

# Report to the Board of Regents

December 11-14, 2023

IA

## MISSION STATEMENT

*"The department for instructional affairs is the center for academic activities of the college that is committed to student success and achievement by providing leadership and guidance in all instructional affairs across all site through continually sustaining the quality of academic and career & technical educational programs and improving learning support services, strengthening faculty and staff, and collaborating with internal and external stakeholders."*

## Very First: BSBA Debut its Internship Appreciation Event

The Internship Appreciation Event intended for supervisors of various offices and agencies for their support to the B.S. in Business Administration's Internship Program was successfully held on December 4, 2023 at the Student Services Center, CTEC Campus. The event aimed to recognize and celebrate the achievements and contributions of the interns during their internship period. The event also provided an opportunity for the interns to network and interact with their mentors, supervisors, and peers.

The event consisted of the following major activities: Welcome remarks by Dr. Theresa Koroivulaono, the President & CEO of the COM-FSM, awarding of certificates of appreciation to supervisors and certificates of completion to the student interns, a summary of the evaluation of the supervisors to their respective interns, and closing remarks by the VPIA Delihna Ehmes. These were followed by a reception dinner courtesy of the Department for Instructional Affairs which provided opportunities for all in attendance to get acquainted with, and to interact among each other.

Before the program started, individual video presentations of the 31 interns were shown which contain how the students went through their internship journey and how they accomplished the goals that they themselves set along the guidance of their supervisors. The internship procedure was arranged in such a way that the interns will go through the internship program with a contract signed by their respective supervisors delineating the expectations regarding set of skills, work ethics and traits that the intern should manifest. They were evaluated twice, one that coincided with the midterm period at the college, and another final one just before the Appreciation Event. These made sure that the interns really learned and improved within the duration of the internship program and it is hoped that it raised the bar to a higher level in regard to the performance of their respective tasks and functions.

The certificate awarding ceremony was meaningful and inspiring, honoring the supervisors and generating positive results for both the organizations and the interns, and it also gave the interns a joyous occasion to celebrate their accomplishments.

There was a perfect attendance of the interns and an estimated ninety percent of the supervisors attended. Among those who graced the occasion was the Vice-President of the Bank of the Federated States of Micronesia, Mr. Christopher Schramm.

The event enhanced communication and collaboration between the interns and their mentors, supervisors, and peers, and to the Instructional Affairs Department officials led by the Vice-President herself, the Dean of Academic Program and the Instructional Coordinator.

This very first appreciation program can be considered a success and a milestone to the BSBA program considering the creation of opportunities for future partnerships and collaborations between the organization and its stakeholders.

## A Glance At IA Inside Reports

- Sustaining the Quality of Instructional Programs
- Strengthening Faculty
- Improving Learning Support Services
- Collaborating with Stakeholders
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- A Spotlight on Issues

## Strengthening Faculty

### Instructors Receive New iPads

The Business Administration (BUA) Program initiated the migration of courses to an online platform when the COVID-19 pandemic was ongoing. This allowed educational services to continue when meeting in-person was discouraged and brought about digital resources (e-books, learning management systems, educational clips, study tools, etc.) that could be utilized to enhance the learning experience of students. With this in mind, the BUA program requested digital tablets that could strengthen their teaching capabilities in such a situation in their Program Assessment Summary of Academic Cycle 2020-2021.



In order to assist instructors in their transition to online teaching and learning, the VPIA department with the support of the Senior Leadership Team, approved purchase and distribution of iPads to all full-time faculty across sites. Issuing iPads to the faculty will provide assistance to ensure that instructors can effectively provide constant and immediate feedback that will improve faculty-student interaction.

This will also help to ensure that they can conveniently and effectively use other gadgets and software in their delivery of learning outcomes.

With this technological provision, the faculty is strengthened, educational services are supported and sustained, and student success is expected to improve.

**AP\_GOAL\_1.** Ensure development, delivery, and quality of all academic programs



## PLA Consolidated Reports AC2019-2023

The following are the progress of PAS submissions per Academic Cycle per Degree/Certificate program:

	AC19-20	AC20-21	AC21-22	AC22-23
AS/AA Programs	1 out of 11 9%	10 out of 11 91%	11 out of 11 100%	9 out of 11 82%
AAS Programs	2 out of 3 67%	3 out of 3 100%	3 out of 3 100%	1 out of 3 33%
CA Programs	8 out of 12 67%	5 out of 12 42%	9 out of 12 75%	1 out of 12 8%
Third Year Programs	2 out of 3 67%	2 out of 3 67%	2 out of 3 67%	1 out of 2 50%
BS Programs	0 out of 1 0%	1 out of 1 100%	1 out of 1 100%	2 out of 2 100%
ACE	0 out of 1 0%	0 out of 1 0%	1 out of 1 100%	0 out of 1 0%
General Ed.	1 out of 1 100%	0 out of 1 0%	1 out of 1 100%	0 out of 1 0%
Pre-requisite Courses	0 out of 1 0%	0 out of 1 0%	0 out of 1 0%	0 out of 1 0%

Gleaning from the presented data, there was a decrease of the submissions. This is due to the new assignments of functions and those who are installed are still undergoing training and familiarization of the processes. It can also be due to some resignations that happened which caused additional tasks and dual functions to existing program faculty. Improvement shall be expected afterward.

