

# CHACHALANI

CAMPUS NEWS AND EVENTS FROM STUDENTS, EMPLOYEES AND OUR COMMUNITY

## CULINARY & FSM GRADUATE IS FIRST GUAMANIAN AT LE CORDON BLEU PARIS

It started as her side business baking cakes out of her home kitchen. Now Selah Chong finds herself in the world-renowned Le Cordon Bleu in Paris, France pursuing her passion in Patisserie. Chong enrolled in the Guam Community College Culinary Arts & Food Service Management program and graduated with a double major in Culinary and Food Service Management in Spring 2023.

"I enjoyed all the instructors at GCC because they were invested in my life. It felt like they cared."



On December 15, 2023, the Le Cordon Bleu Paris Facebook® page shared photos of Chong standing with a Guam flag with a caption sharing their praise of having a student from Guam in their presence. She is the first Guamanian to attend the school.

"Le Cordon Bleu is further extending this cultural and international dimension by highlighting the colours of the island of Guam with Selah, a student in the Diplôme de Pâtisserie. Selah is the first student from Guam, and at the age of 23 she has made her dream come true and followed her passion by enrolling at Le Cordon Bleu Paris," the social media post read.

It was the GCC Culinary program that kickstarted a passion she had. She started as a home baker selling cakes on Instagram,® while wondering how she could take that passion to the next level. It was through the dedication of her instructors and the staff at GCC that she was able to secure further information on the culinary program.

"When I started classes, it felt very different from GCC," said Chong. "The chefs were cold and seemed only to base you off your final products. The school system itself was easy for me to manage since I had a good amount of experience in the kitchen from GCC. I was definitely prepared and wasn't overwhelmed like some of my classmates who have never attended a culinary school beforehand."



Chong is also the first GCC graduate to receive the esteemed National Restaurant Association ManageFirst Professional (MFP) credential since its implementation in 2018. To earn the MFP, candidates must successfully pass the challenging ManageFirst exams and accumulate a minimum of 800 hours of industry experience.

"I am glad I went to GCC first; it led me to network with the chefs on the island and I also made some lifelong friends that I am still in touch with," Chong added. "I enjoyed all the instructors at GCC because they were invested in my life. It felt like they cared."

**GDOL IN-SCHOOL YOUTH  
WINTER SESSION**

Guam Department of Labor (GDOL) hosted its 2023/2024 Year-Round In-School Youth Program - Winter Session on the Guam Community College campus. The purpose of the program was to provide high school students with work readiness, occupational skills training, and summer employment within each school year.

The 15 students were hosted by GCC's Continuing Education and Workforce Development team. The students participated in work readiness workshops preparing them for real-world employment skills such as resume writing, interview preparation, work ethics, communication skills, respecting peers, and more.

The In-School Youth Winter Session was a paid occupational skills workshop and took place between December 18 - 29, 2023.



**GUAM HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES  
WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT SUMMIT**

Guam Community College participated in the Guam Health & Social Services Workforce Development Collaborative. The three-day collaborative summit took place from December 18 through December 20, 2023, in the GCC Multipurpose Auditorium. The summit was established through Governor Lourdes Leon Guerrero's Executive Order #2023-10 which was created to address the island's public health crisis due to labor shortages in the healthcare sector.

The goals of the summit included:

- Increase the number of registered nurses, allied health, and social work professionals graduating from Guam's higher education institutions.
- Expand the number of culturally competent social workers and health and medical professionals in the USAPI.
- Add to Guam's economy by filling high-paying health, and medical jobs by local residents.
- Continue Guam's progress toward becoming the premier health and medical training center in Micronesia.

The Executive Order has eight key members, including the President of GCC, to examine Guam's current healthcare and social services labor shortages, and develop recommendations on methods to achieve certain goals in the Executive Order.



*Update as of January 4, 2024*

Feedback on Draft #1 was provided to each Standard Committee before the end of the fall semester. Draft #2 of the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER), which is due February 16, 2024.

Additional Deadlines:

- ISER due August 1, 2024
- Team ISER Review- October 25, 2024
- Focused Site Visit- Week of March 3, 2025

### STANDARD COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULES

- **Standard 1** – Every Thursday, 2pm – 3pm, President’s Conference Room (PCR).  
Chair – Dr. Michael Chan  
Co-Chair – Dr. Anthony Jay Sunga
- **Standard 2** – Every Friday 2pm – 3pm, President’s Conference Room (PCR).  
Chair – Marivic Schrage  
Co-Chair – Dr. Marsha Postrozny-Torres
- **Standard 3** – Every Tuesday, 2pm – 3pm, Student Support & Administration Conference Room (SSA).  
Chair – Apolline San Nicolas  
Co-Chair – Carl Torres II
- **Standard 4** – Every Friday, 10am – 12pm, President’s Conference Room (PCR).  
Chair – Carol Cruz  
Co-Chair – Dr. Julie Ulloa-Heath

### FINANCIAL AID WORKSHOP

GCC’s Reach For College hosted a Financial Aid workshop to provide parents and students face-to-face and hands-on assistance with completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA. The workshop took place on December 5, 7, 12, and 14, 2023 at the GCC Student Center Computer Lab.

