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National Campus

Report to

ACCJC

Accrediting Commission for
Community & Junior Colleges

January - June

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American Samoa Community College

Introduction

The American Samoa Community College (ASCC) was established in 1970 to provide post-secondary education opportunities in the liberal arts, teacher training, vocational-technical education and general education to the residents of American Samoa. ASCC received its initial accreditation in 1976 and continues to remain accredited under the purview of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). ASCC offers Associate of Arts, Associate of Science degrees and a Bachelor's in Elementary Education, as well as certificate programs in a variety of academic and technical areas.

Accreditation Updates

ASCC has been granted accreditation for the next seven years by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). In its January affirmation letter, the ACCJC commended ASCC for practices the Commission believes exceeds standards. "The Commission commends the College of its commitment to its Mission and the alignment with institutional core values of respect for the tradition and culture by embracing and sustaining their heritage, traditions, language, and through intentional integration of cultural practices into the curriculum and services that models and reinforces time-honored rituals," the ACCJC wrote. In September of 2021, an ACCJC Peer Evaluation Team conducted a virtual site visit to ASCC that included online interviews with the College's administration, faculty and students. In addition to the scheduled online meetings, several open forums were held where any ASCC stakeholder could dialog directly with the ACCJC team. While all involved considered the virtual site visit a success, ACCJC procedure indicated that a final decision on ASCC's accreditation would be made at the Commission's annual meeting in January. ASCC President Dr. Rosevonne Pato credited the College's Accreditation Liaison Officers, Mr. Sonny Leomiti, Vice President of Administration and Finance, and Mrs. Letupu Moananu, Vice President of Academic, Community and Student Affairs, for their years of preparation leading up to the virtual site visit, as well as to the many ASCC faculty and staff who served on committees tasked with reviewing the College's alignment with ACCJC standards and policies.

Response to Covid-19 Pandemic Code Red

After nearly two years of staying free of Covid-19, in late February 2022 American Samoa experienced its first cases of the virus from within the general population. This prompted Governor Lemanu Mauga to elevate the local threat level to its most serious, Code Red, a status which remains in effect as of this writing. The Governor's official declaration of Code Red dated March 5th specified that all local schools and colleges would be closed for in-person instruction, and that all learning activities must take place remotely. It also included policies for the safety of all government employees, such as mask wearing, social distancing, mandatory proof of vaccination or exemption, and procedures for staff that test positive for the virus. Fortunately, as

of January, 72.8% of ASCC's overall employees had been fully vaccinated, with more to follow in the ensuing months.

In response to the Code Red declaration, ASCC immediately restricted in-person access to its campus and transitioned to an online-only instruction format. ASCC instructors continue to teach their courses from home through the College's Moodle online learning system. Challenges have been faced, including some students having limited or no internet access, but all classes have continued in the revised format. Extra effort has been made by the Academic Affairs Division and instructors to help all students scheduled to graduate in spring 2022 remain in good academic standing. The College's Self-Service System ensures that students can still manage non-classroom aspects of attendance such as advising and educational finance. Financial aid services to students have continued uninterrupted, and further financial assistance has been available through HEERF funding which was disbursed during the preceding summer and fall semesters, with an emergency disbursement following the Code Red declaration planned.

In early March, ASCC implemented its College Action Plan to ensure that internal day-to-day services remained accessible from off-campus. Access to campus was restricted only to staff providing essential services, and procedures were clarified for any ASCC employees who should test positive for Covid-19. Most staff who provided services deemed as non-essential continued to work from home, although in early March some staff who could demonstrate being Covid-free were allowed limited and carefully-monitored access to campus. The Division of Student Services has also provided limited in-person services to students who observe safety protocols. Since the onset of the Code Red status, the ASCC Leadership Team, consisting of the President and the top-level administrators, has continued to meet regularly to monitor all aspects of the College's operations. Academic and student service divisions have also met regularly to coordinate their efforts on behalf of students.

