

CHACHALANI

GUAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE NEWSLETTER



Accreditation Visit!

On March 7, a 10-member team from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC), led by Dr. Sonya Christian, President of Bakersfield College, visited the GCC campus to inspect as to whether the processes and procedures by which GCC governs itself and provides a sound academic product to our students are intact. A simpler way of looking at accreditation is to ask - do we, as faculty, staff, and administrators - actually do what we say we are doing with regard to providing “the highest quality, student-centered, education and job training for Micronesia”? GCC had been actively preparing for the visit for the last two years, and has had processes in place since the last accreditation visit in 2012 to document its progress with regard to recommendations for compliance and improvement made during that visit. The 2018 ACCJC team spent two days inspecting documents, interviewing students, faculty, staff, and administrators. During the exit presentation on March 9, Dr. Christian announced that the team had no recommendations for compliance, and no recommendations for improvement. Several of the team members became emotional upon the announcement, because such a scenario is almost unheard of in an accreditation visit. Therefore, thanks to the hard work and dedication of each of the over 200 people who work at GCC in various capacities, either as faculty, staff, or administrators, whether in the classroom, as support for the classroom, or in the administrative sections of the College, GCC looks forward to a positive announcement this summer from the ACCJC. Un dankolo na Si Yu’os Ma’ase to everyone who in any way contributed to the success of the visit.



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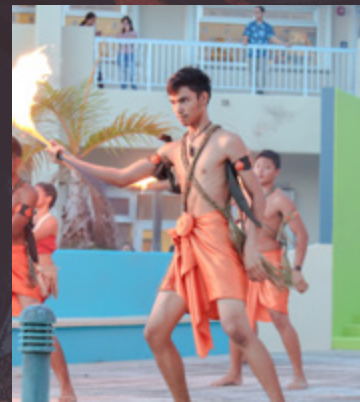


Check out our new logo on Building A!



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SPRING FESTIVAL!

The visiting accrediting team joined over 600 students and GCC faculty, staff, and administrators for a beautiful evening of food and entertainment supplied by the over 20 GCC student organizations during the College's Spring Festival on March 8 at the Student Center Courtyard. Congratulations to the new Council On Postsecondary Student Affairs (COPSA) Officers elected during the festival!

President: Joshua Perez
Vice President: Megann Rojas
Parliamentarian: Daphne Balansay

Thank you to all students who cast their ballots on March 8!

MISSION

Guam Community College is a leader in career and technical workforce development, providing the highest quality student-centered education and job training for Micronesia.



AHEC CNA COMPLETERS

Congratulations to the seven GCC students who completed the AHEC Certified Nurse Assistant course this semester, and who will be getting HIRED at the Skilled Nursing Unit once they pass their certification test. If you have taken care of an elderly or ill relative and enjoy helping people, this course is a stepping stone to a career in the health care field. CNAs are IN DEMAND. Check out the course for fall semester here at GCC! Call 735-5554 or 8886 for info.



STUDENTS GAINED “THE EDGE” ON MARCH 2!



Nearly 150 GCC students attended “The Edge” GCC’s annual student conference on March 2 at the Pacific Star Resort, attending sessions on how to be successful in job interviews, how to be organized, and how to maintain financial stability, among other topics.

POSTSECONDARY

ACCOUNTING FOR THE FUTURE

GCC's 7th Annual Accounting for the Future conference, sponsored by the Guam Society of Certified Public Accountants and the Guam Association of Government Accountants, brought nearly 100 students to the Pacific Star Resort on March 16th for presentations on accounting careers and a networking mini career fair.



MATHFEST 2018!

Also on March 16, nearly 400 students from public and private schools challenged their math skills during the international Math Kangaroo at GCC, and afterward, the GCC Education Department hosted an amazing MathFest for the students, showing them how to use math in practical and fun ways.



Culinary Buffets Sell Out!