**AP\_GOAL\_3.** Ensure assessment of student learnings.

**IC\_GOAL\_3.** Assure evaluation of instructional programs and courses.

The following are the submission rates for Program Assessment Summaries (PAS) per Academic Cycle:

PAS2019-2020 Submissions



PAS2020-2021 Submissions



PAS2021-2022 Submissions



PAS2022-2023 Submissions



Source: COM-FSM AMS (TracDat)

## PROGRAM ASSESSMENT

A program assessment is an iterative and ongoing process of purposeful reflection and planning, where one systemically evaluates a program, course, or an activity in order to identify strengths and areas for improvement and then uses the results from the evaluation of those data to inform decision making (Bresciani & Fackler, 2005). Program assessment primarily focuses on what and how an academic or administrative unit (nonacademic programs) contributes to the learning, growth, and development of students as group instead of as individual students. - Program Assessment and Program Review Procedures Manual

## Sustaining the Quality of Instructional Programs

### Efficient Course Outlines Review

The office of the Academic Programs in collaboration with the Curriculum Committee conducted a series of trainings for all ICs and PCs. These series of trainings were aimed at familiarizing the participants with the mechanism established, perceived to be an effective and efficient approach to course outline reviews.

The platform is designed to consolidate all reviews and movements of course outlines into a one-stop-shop format that will be traceable and transparent, and will allow immediate fast tracking and looping and back-looping processes. All the course outlines that need to be reviewed whether they are new, modified, or updated, are listed down and linked, and are endorsed to PCs, ICs, DAP, DTEC, and to the CC, then finally endorsed for approval by the VPIA.

The Pathway for Revising an Existing Course Outline per AP #3206 are as follows:

1. The program coordinator(PC)/IC/dean identifies a list of courses to be reviewed each year. That list is based on courses nearing the end of the required five-year review cycle or assessment results recommending course modification. The PC will assign an identified course to a program faculty who teaches the course.
2. Course author prepares a course modification request form and revises the course outline.
3. The completed course modification request form, the revised course outline and the old course outline are reviewed by all faculties (including state campus faculty) who teach the course.
4. The completed course modification request form, the revised course outline and the old course outline are endorsed to the IC through the Course Outline Working Sheet.
5. After evaluating the accuracy and correctness of the course outline, IC endorses it to the Dean of Academic Program (DAP) or Dean of Technical
6. DAP endorses it to the Curriculum Committee and is assigned to two CC Members for review.
7. CC sends recommendation to the VPIA for final actions. The VPIA reviews and if approved, signs the course outline. If not approved, VPIA returns the course outline to CC, then endorse back in the same route but in a backward movement, to the initiator.
8. The committee chair informs the academic divisions and the instructional coordinator of the VPIA's decision on the revised course outline.
9. The signed course outline is kept in the VPIA office and copies are sent to the course initiator, appropriate division, state campuses and the outline is posted on the college web site.
10. The DAP adds the course information to the Catalog and Student Information System when the course is ready for implementation.

With the designed mechanism, the movement of endorsements will be transparent, and the course outlines are intact in the same cloud-based location.

Other tools such as alignment to CSLO, PSLO, ISLO, and using Bloom's Taxonomy are made handy and readily accessible.

With this new mechanism, one-hundred one (101) COs from a total of one hundred eighty-one (181) that need attention were completed. From this number, some of these course outlines are now currently being used in this Fall 2023 semester while the others are still in the routing process. It is also expected that identification of areas of improvement would be much easier so that application of necessary corrective measures can be done fast.

This initiative is another manifestation of innovation and continuous improvement effort in consonance with the college mission.

**IA\_GOAL\_1.** Assure quality of academic and career & technical education programs

**AP\_GOAL\_4.** Ensure workshops and trainings for faculty

**IC\_GOAL\_4.** Enrich faculty skills and capabilities





## LRC Corner

### Improving Learning Support Services

#### LRC Training: Kosrae Campus

The Acting LRC Director, Karleen Samuel and LRC staff, Juveline Recana assisted Kosrae Campus' new LRC staff, Inowe Noda, and to provide him with the training needed so he could perform his library duties and responsibilities with confidence. The following are the types of training he received:

##### Training on Library Circulation:

- Patron usage
- Computer usage
- Monthly report
- Headphone usage
- Label each headphone for tracking
- How to use the college's web OPAC to locate and find status of resources
- Introduce LRC online databases subscriptions



##### Training on Follett applications:

- Circulation – check in/check out/ patron status/price of material
- Patrons- to add new patron or user to report application to get statistics daily/monthly/yearly
- Processing of new materials
- Assigning and labeling call number
- Assigning barcodes

