

Convocation Speech  
GCC Fall Semester 2010  
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Hafa adai everyone! It is great to see all of you, fresh and ready to start a new academic year at GCC. The 2010-2011 Academic year, which coincides with the onset of the military buildup, promises to bring us new programs, new students, and new challenges. Yet challenges are nothing new to this group, which I am proud to say has met and conquered many over the past 2009-2010 academic year. In fact, your accomplishments are so notable that not only am I going to list a few of them, but first, we've actually put them to music for a little entertainment value.

(Show "I Like to Move It" video)

As I mentioned earlier, your accomplishments over the 2009-2010 academic year have been many. We started off last August with record enrollment in all of our major programs – postsecondary, where we had close to 2,200 students; secondary, and our apprenticeship programs. High enrollment means we must be doing something right here at GCC, and one of those things was to bring registration to the people up at Micronesia Mall on August 8<sup>th</sup>, and then during Spring Semester enrollment in January at the Guam Premier Outlets. Taking registration to the people those two times made us more visible and it showed prospective students that we care enough about them to reach out. It was an amazing team effort and I want to thank all of you who were involved, because in both locations, it was a challenge that you met and conquered!

In September, we of course had our Fall Festival, and we received word that Jalma Manglona from Rota, was awarded a PREL scholarship. Ms. Manglona is pursuing her teaching degree from both GCC and the University of Guam.

In October, we held the first of two groundbreakings this past academic year. On October 26<sup>th</sup>, GCC broke ground for construction of its new, state-of-the-art Learning Resource Center. Designed by Taniguchi Ruth Makio & Associates, the LRC is a two-story, 22,000 square foot LEED-certified facility that will include a reading area/collection section, computer work areas, a computer lab, group meeting rooms, audio visual rooms, staff areas, and a large group meeting room. The building is scheduled for completion in early November and we are planning our ribbon cutting ceremony right before Christmas.

In November, we took advantage of an Earmark congressional grant to offer construction and electrical classes to unemployed adults so that they could earn certificates to get their start in the industry. We also participated in accreditation training, along with our colleagues from other colleges in Micronesia, with Dr. Barbara Beno and Jack Pond, the president and vice president of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, since, as Dr. Ray has mentioned