The popular GCC Culinary Arts buffets hosted by students in Chef Paul Kerner's Pacific and Asian Cuisine course this March and April actually sold out a few times, they were so popular. For the lucky buffet attendees, it was a \$10 all-you-could-eat meal consisting of mouth-watering dishes created by these very talented students, under the watchful eyes of Chef Paul and Chef Bertrand Haurillon. The luncheons, on Tuesdays in March and Thursdays in April, featured Asian and Pacific cuisines such as Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Filipino, Hawaiian, and Thai/Vietnamese!





DEAN RIDGELL BACK ON CAMPUS

Former GCC Dean Reilly Ridgell, the author of the Pacific Cultures course text, guest lectured in Dan Owen’s class on March 12, talking about his life and times on Puluwat island of Chuuk State in the FSM. Dan also had Roland Quitugua of UOG talk to his class about invasive species on Guam on March 7, emphasizing the destruction the Rhino beetle is causing to our coconut trees.



SPRING 2018 ON AIR SPEAKER SERIES

The GCC English Department presented an ON AIR (On Art In Research) speaker series March 14-15 in the MPA, inviting Cara Flores-Mays, Jessica Nangauta and Jenny Coffman, Pale Eric Forbes, Joey Certeza and Myracle Mugol, and Pika and Lenny Fejeran to speak to students about their projects and successes.



TRAINING WE HOPE WE NEVER HAVE TO USE

The GCC campus closed on Monday, March 19, for an intense shooter-on-campus training exercise conducted by Sgt. Vince Naputi and Superior Court marshals, and for some professional development sessions. The shooter on campus training was harrowing, but an important experience for everyone involved. An important takeaway was that please, if you see something, SAY something.



GCC HOSTS SEXUAL ASSAULT & CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS MONTH PROCLAMATION

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month and Child Abuse Prevention Month. GCC’s Title IX Office and Office of Accommodative Services (OAS), along with the Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence, invited government, military, and community partners to participate in a proclamation signing April 3 in the MPA to bring awareness of these two important issues, in an effort to stop them from happening on our island and in our region.



LINKUP!

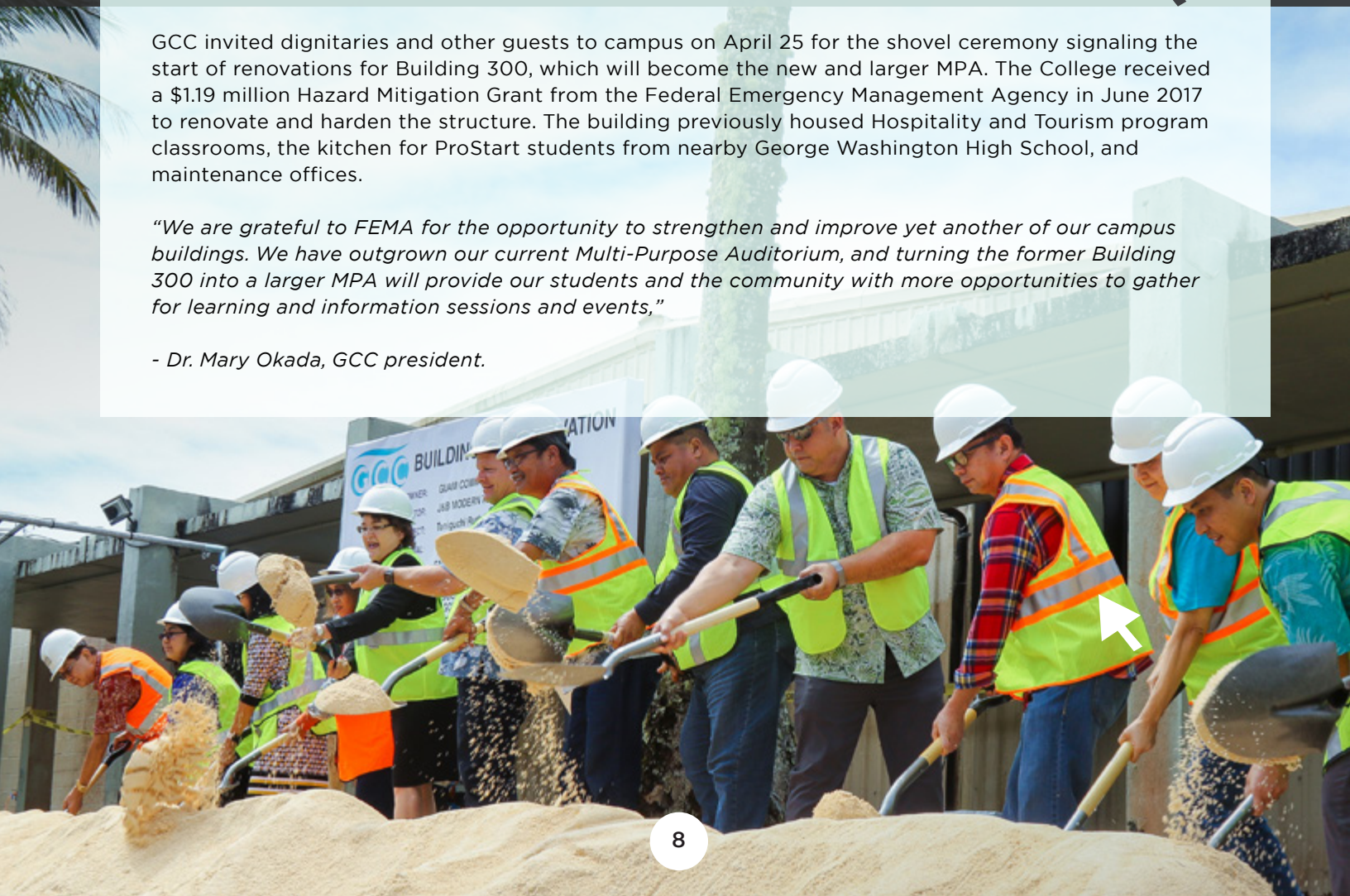
On April 11, students in GCC's Business and Visual Communications programs hosted a reverse job fair in the MPA, where graduating students created individual displays showcasing their skills and what they can offer companies. Dozens of employers walked around and talked to the nearly two dozen graduates one on one. Students in the Marketing and Visual Communications programs participated in this unique, first-of-its-kind, job fair. And importantly, some students were hired as a result!