Enrollment Increase

Prior to the Code Red declaration, ASCC experienced another enrollment increase. In Spring 2022, there were 1,182 Students enrolled, a 13% increase from 1020 in Spring 2021, and a 69% increase from 821 in Spring 2020. Local enrollment figures are typically affected by students' access to off-island travel to continue higher education overseas.

The College of the Marshall Islands (CMI)

Mission

The College of the Marshall Islands will provide our community with access to quality, higher and further educational services, prioritize student success through engagement in relevant Academic, Career and Technical Education, and be a center for the study of Marshallese Culture. It will also provide intellectual resources and facilitate research specific to the needs of the nation. (Revision approved December 1, 2020)

The College provided educational services to 1169 students during the Spring Semester 2022 which represents a 7% decrease from Fall 2021, as expected with Fall to Spring enrollments. However, compared to Spring 2021, when the headcount was 1218, this represents an increase of 4%. The FTE increase is even higher with 11% increase from Spring 2021 to Spring 2022, indicating that students are taking more credits than before. Total enrollment for 2021 -2022 Academic Year is 1533 in unduplicated headcount or 1037 FTE. Enrollment in the BA-EEDU program increased by 14%. Student enrollment in the Centers is also slowly increasing from 5% in Spring 2021 to 8% this semester. It is notable that 68% of students in the Ebeye Center are in the BA-EEDU program (a first in the report is the disaggregation by the DE Center).

The average age of students registered in Spring was 23 years. Of those, there were 54% full-time and 46% part-time students and 98 % were Marshallese citizens. The number of first time students decreased from 325 in Fall 2021 to 115 in the Spring with an average age of 20 years old. This compared to 19.63 years in Fall 2021. Out of all students, the proportion of female students at 53% this spring continues to be higher than males after a notable increase in Fall at 54%.

General Accreditation Updates

CMI's standing Accreditation Steering Committee continues to meet on a monthly basis to review and update progress on the college requirements, team recommendations, and improvement plans from the ISER. Accreditation awareness questions were included in the Foundation Day Trivia Night activity, and the committee will also lead an accreditation awareness activity at the April 29th college retreat. Preparations are underway for the follow-up report due October 1.

Governance

General Highlights

Meetings of the CMI Board of Regents were held December 1, 2021 (Qtr. 4-21) and March 18 (Qtr. 1-22) with a Special Meeting on March 8, 2022.

During this reporting period, the College completed a medium term plan (termed *Wapepe*) for Finance. The *Wapepe* was approved by the Board of Regents at the March 8 Special Meeting. At this meeting the Board of Regents also resolved to approve the Certificate of Completion in Automotive Service Technology Program and a Revised Policy 330: Registration. On March 18, the Board approved updates to the Strategic Plan 2019-2023 Resolution, particularly the new set of ten Marshallese College Values, and twenty-three Finance *Wapepe* activities. It also revised sections of its Bylaws, including an increase in the Regents sitting fees, approved a Resolution to ensure divestment of the CMI Endowment Fund from the Russian Entities or Securities, and approved a new Certificate of Completion in Construction Trades.

Student persistence and retention remains a CMI priority focus: 1,001 of students were retained from Fall 2021 to Spring 2022 – or 79%. This compares to the past ten-year average Fall-to-Spring retention rate of 73%, and it remains anticipated that CMI will meet or exceed the 63% retention goal for Fall 2021 to Fall 2022. The CMI 15 to Finish effort, which commenced in the Fall is encouraging persistence and enabling completion: 134 students who completed fifteen or more credits in Fall received their incentive laptops during a special recognition event during

RMI's Education Week. In Spring, a sizable increase (26%) was noted) in the number of students taking 15 credits or more as part of the "15 to finish" initiative.

The program documents and budget for the new AS degree– *Agroforestry Education for Health and Sustainable Livelihoods* developed through a NIFA Distance Education grant were completed in time for submission to the Board of Regents. It is anticipated that courses will be available in Fall 2022 and the full program in Spring 2023, following the substantive change process.

