Guam Community College Office of the President mary.okada@guamcc.edu (671) 735-5700

MEMORANDUM

TO:

File

FROM:

President Way a. y. Okada

Date:

April 21, 2022

Subject:

Financial Aid Program Review

The Guam Community College received the Final Program Review Determination letter from the U.S. Department of Education – Federal Student Aid on March 14, 2022. This letter was the result of a program review of the college's financial aid program conducted between August 23, 2021 through August 30, 2021 by Patricia McAuley, Pilar Diaz, and Ted Moy, Institutional Review Specialists.

Although several findings were initially submitted to the college, an opportunity to provide further explanation and documentation resulted in the removal of those findings in the final determination letter. To support this resolution, the college provided action items that were necessary to resolve the deficiency and provide evidence that the necessary steps were in place to enter into compliance.

However, one area that was not resolved was related to the awarding of financial aid for students enrolled in the newly ACCJC approved Bachelor's Degree in Career and Technical Education (BSCTE). Because the financial aid office did not apply to include the BSCTE program as an expansion to the scope of our offerings, the college is liable for all the Title IV program funds that it disbursed to students during the time of noncompliance.

Subsequent to receiving the preliminary finding prior to the final determination, the college submitted an application to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education for approval for the BSCTE program. This request has since been approved.

As a result of the non-compliance, the college has incurred a liability of \$42,020.29. Although there is an opportunity for the college to appeal, based on the requirements and guidelines related to the application for the BSCTE program, it is clear that the college failed to comply with the federal requirements. In addition, there is no documentation to support any request or application for consideration for this requirement related to the BSCTE program.

The final resolution for this review would be for the college to remit the sum of \$42,020.29 back to U.S. Department of Education – Department's Office of Finance and Operations (OFO) Accounts Receivable and Bank Management Division.