GROUND BROKEN FOR BUILDING 300 RENOVATION INTO NEW MPA

GCC invited dignitaries and other guests to campus on April 25 for the shovel ceremony signaling the start of renovations for Building 300, which will become the new and larger MPA. The College received a \$1.19 million Hazard Mitigation Grant from the Federal Emergency Management Agency in June 2017 to renovate and harden the structure. The building previously housed Hospitality and Tourism program classrooms, the kitchen for ProStart students from nearby George Washington High School, and maintenance offices.

"We are grateful to FEMA for the opportunity to strengthen and improve yet another of our campus buildings. We have outgrown our current Multi-Purpose Auditorium, and turning the former Building 300 into a larger MPA will provide our students and the community with more opportunities to gather for learning and information sessions and events."

- Dr. Mary Okada, GCC president.





GCC Sustainability Earth Month Activities

The GCC Sustainability Office hosted a Clean Our House Day on April 13 from 4pm-5pm at the GCC Recycling Bin Area. Si Yu'os Ma'ase to the 16 people who showed up, including six students, and for their donations of refreshments, gloves, etc., and for collecting a total of 300 lbs. of plastic bottles, sorting them and bringing them to the recycling station.

On April 17, GCC's Sustainability Office hosted a movie day in the Student Center Training Room, at which a total of 40 people, including 33 students and one outside guest, watched movies about how we can help to sustain our environment and our planet!

And on April 25, the office hosted an EARTH MONTH FARMER'S MARKET from 2:00-6:00 pm in the MPA. Local farmers sold their local fruits, vegetables and some plants - it was a huge success!



PRACTICING PROFESSIONAL BEHAVIOR

The GCC Principles of Tour Guiding class visited the Manenggon Memorial site as part of its eastern Guam tour on March 17. Students cleaned up the trash next to the Manenggon River to practice good stewardship of our island home and exhibit tour guide professional behavior.