A consultant, funded by the RMI World Bank *Education and Skills Project* commenced work on the review of the current program and courses of the CMI Maritime Center and the development of two new programs in Deck Technology and Maritime Engineering designed primarily to meet the needs of the Marshall Islands domestic shipping industry.

In other accreditation related activities, VPASA Dr. Elizabeth Switaj completed service as a member of one of five Standards Peer Review Teams, and Director IR, Ms. Cheryl Vila, completed membership of the Peer Review Team – American Samoa CC. CMI President will serve as Vice Chair for the 2022 Formative-Summative Review of Palau Community College, and VPBAA Stevenson Kotton as a member of the ACCJC Comprehensive Evaluation Peer Review Team for Fall 2022/Spring 2023 for COM-FSM.

Jenzabar, CMI's new Student Information System is on schedule to be rolled-out first as a pilot in Summer 2022, and fully implemented in the Fall Semester. CMI continues to pursue the goal set 7 years ago to provide effective and efficient technology resources to its students, faculty and staff, and by the end of 2021 had migrated over 89 percent of its teaching, learning, and business processes into cloud hosting services. Since the last report to PPEC, the IT Department has been actively planning to complete the remaining 11% by mid-2022. This includes Moving and Automating CMI's eLearning & Teaching Processes into Oracle Cloud Hosting Services, completing the e-File Cabinet implementation, Converting Classroom's Analog Door Locks to Digital Locks, providing Easy Virtual Classrooms with DTEN & Zoom Technology, and capitalizing on the Emerging Technology - DocuSign eSignature. In January the College launched its student *Student Cloud Printing Experience*, which is a self-managed, self-service document printing system with access available for students across all campuses and centers. Students can print from any device and use a payment management system that can generate weekly, monthly or yearly consumption reports. CMI calculates that the overall savings from these strategic initiatives can be diverted to improving the delivery of education as contributing to the cost of increasing the number of academic programs in the near future.

The major impact on the College of the Marshall Islands of the Covid-19 pandemic, with continued limit on travel and 14-day quarantine requirement, remains with respect to delays in hiring Professional Staff and Faculty from overseas – currently waiting for five instructors, one professional staff and three researchers.

Travel Advisory #37 extended the RMI travel ban on incoming passengers until 30 April, 2022. All CMI ID's indicate vaccination status and students wishing to be accommodated in college residence continue to be required to have proof of vaccination unless medically exempted. At April 6, the following status of CMI vaccinations were:

| | Nov 2, 2021 | % | April 6, 2022 | % |
|--|-------------|-----|---------------|-----|
| Total staff/faculty fully vaccinated N=208 | 168 | 81% | 218 | 98% |
| Total staff accepting Booster shots | | | 213 | 96% |
| Total CMI students fully vaccinated N=1267 | 895 | 71% | 914 | 78% |

CMI continued monthly publications of its newsletter *Jilel* with editions from November - March online at <https://cmi.edu/?s=Jilel>

College of Micronesia-FSM

Introduction

The College of Micronesia-FSM Mission Statement reads, “*The College of Micronesia-FSM is a learner-centered institution of higher education that is committed to the success of the Federated States of Micronesia by providing academic and career and technical educational programs characterized by continuous improvement and best practices.*”

The College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM) is a multi-campus institution with the National Campus located in Palikir, Pohnpei, and a state campus in each state. COM-FSM also includes the FSM Fisheries and Maritime Institute located in Yap. The area most directly served by the college is the Federated States of Micronesia, which includes approximately two-million square miles of the western Pacific Ocean and a population of over 110,000. The college offers 1 baccalaureate degree, 14 associate degrees, and 17 certificate programs. The college offers fisheries and maritime instruction for fishing, navigation and engineering that meet the Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping (STCW) regulations and traditional navigation.