LRC.GOAL\_4. Assure professional and efficient services to library users

### LRC Statistics: November

#### Programs/Services

	CTEC	KSA	NC	YC	TOTAL
Book repaired	0	0	3	0	3
Computer Assists	4	8	19	2	33
Computer Usage	49	298	610	96	1,053
Materials circulated	6	17	63	5	91
Patron Usage	638	320	6399	181	7,538
Records Edited	0	0	366	0	366
Reserve materials	0	0	0	1	1
Reference Transactions	0	1	44	5	50
Scan/Photocopy Services	1	0	21	0	23
Visitor usage	2	0	0	0	2

LRC.GOAL\_4. Assure professional and efficient services to library users

#### Collection Development

	CTEC	KSA	NC	YC	TOTAL
Total volumes	4,663	4,524	77,014	11,706	97,907
Total titles	3,708	4,307	48,012	10,770	66,797
Cataloged	0	17	151	0	168
Donations	0	0	146	0	146
Serials	0	0	59	0	59
New Acquisition	0	0	59	0	59

LRC.GOAL\_2. Ensure current and diversity of library collection and resources

SERVICES	NC	CHUUK
Audio Video production	1	0
COM meetings/workshops in MITC Rooms	2	0
COM video coverage	2	0
Equipment checked out	2	0
Equipment repaired	1	0
Digital photos taken	303	0
ID cards issue for new comers	7	0
ID cards re-issue due lost or damage	11	3
ID cards validated	13	3
ID cards laminated	1	0

LRC.GOAL\_1. Ensure adequate resources, facilities and services to support learning and teaching

IA.GOAL 2. Ensure adequate learning support resources

### LRC Highlights: November

#### Learning Resource Center: CTEC

The LRC at CTEC was closed on November 2, 2023, due to an emergency campus closure. CTEC Library Technician, Rihter Hellan, participated in a Zoom meeting for the student success committee, while library staff attended a campus meeting and thanksgiving lunch at the student services center. The VPIA, Delihna Ehmes, also visited the library.

#### Learning Resource Center: National Campus

The library processed and cataloged various government documents and books. They also participated in a meeting and updated their library instruction modules. A visitor from Island Research Education Initiatives in Palikir also visited the library.

#### Researched Topics

The researched topics at the National Campus include various subjects such as field music recordings, social studies, traditional music, cultural heritage, education, family tree, natural disasters, healthcare, and mental health services. The specific topics researched in Yap are how to write an abstract, Canvas, understanding sequence, hereditary illnesses, and mental health services.

#### Campus-Wide Statistics

This is a report of the services and collection development of a library and media center throughout all the campuses. In terms of services, the library repaired three books, provided computer assistance 33 times, recorded 1053 computer usages, circulated 91 materials, had 7538 patron usages, conducted 366 record edits, offered one reserve material, handled 50 reference transactions, performed 23 scans/photocopies, and had two visitor usages. The library's collection development included a total of 97,907 volumes and 66,797 titles, with 168 cataloged, 146 donations, 59 serials, and 59 new acquisitions. The media center provided various services such as producing one audio video, covering two COM meetings/workshops and two COM videos, checking out two equipment, taking 303 digital photos, issuing seven ID cards for new students, re-issuing 14 damaged/lost ID cards, validating 16 ID cards, laminating one ID card, and taking 18 ID photos. Additionally, there were two classes in the MITC, and the staff provided setups for seven activities/classes. The media center collected a total of \$55.00 in fees for ID cards and showed one video for a class.

#### Concerns Regarding LRC Management and Equipment Needs at MITC Chuuk

There are a couple of concerns that need to be addressed. Firstly, Lilian Simina, who was hired to manage the LRC, is currently unwell, resulting in the library being managed by Edson Asito, who is already handling MITC and other IT office duties. The workload for one staff member managing three positions is a concern, and it's worth considering how compensation should be handled in such situations.

Secondly, two pieces of equipment are needed at MITC Chuuk to document and archive important events and activities on the campus: a digital camera and Final Cut Pro video editing software.

#### LRC MISSION STATEMENT

*The Learning Resources Center (LRC) is an instructional component of the College that serves the students, faculty, staff and the College community members by providing adequate library and learning support services to support the educational needs, interests and opportunities for lifelong learning of the College community.*

## Teacher Corps Program Recruitment Effort

Ever since 2005, The Teacher Corps Program has been recruiting potential members from high schools across the FSM who are willing to study and train in Education to help the development of school systems in the FSM. This semester was no different, with the Teacher Corps visiting 7 of Pohnpei's high schools (Madolenihmw High School, Calvary Christian Academy, Nanpei Memorial High School, Our Lady of Mercy Catholic High School, Pohnpei Island Central School, Pohnpei Catholic School, and Seventh Day Adventist) and 3 in Chuuk (Chuuk High School, Saramen High School, and Xavier High School) to do their recruitment presentations.

The Teacher Corps Program has planned a series of workshops from Fall 2023 to Fall 2024. These workshops will provide insights on various topics related to job application and teaching-related positions. The sessions will cover resume preparation, techniques to enhance the quality of education, application methods for scholarships, and TCE and Third Year Essay workshops.



