



OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PROMOTIONS

May 5, 2017
2:00 p.m.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GCC set to graduate 525 on May 12th

Guam Community College is set to confer 573* degrees, certificates, and/or diplomas upon 525 graduates at the University of Guam Calvo Field House at **4:00 p.m. on Friday, May 12, 2017 (please note time change)**. It is, for the second consecutive year, the largest graduating class and the largest number of credentials conferred in the College's 40-year history.

"It is a proud year for us at GCC," said Dr. Mary Okada, GCC president. "Conferring credentials on the largest number of graduates to date is a great way to celebrate GCC's 40th year of providing quality workforce development education for Guam and the region."

Dr. Okada added, "This year, we're seeing a 12 percent increase in the number of graduates as compared to last year, and an eight percent increase in the number of credentials awarded. We are committed to helping our students succeed in the classroom and encouraging them to shine in the workforce."

GCC's Most Distinguished Graduate this year is Anthony Victor Borja Reyes, who is graduating with dual Associate of Science degrees in Civil Engineering Technology and Pre-Architectural Drafting, having earned 4.0 GPAs in each major. This year's Distinguished Graduate, Robin Daniel B. Alex, is earning an Associate of Science in Computer Networking.

The 2017 commencement speaker is Command Sergeant Major Agnes Quintanilla Diaz, the first woman to rise to the coveted CSM rank in the Guam Army National Guard, where she has served for over 33 years. CSM Diaz currently leads the 203rd Regional Training Institute at Fort Juan Muna in Harmon, Guam. Her connection to Guam Community College is as a 1983 graduate of the former GCC Voc-Tech High School, as a 1988 graduate of the then-Retailing & Marketing associate degree program, and as a former GCC Marketing instructor.

During the commencement, GCC will award Erika Sotto Cruz, Deputy Superintendent of Educational Support & Community Learning at the Guam Department of Education, with its 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award. Cruz has worked at GDOE for over 20 years, as a teacher, assistant principal, principal, and currently as deputy superintendent. She graduated from the former GCC Voc-Tech High School in 1985.

The number of credentials being earned by 2017 GCC graduates in each degree category is as follows:

Associate degrees	243 (Associate of Science: 178; Associate of Arts: 65)
Certificates	118
Journeyworker Certificate (Apprenticeship)	103
Adult High School Diploma	72
High School Equivalency	37
Total number degrees earned*	573
Total number of graduates	525

GCC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
Individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services please contact 735-5597.

*Please note that some graduates have earned more than one degree or certificate, which is why the total number of degrees awarded exceeds the total number of actual graduates.

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