GCC WOMEN HOOPSTERS TAKE 2ND

Congratulations to the GCC Women's Basketball team, for their 2nd place finish in the Trident Women's Basketball league. They faced the Fuetsa Basketball Club for the championship on March 10 at UOG Field House, and brought GCC its first college sports team trophy! Way to go GCC ladies!!!!

ASL STUDENT VIDEOS ROCK!

American Sign Language students in Kirsten Rosario's classes produced some awesome short videos promoting accessibility thru ASL interpreting and subtitles for inclusion. They make us proud!



My Favorite Place

By: Haley Quinata



GCC FOUNDATION

WINE TASTING A SUCCESS!

The GCC Foundation presented its 2nd annual Wine Tasting fundraiser on April 27 in GCC's beautiful, LEED-gold certified Learning Resource Center. Sponsored by **First Hawaiian Bank**, the increasingly popular fundraiser featured fine wines from Ambros, Inc., Dickerson & Quinn, Lorea Industries, and ST Corporation, PLUS exquisite hors d'oeuvres prepared by the talented GCC Culinary Arts students under the direction of Culinary Arts instructors Chef Paul Kerner and Chef Bertrand Haurillon. Great raffle prizes and music by Joe Guam made the GCC Foundation Wine Tasting the perfect way to relax after a week of work and support student scholarships. Proceeds helped to fund student scholarships at GCC.

Insightful letter to the
Guam Daily Post from
GCC student **Rhea Costales**:

“Tourists need education on marine preserves”

An article “Japan Airlines doubles daily flights,” by Tihu Lujan, March 26, 2018, predicted benefits from Japan Airlines adding a direct flight from Narita to Guam.

The goal of the Guam Visitors Bureau is to increase visitors to 2 million per year by 2020, according to the GVB 2020 Strategic Plan.

Personally, 2 million is too many, unless measures are implemented NOW to protect our resources from damage. GVB must prepare for the increase of tourists and their impact on our environment.

Most tourists arrive with little or no knowledge about our environment, let alone laws protecting our Marine Preserve Areas (MPAs).

GVB should create an eco-campaign, supported by local businesses and agencies, to educate tourists about our resources and how to avoid damaging them. Guam should follow Palau’s lead and require visitors to view a training video before they disembark from a plane or cruise ship. Palau also requires visitors to sign an eco-pledge, which is stamped into their passport. The eco-campaign could also incorporate eye-catching and well-maintained signs reminding tourists not to litter, feed the fish, stand on corals, or remove organisms from MPAs. A mandatory video and eco-pledge would be effective by making tourists think about their actions as they explore our island.

I love the natural beauty of our island and want my grandchildren to experience it as well. Tourists come to our island to see its beauty. Combining efforts of GVB, agencies and local businesses would ensure that Guam stays beautiful to benefit and sustain our tourism industry.

https://www.postguam.com/forum/letter_to_the_editor/tourists-need-education-on-marine-preserves/article_054d3f60-3e09-11e8-ae95-d3de194e49c5.html



FROM THE PRESIDENT MARY A. Y. OKADA, Ed.D.

As you can tell from this packed issue of Chachalani, March and April were VERY busy months for GCC. Our students, with guidance from our incredible faculty, have produced some amazing work, from the innovative LinkUP reverse job fair that actually landed some of our graduates jobs, to our Spring Festival, Accounting and Edge conferences, our popular MathFest that brought hundreds of future GCC students to our campus, culinary buffets, and much more. The ACCJC Accreditation team that visited our campus from March 7-9 took away, as team chair Dr. Christian noted, that at GCC, we do live and breathe our mission, and it shows. Having said that, I also want to say that words cannot express my gratitude for the hard work that each and every one of our GCC employees - whether faculty, staff, or administrators - put in to earn GCC such a glowing accreditation exit report. We look forward to the ACCJC announcement about our accreditation status this summer. From Dr. Ray, to Gary Hartz as ISER coordinator, to the standard chairs Dr. Mike Chan, Simone Bollinger, Edwin Limtuatco and Frank Camacho, and Marlena Montague and Rosemary Loveridge, to every one of you - you all played a role in the success of this visit. Our product is making a difference on our island. YOU are making a difference. Keep up the outstanding effort.