Teacher Corps Program's PICS visit



Teacher Corps Program visiting OLMCHS



Teacher Corps Program's visiting MHS students



Teacher Corps visiting CCA high school students

## Authentic Assessment

The SC/SS 115 Ethnobotany class under Prof. Dana Lee Ling has a field final examination where the class crosses the campus identifying plants and their traditional uses. SC/SS115 has this as its course description: "Students will be able to identify, compare, and contrast the distinguishing morphological and reproductive characteristics of plants used by Micronesians; observe, describe, communicate, and experience the uses of plants in their cultural context."



As seen in the photo inset, students were given a route to cross the national campus from east to west, identifying the plants along the way designated for the final exams. This is an authentic type of course assessment using creative learning experiences to test students' skills and knowledge in realistic situations.

Another class that used authentic assessment is BA260 Fundamentals of Management under Prof. Marian Medalla. Her students staged the "Coconut Christmas Bazaar" on December 1, 2023 from 6:00 P.M. -9:00 P.M. at the Kolonia-China Friendship Center Gym.

The students sold different products that used mainly coconut materials but the focus is the application of different concepts of business management they learned theoretically in class and applied in this class activity.



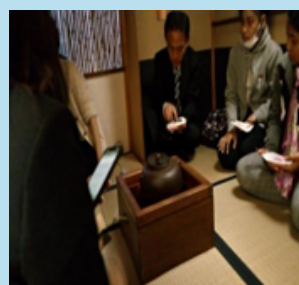
## Collaborating with Stakeholders: Student Exchange Program – TMU

In November 2023, nine college students and a chaperone embarked on a United Airlines flight to Tokyo for a student exchange program organized by the Tokyo Metropolitan Government, Tokyo Metropolitan University, FSM Embassy of Japan, and the College of Micronesia-FSM. The program provides valuable learning opportunities for students.



**On Day 1** of the trip, participants took a flight from Pohnpei to Guam and then from Guam to Narita Airport in Tokyo. They were met by a licensed guide and arrived in Shinjuku, Tokyo at 1:00 p.m. The students took their free time exploring the area until dinner was provided at 6:00 p.m. and the travel guide introduced the agenda for the week. The day ended at 8:00 p.m.

**On Day 2** of their visit to Japan, students went to the FSM Embassy and learned about the country's culture and relationships with other Asian countries. They also visited Tokyo Metropolitan Government and shared information about FSM culture and geography. The students then went to Sumida Incineration Plant and learned about Japan's meticulous waste management system. They watched as waste was weighed, separated, and incinerated at high temperatures to avoid toxins. Finally, they toured the Sky Tree Tower, one of the tallest towers in the world.



**On Day 3** of their trip, students visited Tokyo Metropolitan University and participated in a foreign studies class on "Silent Racism." They engaged in open discussions with other students and learned about cultural differences, unintended offense, and stereotyping. After the class, they experienced a traditional tea ceremony, which showcased Japan's integration of the past with its advanced present development and highlighted the importance of cultural practices. The students also toured the campus.

**On Day 4** of their trip, students visited Tokyo Metropolitan College of Industrial Technology, where they explored various technological courses. They also visited Arakawa campus, which focuses on health science and nursing, where they saw advanced tools for people with disabilities and a nursing practice room. The students were also taught about the uses and standards of MRI machines. The day ended with a farewell party hosted by Tokyo Metropolitan University and the government, where participants discussed cultural differences and building relationships through project partnerships and grants. The program ended and students were given free time to tour the next day before departure.



**On Day 5** of their trip, students visited Shibuya city, a major commercial and finance center and had two hours of shopping and sightseeing. They then departed Tokyo and arrived in Kansai, Osaka before heading to Guam and then finally Pohnpei airport.

The group faced challenges with weather, crowds, and physical activity during their exchange program trip to Japan. However, they learned and adapted to the advanced technological tools and manners of the people.

Future exchange students should be aware of the weather, cleanliness, and manners of Japan, and be prepared for physical activity. The program should be promoted as an incentive for doing well in college, with more Micronesian Studies students recommended. The exchange program promotes building relationships, cultural exposure, and peaceful affairs.



## Featured Campus

### Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC)

COM-FSM Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC) is located in downtown Kolonia, FSM enrolls over three-hundred forty six (346) students each semester in various degree and certificate programs.

The Program of Hospitality and Tourism offers an associate degree in hospitality and tourism management and conducts short-term hospitality training for area businesses. The Division of Technology and Trade offers applied associate of science degree programs in Electronics Technology, Building Technology, Telecommunications, as well as certificates in Building Maintenance and Repair, Carpentry, Cabinet making/Furniture-making, Construction Electricity, Electronic Engineering Technology, and an Apprenticeship program in Building maintenance and various other trades. The Division of Technology and Trade also serves as the center for a Computerized Distance Education system for Electronics (NIDA) throughout the FSM. Other certificates offered at Pohnpei Campus include general studies, bookkeeping, secretarial science, trial counselors, community health sciences—health assistant training program, and agriculture and food technology. Developmental English and math classes continue to be a key component of many of the programs at CTEC.