Accreditation Updates

The college submitted a substantive change request for a second baccalaureate program in Business Administration with an Emphasis in Accounting for review at the May 24, 2022 meeting. If approved, the program is scheduled to start fall 2022.



Institutional Self-Evaluation Report preparation is on schedule with a final draft near completion. The next phase will involve editing of the report and endorsement by the Executive Committee and the Board of Regents at its June 2022 meeting. The report will be submitted to the peer evaluation team by August 1, 2022. The peer evaluation team visit is scheduled for the week of March 13, 2023. “Welewel”, our accreditation theme, is a traditional navigation term meaning to stay on a straight and honest path.

General Updates

- **Presidential search committee** has initiated a new search for president and CEO with applications due in by May 31, 2022, and available at <http://www.comfsm.fm/jobs/positions/2022/2022-026.html>. The search committee is responsible for conducting the presidential search and recruitment process with the ultimate goal of recommending candidates to the full board. The board is responsible for making the final selection and appointment of the president. The anticipated selection date is September 2022 and no later than December 2022.
- **Traditional Commencement Ceremony.** For the first time since the pandemic began, the college held a traditional commencement ceremony on December 17, 2021. The college conferred degrees and certificates to its 132 graduates of fall 2021. Additionally, the college conferred degrees and certificates to 41 graduates of summer 2021.
- **Spring 2022 Enrollment at Highest Level in Four Years.** Kosrae, Chuuk, National and Yap Campuses surpassed spring 2022 enrollment targets. Only the Career and Technical Education Center didn't meet targets. The college registrar reported the college has seen increases in its spring 2022 enrollment in headcounts and registered credits by 23% and 25% respectively. The table below shows the college's spring 2022 enrollment in comparison to its spring 2021 enrollment.

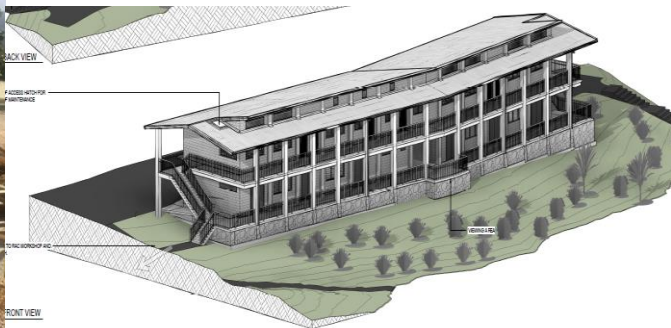
Table 1. Spring 2021 vs spring 2022: Enrollment in headcounts and registered credits by campus

| Campus | In Headcounts | | | In Registered Credits | | |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|------------|-----------------------|---------------|------------|
| | Spring 2021 | Spring 2022 | %Diff | Spring 2021 | Spring 2022 | %Diff |
| National | 526 | 864 | 64% | 6,447 | 10,668 | 65% |
| CTEC | 249 | 273 | 10% | 2,815 | 3,198 | 14% |
| Chuuk | 290 | 235 | -18% | 3,333 | 2,654 | -20% |
| Kosrae | 114 | 153 | 34% | 1,130 | 1,552 | 37% |
| Yap | 231 | 1,733 | 23% | 2,501 | 2,166 | -13% |
| TOTAL | 1,410 | 1,733 | 23% | 16,226 | 20,238 | 25% |

- **EDA awarded Center For Entrepreneurship additional \$430,000.00 funding** The U.S. Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) awarded COM-FSM \$1,052, 331 to increase small- and large-scale agriculture production in FSM by expanding the College of Micronesia-FSM's (COM-FSM) hydroponic greenhouse and building one 20 x 80 ft. greenhouse in each of the other 3 states. The facility will be used as a training hub to provide business training for farmers interested in starting their hydroponics farms. Then on December 24, 2021, EDA project manager notified the Center of the approval of its \$430,000 additional funding request for the hydroponic systems and construction of the greenhouse projects.



