

I. Pioneering

Over the past ten years, the economy and the characteristics of the island's workforce have changed dramatically. The loss of employment opportunities caused many skilled trade workers to leave Guam. At the same time, the economy of the Federated States of Micronesia, particularly in Chuuk State began to experience a long and what appears to be interminable decline. The net result was an increase in immigration from Chuuk State to Guam. The increase of Micronesians in the workforce has been large enough that businesses, particularly in the hospitality industry now target Micronesians for entry-level positions as local residents have moved up the employment ladder as the local economy slowly recovers. No one really knows just how the skill levels of the workforce have changed nor has there ever been any systematic attempt to determine what the skill levels of local workers are.

Without a comprehensive needs assessment, policy makers have had limited means of determining what type of training is needed to better prepare Guam for the pending military buildup. The challenges this creates in determining appropriate curriculum or in identifying adult educational needs are obvious. The ISMP calls for GCC to facilitate the development of an annual or periodic employer's workforce needs assessment survey focused on training opportunities and challenges of various industry classifications. The purpose of the assessment is to establish an empirical understanding of the skill levels of local workers and a qualitative understanding of the skill level requirements of key and emerging industries on Guam. Until primary data can be collected, secondary empirical sources along with qualitative data collected among businesses on Guam will be used in the interim. The needs assessment, along with the efforts of the CTE Advisory Council, will be used to refine student learning outcomes and will provide a means of linking the curriculum and programs at GCC to the broader economic requirements of the community.

Upon completion of the employer's needs assessment survey, GCC will use this Plan as a guide to establish training programs. The purpose of the Plan is to establish a coordinated approach to improving career and technical training services among all public and private training services. Additionally, the needs assessment survey results will act as the foundation for providing needed policy adjustments to standardize educational and career and technical education standards across both public and private career and technical training services.

The combination of identifying the community's career and technical as well as basic educational skill requirements and then coordinating the development of a periodic employer's needs assessment survey is what constitutes the ISMP's strategic initiative to be a pioneer and offers an example to other islands in the Micronesia region as it attempts to improve the skill levels and productivity of its own workforce.

SPECIFIC TASKS

A. To coordinate the development of an employer needs assessment focused on training and educational services