no longer requires a booster dose prior to travel. As of October 10, 2022, all FSM states are fully open for interstate and international travel with no quarantine required.

- The United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) awarded the Center for Entrepreneurship (CFE) \$280,000 to broaden the activities of the Leadership Through Immersion (LTI) project. The additional funding will support the center’s activities related to the promotion of Water Sanitation and Health (WASH) advocacy events; allow the Center to accept 20 interns who will engage themselves in marketing, research, statistics, leadership, and community service; expand the LTI program to the other three campuses of the college; and recruit two additional from each state responsible for implementing the LTI activities for their respective campuses.

**Enrollment Updates**

- For fall 2022 semester, a total of 1,997 (headcount) students enrolled with 22,749 registered credits or 1,896 FTE. The registrar reported that the system-wide fall 2022 headcount enrollment is the highest fall enrollment in headcount the college has recorded for the past four fall semesters. Chart below shows the college’s fall semester headcount enrollments from fall 2018 to fall 2022.



**Chart 1.** System-wide fall enrollment statistics in headcounts: 2018 to 2022

## 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 26 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 technical education 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***

Enrollment for the fall 2022 semester increased by approximately two percent (2%) to 1730 when compared to the enrollment in the prior year fall 2021 semester. When compared to the enrollment ten years ago in fall 2012, the fall 2022 semester enrollment dropped by approximately thirty-three percent (33%).

The Fall 2022 College Assembly returned to a face-to-face event with faculty, administrators, and staff in attendance. Sessions included a compensation study presentation for faculty conducted by consultant, Alan Searle; procurement training; cybersecurity training; Government of Guam Retirement information session; active shooter hands-on training with practical exercises and debriefing; and first aid basics training. The Grab & Go Lunch was provided by the College as the annual Thanksgiving meal. The Faculty Union also held a meeting for a brief presentation on changes to the upcoming Board-Local Agreement.

Currently, WorkKeys Certificates can be used in lieu of the College's placement tests. GCC is now accepting platinum and gold-level ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificates (NCRC) as evidence of college-level readiness in Math and English. Students who achieve Platinum and Gold can enroll in GCCs MA110-A Finite Mathematics and EN110 Freshman Composition without having to take the placement exam. Preliminary results show that students who place in College English and math courses through this waiver are doing well, most passing the classes with a "C" or better.

Since June 2021, the College offered fifteen (15) 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, diesel

mechanic, bus driving, and childcare. The total number of bootcamp completers since June 2021 is 199. The number of bootcamp completers employed with an employer sponsor is 129. Truck Driving bootcamp III is ongoing. In addition to the bootcamps, GCC offered other free training opportunities to island residents. The College continued to provide free training and education to individuals interested in culinary and criminal justice. The College used DOI grant funding to support individuals interested in the culinary field, including baking. Individuals were given the



opportunity to earn 30 college credits at no cost to them. Books were also provided at no cost to participants. Additionally, for the second year in a row, the College used consolidated grant funding to provide an introductory Criminal Justice course during the summer for sixteen recent high school graduates who were interested in careers in criminal justice. Captain Masga led the students in delving into the world of Criminal Justice. Additionally, the College received funding to offer the 2022 National Summer Transportation Institute this summer with 20 middle school students participating in the program. The goal of the program is to introduce students to the possibilities of a career in the transportation industry.

The College continues to be vigilant and steadfast in its efforts to ensure students' needs are met during this pandemic and every avenue exhausted to provide the education and support necessary to achieve our educational mission. The laptop and MiFi loaner program will continue through the College's bookstore loaner program.

The Center for Student Involvement offered student activities in traditional face-to-face formats this fall semester. A GCC Campus Tour was offered for new and potential students prior to the start of the fall classes. The Fall New Student Orientation was held and information was provided by Admissions and Registration, Counseling, Financial Aid, Accommodative Services, Student Support Services, Reach for College, Career Placement, Title IX, and Student Organizations. The Meet the President sessions with President Dr. Mary A.Y. Okada and the Fall Festival and Tour of the Pacific returned to a face-to-face format. Additionally, being election season, the College provided voting opportunities for island residents to vote on campus.

### ***Accreditation Updates***

In preparation for GCC's Institutional Self Evaluation Report writing process, the College's Accreditation Liaison Office began the review and mapping of the 2025 Accreditation Standards with the 2014 Accreditation Standards. The College plans to write the ISER to the 2025 Accreditation Standards.

## **Palau Community College**

### ***Accreditation Updates***

Palau Community College became an accredited institution in 1977 by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACCJC-WASC). It has been an ACCJC-WASC member institution for 45 years.