To help students in the community to succeed in school, CTEC hosts TRIO programs—Educational Talent Search Program and Upward Bound—that serve elementary and secondary school students in cooperation with Pohnpei State Department of Education. CTEC is also home to Pohnpei Business Development Center (PBDC).

By recruiting experts from within the college system and community, CTEC is able to offer customized training programs and continuing education classes, including computer skills, English, business management, building technology, customer service, and leisure classes such as cultural dance and local language classes. The Cooperative Extension Services (CES) component of the Land Grant Program is integrated into the operations of the CTEC to better serve the local communities and people in Pohnpei.

*“Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC)” FSM, www.comfsm.fm/?q=pohnpei. Accessed 07 Dec. 2023.*

## Campus TIDBITS

### The Goods:

✓ RAC program instructor, Bertoldo Esteban, continuously works with the National Ozone Unit (NOU) of DECEM-FSM to maintain our commitment to assisting government projects regarding the Montreal Protocol and the Kigali Amendment.

Due to this collaboration, the NOU of the DECEM-FSM is supporting CTEC's Refrigeration and Air Conditioning program by providing toolkits and training pods to enhance the delivery of training to students and the refrigeration and air conditioning servicing sector throughout the four states of the nation, specifically for the safe handling of environment-friendly and energy-efficient cooling units.



✓ CTEC IC Sehpin completed 14 faculty class observations in Fall 2023.

✓ Over 750 patrons were assisted in Learning Resource Center Usage in November 2023.

✓ Professors Cirilo Recana and Alvie Cabanez were added as CTEC Program coordinators in the Curriculum Committee.

✓ CTEC Math Instructor job offer has been accepted. Paper work is still pending from HR Office, but the applicant is expected to start by January 2024.



✓ CTEC Dean attended FSM's 9th Women's Conference in Kosrae to lead a presentation on what COM-FSM can do to help Women's Economic Empowerment in the FSM.



✓ On November 13-14, 2023, AG110 students participated in the Hydroponics & Greenhouse Management Training



✓ Margaret M. Baekalia, Laboratory Specialist, did a lecture on Food Safety in AG 090 class.

✓ Avalon Edward, CRE-ANR Coordinator did a lecture on Finance Management for Small Business Owners

## OSHA Certification Ceremony

Ten students from the Pohnpei CTEC Campus have successfully completed the Career Safe OSHA 10-Hour General Industry Course, sponsored by the Center of Entrepreneurship at COM-FSM in collaboration with the Continuing Education and Workforce Development program at Guam Community College (GCC). This comprehensive course, spanning across 14 modules, encompassed crucial workplace safety practices mandated by OSHA. The curriculum's primary objective was to furnish workers and employers with an in-depth understanding and heightened awareness of public safety standards, ensuring uncompromised adherence to safety protocols within their workplaces.

The students who completed the course are as follows:

1. Michael Yamamura (Pohnpei)
2. Randon Norman (Pohnpei)
3. Jeremiah Nelson (Chuuk)
4. Bryden Brax Wichilyal (Yap)
5. Kaye Edward (Pohnpei)
6. Ertwoes Erwan (Chuuk)
7. Stephen Jr. Mara (Yap)
8. Deven Donre (Pohnpei)
9. Marc Joe Bernardo (Pohnpei)
10. Maria Quatra L. Bartolome (Pohnpei)



Under the guidance of their professor, Dr. Nelchor Permitez, students were instructed comprehensively on the coverage of the OSHA 10-Hour General Industry Course and were adeptly familiarized with the online platform utilized by Career Safe. Following each module, students underwent assessments to gauge their competency levels, a prerequisite for advancing to subsequent modules. The successful completion of all modules culminated in a final assessment, determining their eligibility for the Certificate of Achievement and an OSHA-certified ID card.

The participants in this course demonstrated diversity, with an equitable representation of one female and nine male students, thereby exemplifying gender parity. Notably, all ten participants achieved a remarkable 100% success rate in passing the course. Within the next 90 days, they will receive their completion cards via mail, affirming their dedicated efforts and successful completion of the rigorous OSHA training program requirements. At Pohnpei CTEC Campus, our students' success stands as a testament to our unwavering commitment. Congratulations to the COM-FSM CTEC students for their remarkable achievement in successfully completing the OSHA 10-Hour General Industry Course.



PCD\_GOAL.1. Ensure quality instructional programs are aligned to the state needs

## Police Commissioners Meeting

The CTEC Campus Dean recently attended a meeting with Police Commissioners to discuss the alignment of the Law Enforcement program with the Police Academy and Trial Counselor programs. This meeting was essential in ensuring that all programs are aligned and working towards the same goals. The Law Enforcement program is designed to prepare students for a career in policing, while the Police Academy provides comprehensive training for new recruits. The Trial Counselor program is designed to prepare students for a career as a trial lawyer.

