

Accepting the College Completion Challenge

A Call to Action

In recognition of the central role that Guam Community College has in meeting the educational and training needs in our community and, more broadly, in contributing to an educated U.S. citizenry and a competitive workforce, we pledge to do our part to increase in the number of Americans with high quality postsecondary degrees and certifications to fulfill critical local, state, and national goals. With the "completion agenda" as a national imperative, Guam Community College has an obligation to meet the challenge while holding firmly to traditional values of access, opportunity, and quality.

- We believe the student success and completion agenda is the future of Guam Community College.
- We believe that completion matters and that every student counts.
- We believe in every student's potential and responsibility to succeed—and that an engaged student is more likely to persist in college.
- We believe the "open door" must not be a "revolving door," and that Guam Community College must take responsibility for student success.
- We believe that community colleges are the gateways to the middle class and beyond for millions of Americans.
- We believe that community colleges are an invaluable economic engine driving the nation toward renewed and sustained economic prosperity.
- We believe that talented and committed people working "heart and soul" at Guam Community College are ready to take on leadership roles to increase student success and college completion.
- We believe to change in institutional culture, from emphasis on access only to emphasis on access and success.
- We commit to courageous conversations about diversity, equity, and evidence reflecting student success and institutional performance.
- We commit, while increasing success rates for all students, to eliminating the attainment gaps that separate student groups on the basis of race, ethnicity and family income.
- We commit to acting on facts to make positive changes in the interest of student success and college completion.
- We commit to promoting faculty and staff development focused on evidence based educational practice.
- We commit to providing development opportunities, for college administrators, trustees, faculty, staff, and students to build and sustain leadership for student success.
- We ask every trustee, administrator, faculty member, counselor, advisor, financial aid officer, staff member, and student organization to examine current practices, to identify ways to help students understand the added value of degrees and certifications, and to help them progress toward their goals.
- We ask every student to help one other student succeed.
- We ask community members to support and work with us to help more students succeed.
- We ask elected officials to create the policy conditions that enable, support, and reward our work to strengthen student success.
- We ask other community colleges to join us by signing and sharing this commitment and call to action.

This signed Call to Action commits Guam Community College to promote the development and implementation of policies, practices, and institutional cultures that will produce 50% more students with high quality degrees and certificates by 2020. We call upon every sector and constituency of our college and community to join us in this work. Our democracy needs every one of us.

Deborah C. Belanger
Deborah C. Belanger, Chairperson, BOT
Chair, Board of Trustees

Mary A.Y. Okada
Mary A.Y. Okada, Ed.D., President, GCC
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December 20, 2012

Date