- **25 Students Participated in IOM’s Pohnpei Youth Leadership Summit.** 25 students from the college’s National Campus and the Career & Technical Education Center (CTEC) participated in the Pohnpei Youth Leadership Summit on Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Jan. 3-7, 2022. The event was hosted by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in partnership with the college. The five-day event trained students on leadership and project implementation, writing proposals, public speaking and presentation, women empowerment, climate-related challenges their communities may face in the future, and others. Two of five projects presented were selected for implementation. The projects are water security and waste management.
- **Career and Technical Education Building**
 Construction began on September 1, 2021, and is scheduled to be completed by the end of August 2023. Contractor ABCOR Engineering and Construction has completed the pouring of the concrete foundation and has moved ahead with overall construction of the building as planned. The building will be the new home for the electronics and construction trades programs.



Guam Community College

Introduction

Since its inception through the Community College Act of 1977 (as amended by Public Law 31-99 in 2011), Guam Community College continues to fulfill its mission to be a leader in career and technical workforce development, providing the highest quality, student-centered education and job training for Micronesia. GCC serves as Guam’s State Agency for Career and Technical Education under the United States Vocational Education Act of 1946 (and subsequent amendments). As a multi-faceted, public, career and technical education institution, the College currently offers 26 associate degrees and 18 certificates. GCC delivers postsecondary education on campus in fall and spring semesters and during summer. Off-site, the College primarily delivers secondary career technical education at six Guam public high schools, as well as short-term, specialized training at local businesses. Additionally, GCC offers adult education programs

and services, namely English as a Second Language, Adult Basic Education, High School Equivalency preparation and testing, and Adult High School Diploma.

General Updates

Enrollment for the spring 2022 semester increased by approximately two percent (2%) to 1613 when compared to the enrollment in the prior year spring 2021 semester. When compared to the enrollment ten years ago in spring 2012, the spring 2022 semester enrollment dropped by approximately thirty-three percent (33%).

The Spring 2022 College Assembly was held online with faculty, administrators, and staff in attendance. Two attorneys with the Guam Ethics Commission provided training titled, Ethics in Government. Guam Public Law PL No. 36-25 requires ethics training for all Government of Guam employees. Additionally, during this reporting period, the board and faculty union negotiations focused on faculty job specifications and evaluation.

The College recently held two (2) transformation leadership academies for new employees and one (1) transformation leadership refresher for academic administrators. The academies were hosted by the husband and wife team of Dr. Samuel Betances and Dr. Laura Sauder. GCC remains committed to the transformation vision of 100% student-centered success through its continued investment in professional development initiatives for employees.

The College continues to be vigilant and steadfast in its efforts to ensure students' needs are met during this pandemic and every avenue exhausted to provide the education and support necessary to achieve our educational mission. The laptop and MiFi loaner program will continue through the College's bookstore loaner program.

The Center for Student Involvement continued to offer student activities through the virtual environment. The Spring New Student Orientation was held via Zoom with information provided by Admissions and Registration, Counseling, Financial Aid, Accommodative Services, Student Support Services, Reach for College, Career Placement, Title IX, and Student Organizations. The 2022 GCC Student Leaders Election was held in April via an email vote. The Meet the President sessions with President Dr. Mary A.Y. Okada were held virtually via Zoom.

Accreditation Updates

GCC submitted its 2022 Midterm Report to ACCJC. Thereafter, training on the Institutional Self Evaluation Report preparation was hosted by GCC's liaison with ACCJC. Trainees consisted of a focused set of employees who would contribute significantly to the final ISER due to ACCJC in August of 2024. Additionally, the ACCJC Annual Report was submitted in during this reporting period.

Palau Community College

Accreditation Updates

Palau Community College became an accredited institution in 1977 by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior College, Western Association of Schools and Colleges (ACCJC-WASC). It has been an ACCJC-WASC member institution for 45 years.

The College Accreditation Steering Committee (ASC) is drafting and gathering evidence for the Institutional Self-Evaluation Report (ISER) 2023 that will be submitted to the Commission no later than August 1, 2022. The College will have its site visit in the spring of 2023.