During the meeting, the CTEC Campus Dean shared ideas on how to improve the Law Enforcement program, including the introduction of new courses and training modules. The Police Commissioners provided valuable feedback and shared their expectations for the program. The Trial Counselor program was also discussed, and there was an agreement to align the curriculum with the needs of the police force.

Overall, the meeting was a success, and everyone left with a clear understanding of what needs to be done to align the programs. The CTEC Campus Dean and the Police Commissioners agreed to work closely together to ensure that the Law Enforcement program, Police Academy, and Trial Counselor program are all working towards the same goals and objectives.



Commissioner Joab, Commissioner Pedrus, Commissioner/Dean Silbanuz, and Commissioner Mendia

PCD\_GOAL\_5. Assure responsive and beneficial community engagement.

## Featured Program

### Marine Science Program

The College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM) at its national site in Palikir offers an Associate of Science degree in Marine Science (AS in Marine Science), a two year program providing a solid foundation for students interested in pursuing a higher degree at a four-year institution. It is also designed to train students so that they can obtain middle-level technician positions related to science and technology in both government and private sectors. Marine sciences qualifies an individual to perform many ocean related jobs such as: educators, regulation enforcement, fisheries extension officers, observers on board, environmental monitoring and protection, advisory services, farming of marine products, coastal zone management, laboratory assistant or marine recreation and marine tourism to name a few.

The marine science program is designed to respond to a need expressed by the FSM leadership in the FSM States and National Economic Summits. As with other COM-FSM programs, the AS in marine science, must be assessed on a regular basis by an "advisory council" composed of specialists of the FSM associated with various marine related sectors. Their recommendations are reported to the curriculum committee, where the program profile can be readjusted according to the nation's economic needs. -

COM-FSM General Catalog 2023-2024

### 4-Stars STEM Scholars Program

The Islands of Opportunity Alliance-LSAMP (IOA—LSAMP) NSF is the only LSAMP Alliance serving the US-affiliated Pacific region, and its mission is to increase the number of underrepresented minority students—especially students of Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander ancestry—graduating with two- and four-year degrees in STEM disciplines. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo serves as the lead institution in an Alliance that comprises of 10 partner institutions across the Pacific, including: American Samoa Community College, College of the Marshall Islands, College of Micronesia - FSM, Chaminade University of Honolulu, Guam Community College, Hawai'i Pacific University, Northern Marianas College, Palau Community College, University of Guam, and University of Hawai'i at Mānoa.

The Marine Science Program established at the College of Micronesia - FSM is designed to respond to the needs of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and to take advantage of the unique marine environments found surrounding the islands within the country. IOA-LSAMP fits into the design as it can benefit the students enrolled at the institution. Keep in mind that students in the FSM are from various ethnolinguistic groups (Yapese, Chuukese, Pohnpeian, Kosraen, etc.).

Deciding for the appropriate name for the COM-FSM IOA-LSAMP learning community was a challenge as we initially tried to use local words to come up with a unique name. The challenge stemmed from the fact that the Federated States of Micronesia consists of at least four different Micronesian languages (Yapese, Chuukese, Pohnpeian and Kosraen) along with two Polynesian languages (Kapingamarangi and Nukuoro). We decided to name the learning community based on the FSM flag, thus naming our COM-FSM IOA-LSAMP learning community as the 4-Stars STEM Scholars (4SSS).

Five students are currently participating in the program: Shantelle Ponapart, Marstin Yaliwelig, Jeannyleen Andrew, Joshmin Gallen, and S-me Abraham.

## Field Studies with NGPS & BPM

### MR Program Takes Part in National Geographic Pristine Seas and Blue Prosperity Micronesia Science Expedition

The esteemed science advisor of National Geographic Pristine Seas (NGPS) and Blue Prosperity Micronesia (BPM) team, Nicole Yamase, invited the COM-FSM Marine Science (MR) program to join the science expedition that covered FSM. The main objective of the expedition was to document the research activities of students in assessing the abundance and mean size composition of commercial valued sea cucumber species in Pohnpei Lagoon, Federated States of Micronesia. On Oct 21, 2023, a film crew accompanied the Marine Biology Field Studies (MR 254) field trip to capture the research activities and document the work of the students.

During the expedition, Marine Science instructor Professor Peltin Olter-Pelep and two students engaged in interviews with the film crew. The following day, the same film crew visited the campus to record students collecting data and transferring it into a spreadsheet.

Yamase also extended an invitation to Jeannyleen 'Aimy' Andrew, one of the students, for a submarine dive that took place on October 23, 2023, within the Sokehs municipality. Aimy shared her experience during the Nat Geo-BLM expose at the Kolonia-China Gym and presented to the visiting students of the MV Argo.

On October 25, 2023, over 40 students from the COM-FSM Marine Science program visited the MV Argo for an explorer classroom experience, allowing them to gain exposure to various marine-related topics.

IA\_GOAL\_1: Assure quality of academic and career & technical education programs.