Palau Community College submitted its Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) 2023 on July 22, 2022 to ACCJC, WASC. On October 4-5, 2022, the Accreditation Focus Site Visit Team of eleven members chaired by Dr. Erika Lacro, Vice President of the University of Hawaii Community College System met in San Francisco, CA to review the report and all its evidence.

As a result of the October 4<sup>th</sup> review by the Accreditation Team, the College received five Core Inquiries in November; the College is addressing the five Core Inquiries for submission to the Accreditation Focus Site Visit Team on February 24, 2023, two weeks prior to the actual site visit in March of 2023.

The College Pre-Visit meeting has been scheduled for February 3, 2023 with the actual campus visit during the week of March 13, 2023.

### ***College Program Highlights***

- In July 2022 PCC students attended the Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) science program in Hawaii. This program was specifically designed for Pacific Islanders to gain knowledge, engages in-field experience, in hopes of developing more indigenous scientists of their islands. This program has different fields of work and we are all assigned a mentor in different fields such as Marine Science, Botany, Microbiology, etc. Students worked with mentors Dr. Kiana Frank and Dr. Bob Richmond. Another group of students from PCC Environmental/Marine Science (EMS) participated in Bridge to Bachelor (B2B) summer program with their mentor Dr. Christopher Lobban in Guam. At the same time, another group of students attended annual International Coral Reef Symposium held in Bremen, Germany this year. In August of this year, PCC EMS and IT students attended IOA-LSAMP conference in Guam and a meeting with Dr. Joseph Genz.
- Former Vice Chairperson of PCC Board of Trustees Ms. Romana Wong was sworn-in by the College Board of Trustees Chairman Rev. Billy G. Kuartei to serve another four-year term.
- On July 13, 2022 Palau Community College Board of Trustees (BOT) convened to review the college Institutional Self-Evaluation Report to be submitted to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) no later than August 01, 2022. Reviewers were BOT Chairman Billy G. Kuartei, Trustee Alvina Timarong, Student Trustee O'Keef Kokichi and PCC President Dr. Tellei including members of the College Accreditation Steering Committee (ASC).
- During this reporting period, Palau Community College Continuing Education began a three-week caregiver training to interested community members free of charge. This training is made possible through a partnership between PCC and Ministry of Health (MOH) Geriatric Program which gives local participants the opportunity to be trained in geriatric care. The focus of the training is to provide information on the concept of aging and general principles of caring for the aged adult.
- Palau Community College Student Services held its Swear-In & Induction Ceremony for Student Trustee and Associated Students of Palau Community College (ASPCC) at Assembly Hall. Present to administered oath of office to elected ASPCC officers and senators was PCC President while BOT Vice Chairperson administered oath of office to the Student Trustee.

There were thirteen (13) students elected and inducted this year to conduct official business of ASPCC.

- In October, 2022 San Diego State University's President Adela de la Torre and Associate Vice President for International Affairs Dr. Cristina Alfaro, SDSU Director of Interwork Institute Dr. Caren Sax, and SDSU Director of the Center for Pacific Studies Dr. Theresa Lally visited Palau Community College and met with President Dr. Patrick U. Tellei and Dean of Continuing Education Hedrick Kual. On the course of the same visit, SDSU President Adela de la Torre and colleagues had the opportunity to meet with MOE Minister Dr. Dale Jenkins, Palau House of Delegates, 11th Olbiil Era Kelulau members and SDSU Alumni, Delegate Frutoso Tellei & Delegate Yutaka Gibbons Jr.
- On November 08, 2022 Dr. Emais Roberts was sworn-in by the PCC Board of Trustees Chairman Rev. Billy G. Kuartei to serve another four-year term. Dr. Roberts is also a chairman the College of Micronesia Board of Regents-Micronesian Land Grant.
- On October 7, 2022 PCC President Dr. Patrick U. Tellei was notified by the U.S. Department of Education-Office of Postsecondary Education informing him of the new grant award for Upward Bound Math-Science (UBMS) program. With the letter, a grant award notification (GAN) specifying the amount of funds for fiscal year 2022 and subsequent years ending August 31, 2027. PCC currently host other federal programs such as Classic Upward Bound, Educational Talent Search, Asian American Native American Pacific Islander Serving Institutions (AANAPISI).

PCC Held its Annual Thanksgiving Endowment Fundraising on November 23th with over \$50,000 dollars raised through ticket sales and cash donations. BOT Chairman Billy G. Kuartei, BOT Secretary/Treasurer Kione Isechal, Student Trustee O'Keef Kokichi, ASPCC Treasurer Kesiil Thomas and members of the College Executive Committee deliver special messages via live radio talkshow and PCC Facebook.