SECONDARY

NEWS

CONGRATULATIONS to the two seniors from Simon Sanchez High School who scored PLATINUM in the Work Keys Assessment! Kristina Argao is in the GCC ProStart program and Carlo James Valencia is in the GCC Health & Careers Science program. These two are going places!

BACK ROW (L-R): Phyllis Leon Guerrero (SSHS Assistant Principal), Sharon Oliveros (CTE Counselor), Patricia Nery (ProStart Instructor), Karen Dumchus (HCS Instructor), Rebecca Duenas (SSHS Assistant Principal)
FRONT ROW (L-R): Kristina Argao, Carlo Jazmes Valencia

On March 20, 45 SSHS LMP seniors and juniors went on a field trip to Sheraton Laguna Resort Guam, where senior hotel management talked to them about hotel careers and then gave the students a tour of the property. Also, Paul Betancourt, G4S manager, spoke to Simon Sanchez LMP juniors about hotel security on April 30.

Okkodo High School held its first induction ceremony into the National Technical Honor Society for 23 seniors and eight juniors enrolled in the six GCC CTE programs at Okkodo on April 5.

Simon Sanchez students in GCC's ProStart, LMP & Marketing programs came out en force on April 7 to help at the Island Girl Power Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser at IGP in Dededo. Twenty-three ProStart students prepped and made 1,582 pancakes, 10 LMP students greeted/hosted, and waited on donors, and eight Marketing students made the posters, tickets, and handled the raffle prizes. The students served 201 customers with either to-go or dine-in breakfast plates and helped bring in over \$2,000 for IGP, and say they're down to help again next year!



SSHS MARKETING STUDENTS' COMPANY WINS JA COMPANY OF THE YEAR!

FullFill Guam, a DECA Junior Achievement team from the GCC Career & Technical Education Marketing program at Simon Sanchez High School, was awarded the 2018 Junior Achievement Asia Pacific Company of the Year Young Entrepreneurs Choice Award at the 2018 JA Asia Pacific competition in Beijing, China. The SSHS team competed March 27 through March 31 against 21 teams, hailing from 14 JA country locations. Their company made Filluv Cases constructed from pillowcases sewn into tote bags.

“We are thrilled to bring home a trophy for Guam!”

- Michelle Randle, GCC CTE
Marketing instructor at Sanchez



The team was invited to the GDOE Superintendent's Office for a certificate presentation April 24 to celebrate their win. Pictured from left: John Fernandez, GDOE Superintendent; Michelle Randle, SSHS Marketing instructor; students Richae Salas, Everlee Faalawath, Takayoshi Mori, TJ Ngitong, and Noel Degracia; and Jonnavie Abaya, SSHS Advisor.



REACH FOR COLLEGE REACHING OUT...

On April 5, Reach for College staffers Gerald Cruz and Elly Damian helped Simon Sanchez Tourism Academy seniors fill out their FAFSA. Their goal was to prepare graduating seniors to enroll in college. Career counselor Sharon Oliveros assisted seniors with registering for GCC for fall semester.

NOTABLE

GCC's Japan CLUB hosted a booth to show how to wrap items with furoshiki (Japanese cloth) during the Japan Club of Guam's annual Arts & Crafts Fair on March 4 at the Hotel Nikko Guam.

UOG's Upward Bound high school students visited our GCC campus on March 13. Si Yu'os Ma'ase to our Project Aim program staff for showing the 45 ninth to twelfth graders and three chaperones our awesome campus. Project Aim staff also gave 14 graduating seniors from the Yap Upward Bound program a GCC campus tour on April 13.

Rev. Francis Hezel shared his thoughts and knowledge related to the history of the educational systems in our region, the impact of colonialism and globalization on education, the impact of economics on education, graduation rates in the FSM, and his views on improving educational efforts throughout the region with students in ED150 (Intro to Teaching) on Feb. 28, and also spoke to a Pacific Cultures class on April 11.