### The Expedition - Captured:



Jeannyleen Andrew and Governor Reed Oliver getting ready for the dive



Jeannyleen Andrew with Governor Reed Oliver during the submarine dive.



COMFSM students aboard the MV Argo.



Students pose with the MV Argo. in the background

### ACCJC STANDARD II.1

Academic programs at all locations and in all modes of delivery are offered in fields of study consistent with the institution's mission and reflect appropriate breadth, depth, and expected learning outcomes.



## Administrative Profile

### Lourdes Roboman - Yap Campus Dean

**Dean Lourdes Roboman** completed her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at Creighton University in Omaha. She also enrolled virtually in a few courses at Walden University and have participated in numerous trainings and workshops. She started working at the college almost 3 decades ago in 1994 as Yap Campus Director, a position she retained until May of 2012. In June 2012, she continued with her labor to the college in the role of Campus Dean, a role she held to this day.



Dean Roboman has skills in strategic planning, budget development, and team building; and when challenging situations occur as they often do, her decisiveness can be a source of reliance. With this, her commitment to her work, her stature of complete integrity, and the added bonus of being the longest serving Campus Dean, she is more than deserving of this spot of Administrative Profile of the Quarter.



As Campus Dean, her office goals are to ensure the effective delivery of instructional services for student achievement, to ensure the provision of services that support student learning and student success, to ensure the efficient administration of resources and logistics allocation that fosters conducive learning experience, to ensure continuous improvement to maintain quality of programs, operations, and services, and to assure responsive and beneficial community engagement. To achieve each goal, she has provided leadership and guidance in the delivery of instructional programs and learning support services, in the delivery of student services, in administrative services and operations, and in the evaluation of programs and services; and she has established and maintained effective partnerships with stakeholders.

Attending Catholic and Jesuit schools molded her to be a very religious person and puts God first in all her undertakings. She always believes that with God, all things are possible and made her favorite Bible text from Philippians 4:13 (NLT): "I can do everything through Christ who gives me strength" as her guiding principle.

Interestingly, she is the youngest among a family of eight, with five brothers and 2 sisters. She is a mother of 3 daughters and 2 sons, and a grandmother to 3 granddaughters and 1 grandson.

Family and education are two things that she values a great deal and she believes that education leads to growth, development, and success. With her long stint in the college, she said: "...working at the college has been very rewarding for me knowing that I have somehow made a difference in the lives of others, especially all our students yesterday, today, and hopefully for many tomorrows."

On the lighter side, her interests are gardening and exercising to stay fit and healthy, and these help her optimistic dispositions at all times.

## Instructor Profile

### Dorsalina William



**Dorsalina William** teaches as an English Instructor at Chuuk Campus. She was selected as Faculty of the Year based on her performance as an instructor/faculty, advisor and member of an assigned committee for Chuuk Campus. Instructor William is an individual who demonstrates devotion to her work, which is exemplified by the fact that she

carries a punctual work ethic and has never skipped a day of work. When executing her role as an academic advisor, she takes extra steps for clarification to make sure that her students get helpful insights to the best of her ability. Being a humble individual makes collaborating with her colleagues easy. She excels in carrying out responsibilities given in her care, and takes the time to help both colleagues and pupils understand their tasks. Her professional and personal backgrounds are essential to both her colleagues and students.

### Grateful For Their Fruitful Years

The Department for Instructional Affairs would like to express its sincere gratitude to retiring faculty members for their fruitful years of service at the College of Micronesia-FSM. Their dedication and passion to teaching have inspired countless students, including their fellow instructors, and the administration. They will always be remembered on how their teaching has impacted the lives of students, and the college is truly grateful for the time and energy they have invested so that the transfer of knowledge and skills to the learners would truly be a success.

Their unwavering commitment to the students and their willingness to go above and beyond to help the college succeed in their own capacities as instructors have not gone unnoticed. They surely have made a lasting impact on many lives of people at the college, and the students are all better for having had the opportunity to learn from them.

To **Prof. Kathleen Benjamin** - National Campus, **Prof. Rosalinda Bueno** - Kosrae Campus, and **Prof. Tendy Liwy** - CTEC Campus, thank you again for your years of service and for being such an incredible mentor and role model. As you embark on this new chapter in your life, we want to wish you all the best in your retirement. You will be missed, but your legacy will live on through the countless students whose lives you have touched.



## Student Profile

### Jeannyleen Andrew

Featured student in this report is one outstanding Marine Science student, Jeannyleen Andrew, whose dedication to her field of interest is truly inspiring. Taking a closer look at Jeannyleen's journey and accomplishments would create a sense of motivation to our students to excel in whatever career path they are taking and learn more about values that are integral to achievement.