The FAFSA is a form completed by current and prospective college students in the United States to determine their eligibility for student financial aid. GCC encourages its potential and current students to fill out the online form. If they would like guidance with the form the College’s Financial Aid office will gladly assist in that effort.

As of December 31, 2023 there is an updated FAFSA with seven key changes. To view these changes [click here](#).

### GCC TALK GROUP CHAT



You are invited to join the “GCC Talk” WhatsApp group chat. Simply use the camera on your phone to scan the QR Code and join. This is not a mandatory chat group, but it is available for those that would like to receive campus updates as well as islandwide updates from guaranteed sources. If you have questions, please contact Trina San Agustin at extension #5405.

2023 CHRISTMAS SPIRIT WEEK

Materials Management



Financial Aid



President's Office, OCP & DAR



Planning & Development + Facilities



Continuing Education & Workforce Development



Human Resources



# JANUARY

**01 - Happy New Year!**

10 - First day of Mon/Wed Spring Semester Classes

11 - First day of Tue/TR Spring Semester Classes

12 - Board of Trustees Monthly Board Meeting, LRC Room #112, 12 Noon

13 - First Day of Saturday Spring Semester Classes

**15 - Martin Luther King, Jr. Day**

17 - Empowering Treasure Hunters: SUD/ODU Youth Risks & Choices, MPA, 10 a.m.

19 - COPSA General Membership Meeting, Training Room #5108, 12 Noon

26 - Student Organization Refresher Training, Training Room #5108, 12 Noon

HR CORNER



Megann R. Rojas  
Buyer II  
Materials Management

*Congratulations*  
...on your promotion!

In Memoriam...

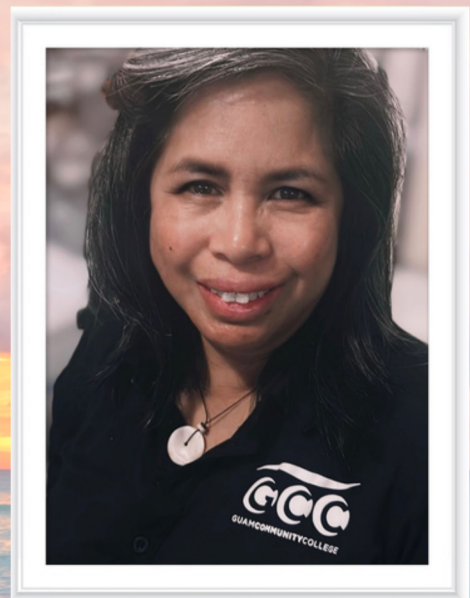
*Darlene Cruz Sholing*

3/6/1972 - 12/22/2023

It is with heavy hearts and profound sadness as we remember the life of our dear colleague, Darlene Sholing, fondly remembered as *Dar*.

Dar was more than just a coworker; to many of us she was a friend and a confidant. Her presence in the office was a constant reminder of dedication, warmth, and unwavering kindness.

We extend our deepest sympathies to Dar's family and hope they find solace in the cherished memories we shared with her.



 JANUARY BIRTHDAY

- 01 - Sean Lizama, Instructor, Business & Visual Communications - VisCom
- 03 - Victor Paul Fernandez II, Program Coordinator I, Student Financial Aid
- 04 - Vivian Guerrero, Program Coordinator II, Student Financial Aid
- 05 - Tanya Rose Mendiola, Inventory Management Officer,  
Materials Management
- 05 - Kyrstal San Nicolas, Test Examiner, Adult Basic Education
- 06 - Jerome Francis Blas, Maintenance Supervisor, Facilities
- 09 - Gemma-Lee Santos, Coordinator, Financial Aid, Student Financial Aid
- 11 - Jesse Cruz, Assistant Instructor, Automotive Technology
- 12 - William Lee, Instructor, Nursing & Allied Health - Practical Nursing
- 15 - Rebecca Ramirez, Personnel Specialist II, Human Resources
- 17 - Joey Blas, Instructor, Automotive Technology
- 17 - Bonnie Mae Datuin, Program Specialist, Alumni Relations & Fundraising
- 17 - John Michael Jocson, Assistant Professor, Math & Science - Science
- 18 - Gina Ibanez, Accountant II, Business Office
- 19 - Barbara Mafnas, Assistant Professor, Nursing & Allied Health
- 24 - Huan Hosei, Environmental Health & Safety Officer,  
Environmental Health & Safety
- 25 - John Luis Diaz, Safety Inspector I, Environmental Health & Safety
- 26 - Mark Joseph Burgos, Institutional Researcher, Assessment, Institutional  
Effectiveness & Research
- 26 - Jonah Concepcion, Assistant Professor, Criminal Justice Social Science  
- Social Science
- 26 - Richard Ramirez, Maintenance Worker, Facilities
- 28 - Joel Egana, Instructor, Automotive Technology
- 28 - Leonard Tenorio, Emergency Instructor, Construction Trades
- 29 - Esther Rios, Program Specialist, Reach For College
- 29 - Frances Untalan, Administrative Aide, Admissions
- 30 - Raniel Esturas, Emergency Instructor, Technology - Electronics
- 31 - Catherine Leon Guerrero, Associate Professor, Construction Trades