SOMERA ONE OF 64 FCG HONOREES

Congratulations to our own Dr. Ray Somera, Vice President for Academic Affairs, for being on of the **64 Bold Filipinos** from Guam honored by the Filipino Community of Guam during its 64th anniversary celebration.

35 Rene Ray D. Somera

By Dana Rohr

Rene Ray D. Somera, Ph.D. is the Vice President for Academic Affairs at Guam Community College and has been for the last 17 years.

Somera feels the greatest accomplishment of his career has been helping and strengthening the academic programs at GCC, which has been recognized as a regional leader in assessment and an accreditation leader among Pacific colleges.

"At the college, I have taken the lead in building a culture of evidence, which has been the basis of making data-driven decisions, when it comes to areas of improvement in our educational offerings. In line with these initiatives, I received the 2016 Gawad Ulingang Pilipino award for the Education category from the Filipino Community of Guam," says Somera.

Somera attributes his successes to his background and training in cultural anthropology, which has given him a unique perspective of management in the educational setting.

He has been able to implement initiatives that are culturally

grounded, relevant, and responsive to community needs.

"Patience, perseverance, and the value of service are attributes that I have learned along the way, guided by the GCC slogan, 'Mission first, student always,'" he said. "Seeing students achieve their credentials while they cross the stage to receive their diplomas during commencement is the most rewarding gift."



Somera uses his role as an educator to give back to the community.

"As an educator, I consider my work at GCC a valuable contribution to workforce development locally, regionally, and globally," he said.

"A strong and solid workforce is a critical factor in our community's economic, social, and moral growth. To my mind, education and training provide a better quality of life for the current and future generation of students. In GCC's mission statement in this regard: 'GCC is a leader in career and workforce development, providing the highest quality student-centered education and job training for Micronesia,' Somera said.

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56 C

By Sarah C

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EMPLOYEE NEWS

17TH CONSECUTIVE CLEAN AUDIT!

Kudos to Finance & Administration VP Carmen Santos and her administrators and staff for another clean audit for GCC – for the 17th year in a row. The Guam Office of Public Accountability commended GCC for being the only government agency to qualify as a low-risk auditee for the 17th consecutive fiscal year. “No material weaknesses or significant deficiencies were identified. GCC is commended for achieving a significant milestone by qualifying as a low-risk auditee for the 17th consecutive year. GCC is the only Government of Guam (GovGuam) agency to do so,” stated the OPA Financial Highlights. Way to go Finance & Admin!

GCC CCR AWARDED BRONZE!

Si Yu’os Ma’ase to the Association of Government Accountants for recognizing GCC’s Citizen Centric Report as one of the top three government agency reports at the AGA luncheon on March 28.

From left, Dr. Doreen Crisostomo, Accountability Director; Angela Cabrera, GCC Graphic Artist; Carmen Santos, CPA, GCC Finance & Admin VP; Edwin Limtuatco, GCC Controller; and Clariza Roque, AGA President.



ACCOMMODATIVE SERVICES DIALOGUES

The GCC Office of Accommodative Services and the non-profit group Transforming Ourselves through Healing, Growth, and Enrichment (TOHGE) offered a series of free weekly dialogues in April aimed at promoting awareness of health-related issues and resources to address substance abuse, mental health/illness, suicide, and disabilities. Accommodative Services also co-sponsored several training sessions in March and April with PHRS geared toward helping students with disabilities to find jobs after graduation.

Ana Mari Afoiguae

Doreen Blas

Simone Bollinger

Frank Camacho

Esther Castro

Michael Chan

Jayne Flores

Paul Healy

Darwin Joker

Pat Lam

Esther Muna

Roma Okada

Sharon Oliveros

Missy Palomo

Tara Rose Pascua

Rosie Quitugua

Corthy Solidum

Parthy Terlaje

Erwin Tudela

Virginia Tudela

March

Employee Birthdays



Imelda Arce

Josephine Arceo

Joe Calbang

John Camacho

Melvin Cruz

Greg Manglona

Patricia Nery

Roden Wendell

Jay Roberto

Launie Sarmiento

Zhaopei Teng

Tico Tenorio

Kat Uchima

April 2018 Employee Birthdays



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