Jeannyleen had already earned an Associates of Arts In Health and Careers Opportunity Program but that did not stop her to still pursue another field of interest - Marine Science. She started in Fall 2022 and since then, had engaged into the following researches: Population Densities and Size Structures of the Crown of Thorns Starfish (COTS) in Pohnpei Lagoon, FSM ; Identifying Community Dumpsites Adjacent to Both Primary and Secondary Roads within the Five (5) Municipalities of Pohnpei-(Spring 2023-Fall 2023); Turbidity Monitoring Project with MCT-USFS-(Summer 2023-Fall 2023); and Climate Change Project collaboration with Hawaii Pacific University and University of Guam. (Spring 2023-Ongoing). She is a working student currently employed at Seven Stars Hotel and hopes to further enhance her career spectrum once she finishes her associate degree in Marine Science.

She embodies a person of diligence and tenacity, truly an inspiration to our COM-FSM students.

## Promoting Programs Through Social Media

The FSM Fisheries and Maritime Institute's new Facebook page was initiated and designed by Miss Yumi Shultz, the long term JICA expert currently dispatched to FMI to work as a coordinator for employment support for international cadets.



Profile page of FSM -FMI's new Facebook page.

The school's Facebook page has two main objectives: to publicize FSM-FMI's activities to a wide audience and to showcase FMI's local and global presence to attract prospective students. By featuring photos, videos, and updates about the school's events, the page provides a platform for staying connected and engaged with FSM-FMI. Additionally, it serves as a valuable resource for prospective students, highlighting FSM-FMI's unique attributes, such as its facilities, faculty, and student body. Ultimately, the Facebook page plays a crucial role in promoting FSM-FMI's mission and values and attracting the next generation of leaders.

FCD\_GOAL\_5. Assure responsive and beneficial community engagement.

## Staff Development

### Yearning to Learn at Work - Yap Campus:

- Rosemary Manna, Yap Campus' Fiscal Officer, received her Bachelor's degree in accounting at Grand Canyon University.
- Berton Miginigad, Yap Campus' IT Technician II, is nearing completion of his Bachelor's degree in Information Technology & Network Administration at Walden University.
- Sarah Mooteb, UB Student Services Specialist III, is also nearing completion of her Master's degree in Project Management at Walden University.
- Delphina Giyetnag, ACE Mentor, has begun her Master's Degree program (PACMED) with University of Hawaii – Manoa this fall.

IA\_GOAL\_3. Ensure professional development for faculty and staff

## Course Section Offerings – Spring 2024

	F2F	DL	Total	Closed
Chuuk	35	9	44	1
CTEC	86	5	91	20
Kosrae	31	1	32	0
National	99	75	174	17
Yap	16	10	26	1
	267	100	367	39

## 10th Capping, Pinning, Candle-Lighting Ceremony

More than a tradition, the capping and pinning ceremony are symbols of the nursing student's hard work and dedication to their course, practice, and clinical. They have proven themselves worthy of wearing the cap and pin that essentially shows off that they are capable nurses. And on the 13 of December 2023, the Health Sciences Nursing Program will celebrate another batch of soon-to-be nurses with its capping, pinning, and candle lighting ceremony. This will be the 10th batch of nurses graduating from the COM-FSM Nursing Program.



For nursing students, receiving their caps and pins is a huge milestone in their education towards being professional nurses. This signifies their official welcome into the world of nursing. Receiving their caps and pins is a symbol of the official initiation in to the sisterhood and brotherhood of nurses. They have successfully finished learning basics of their profession and are now ready to put the theories into practice.

Pinning ceremony is a time-honored nursing school tradition and often more personally meaningful than the graduation ceremony

Before the ceremony, the nursing student can dedicate their pin to anyone significant in their lives, especially someone who has helped then reach this stage.



The candle lighting or lamp lighting ceremony is done to commemorate the dedication of Florence Nightingale in tending to her patients even at night. Once all nursing students have the candle lit, they then proceed to recite the Nightingale's pledge.

AP\_GOAL\_1. Ensure development, delivery, and quality of all academic programs

## A Spotlight on Issues

### Challenges:

- The Chuuk Campus IC is taking care of the LRC because there is no librarian. A staff was hired on special contract but took ill and had to go off island to seek medical assistance. The process for hiring a librarian is very slow. This added responsibility interferes with her classroom observation schedule.
- Outdated monitoring software is incompatible with updated computers, therefore, monitoring of students' activities on college-owned devices is lacking. (Chuuk Campus)
- Academic advisement is in need of improvement. (Yap Campus)
- CTEC needs English and Math faculty.

### Recommendations:

- The VPIA has met with HR Director to seek out alternatives on how to immediately fill positions that gone through multiple advertisements or ones that are hard to fill. The alternative to create a pool of part-time instructors to assist in teaching courses or set conditions to hire candidates with bachelors to eventually develop them.
- Request installation of up-to-date monitoring software on all campus devices by IT.
- A collaboration among the IA Department, Student Counseling Services and Faculty is necessary to come up with measures and strategies to improve the academic advisement. IA Dept. had already communicated this to ICs to begin the work with the lead Counsellor.
- Recommendations have been submitted to HR Office and CTEC is currently in the waiting process. The VPIA office continues to work closely with HR to assist in areas that may put delays on hiring process.