In January 2022, PCC Accrediting Steering Committee (ASC) continued its work on the College Institutional Self-Evaluation Report. A final report will be submitted to PCC President and the Board of Trustees for review and approval. Members of the Accreditation Steering Committee comprised of the College classified staff, faculty, deans, and directors.

The College President will be submitting the College ISER 2023 to the College Board of Trustees for review and approval in June 2022. The College Accreditation office will package and mail out the ISER 2023 to ACCJC Novato, California address in July 2022 via the Palau DHL mail service to ensure that the College ISER 2023 is received by the Commission no later than August 1, 2022.

College Program Highlights

- Palau Community College (PCC) held its Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for the newly constructed PCC Mesekiu Gymnasium. The multi-indoor sports building serves many outdoor sporting games for students and staff. PCC Board of Trustees, President, Faculty, Associate Students of PCC Representatives, and Classified Staff Organization attended this momentous occasion to celebrate and witness its completion.
- In January 2022, the Palau Ministry of Health and Human Services announced the increase of active COVID-19 cases, the College had already taken necessary steps to safeguard the safety of its students and staff as well as support the Republic of Palau's effort to prevent and mitigate Corona Virus Disease. While suspending in-person instruction/classes, the College continues to conduct courses through various means of delivery via online, hybrid, blended modalities. However, the School of Technical Education programs with its hybrid learning continue to employ social distancing as means to safeguard individual students from COVID-19. In March 14, 2022 all traditional courses as well as hybrid courses reverted back to face-to-face instructions due to the decline in COVID-19 positive cases.
- PCC Agricultural Science program has been successful using hydroponic non-circulating gardening system by growing six lettuces at once in a styrofoam container. The gardening system can hold up more than eight containers. Using an indoor lighting of 20 watts LED light and liquid nutrients the indoor garden can grow lettuces with a 30 days

harvesting period. Associate Professor of Agricultural Science continued to utilize the soil-less system and save water gardening that also supports the initiatives of climate change and food security in Palau.

- The Palau Community College Cooperative Research & Extension (CRE) has been working diligently to enhance its research and extension programs. Vice President of CRE along with Researchers and Agents have laid out plans to improve and support community through various projects and programs. Some key extension programs are sustainable production of mangrove crab and local crop to enhance food security and support income generation; Introduction of the climate resilient agro forestry and livestock management in the community; and Continuation of sustainable agriculture model by connecting with schools and community. Some ongoing CRE Research initiatives are Coconut Rhinoceros Beetles project; Breadfruit, Taro, Mango Tree, and Ethno botanical productions which yield high return using climate resilient approach. The College Vice President of CRE Dr. Kitalong, Researcher Dr. Yin Yin Nwe, and Dr. Hideo Omae co-edited a recently published a manual “Agriculture in Palau - A Manual for Production Through Soil Assessment”. This is a publication on Palau’s soil assessment and agricultural production which will help increase food production and strengthen food security in the community.
- On April 01, 2022 Palau Community College celebrates its 29th Charter Day with the Annual President’s 5k Run and Walk. Over 200 community members, faculty, staff, and students participated in the event followed by a special message from the College President Tellei. This year, the 28th Police Academy cadets joined the College Run & Walk event by providing warm-up routine exercises. Free college t-shirts as well as morning snacks and drinks for all participants.
- Palau Community College hosts over twenty (20) 7th Our Ocean Conference side events and bilateral meetings on April 11-14, 2022. The conference engaged in a mainstream dialogue of six (6) topic areas: 1. Advancing Marine Protected Areas for Communities, Ecosystems, and Climate; 2. Tackling Marine Pollution; 3. Confronting the Ocean-Climate Crisis or Towards on Ocean Solution for Climate Change; 4. Creating Sustainable Blue Economies; 5. Advancing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries and Aquaculture; and 6. Achieving a Safe, Just and Secure Ocean.