

PPEC
Pacific Postsecondary
Education Council

Report to
Accrediting Commission
of
Community and Junior Colleges
(ACCJC)

January– June 2013

Pacific Postsecondary Education Council (PPEC)

The Pacific Postsecondary Education Council, PPEC, is a consortium of presidents and chancellors of higher education institutions in the U.S. and U.S. affiliated Pacific Islands who have agreed to work collaboratively to serve the needs of member institutions as they address regional and postsecondary education issues. Member institutions are from American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Republic of Palau, and the State of Hawaii.

The purpose of PPEC is to:

- Encourage and develop regional planning of postsecondary education throughout the Pacific;
- Serve as a forum to address common educational issues and to foster cooperation in solving common problems facing Pacific people and their environment;
- Encourage and sponsor sharing of resources and expertise among member institutions to promote the wise utilization of limited resources and discourage unhealthy competition and wasteful duplication of effort;
- Work as a unit in promoting the uniqueness of Pacific people, their islands, and their cultures;
- Seek resources dedicated to major needs of the region in such areas as communications, alternative energy, human resource development, and planning;
- Articulate compatibility of educational programs to facilitate transferability of academic credits among member institutions;
- Develop and foster inter-institutional cooperation and region-wide programs in education, training, community services, research and development; and
- Serve as a coordinating agency for external organizations interested in assisting with postsecondary and continuing education needs of the Pacific, and act as an information clearinghouse for Pacific postsecondary educational institutions.

The PPEC higher education institutional leaders in the Pacific region work together to serve the needs of member institutions as they address regional and postsecondary education issues including, but not limited to:

- Facilitating inter-institutional collaboration,
- Enhancing transfer and articulation opportunities for students,
- Strengthening teacher development and information sharing, and
- Encouraging capacity-building and development.

AMERICAN SAMOA COMMUNITY COLLEGE (ASCC)

The American Samoa Community College has experienced a busy and productive six months since the last report. Working within the approved budget, the College continues to meet obligations and provide services within resource limits. Although the Sequester had not yet had major impact on the College or the Territory, the newly elected Governor has directed all agencies and authorities, including ASCC, to implement cost containment measures. At ASCC, these include a freeze on locally-funded (non-grant) travel, a hiring freeze for all positions except faculty, and energy conservation measures. The College has developed contingency plans for possible cuts of 5% in Federal grants and 5-10% in local funding for the next fiscal year.

Work on the ARRA/State Fiscal Stabilization Program funded campus renovation is complete, with the opening of three converted faculty housing units that provide space for Samoan Music and Drama, Teacher Education, and the Samoan Studies Institute. Work has also been completed on 5 computer labs and campus-wide technology upgrades. The final upgrade was the MIS Server Annex. With these last projects finalized, ASCC has completed a campus-wide renovation that includes all classrooms and science labs, computer labs, and key offices such as Admissions and Records, Financial Aid and Institutional Effectiveness. Additional classroom space has been provided for Fine Arts, Nursing, Teacher Education and Samoan Studies. Using local funds, the Student Learning Assistance Center (tutoring center) has been expanded, with a nearby building now open as the SLAC Annex, to provide additional tutoring services in all subject areas.

A new Wellness Center has been completed as part of the ASCC Land Grant program, providing fitness and health education facilities to the college and the community. The new building was officially opened on April 30, 2013.

Technology upgrades include the implementation of on-line registration and continued Smart Board training for faculty. Online registration for all students was fully implemented for the Spring 2013 semester. The process eliminates the long lines of the past and allows students to register in the computer labs, assisted by computer technicians and academic advisors.

DataTel training was completed and updated to allow for interactive data input and reporting for the Finance, Admissions and Records, Financial Aid, and Academic Affairs programs. The WebAdvisor was updated for all deans and directors for real time accessibility to budget data accounts. All divisions of the college, including the Community and Natural Resources (CNR) and Small Business Development Center (SBDC), have been integrated into the ASCC network. Successful test runs were conducted twice in March to test the bandwidth capabilities during Spring Break and after Spring Break to monitor the differences in amount of bandwidth required for full and partial college use by faculty, staff, and students.

Institutional Effectiveness has implemented Compliance Assist software, providing training to all key staff, to support continued improvement of quarterly and annual reporting, strategic and long-range planning, program review, and self study.

The General Education Outcomes have been completed and implemented. Faculty are currently in the assessment process of identifying the assessment instruments and data collection process. Work continues on Program Learning Outcomes. ASCC met the required reporting deadline for ACCJC.

Three grants from the U.S. Department of Education continue to support academic and student services improvement. The College Access Challenge Grant, which provides tutoring, counseling, financial aid assistance and transfer services has been renewed. Two new grants support priority programs over the next five years – Transition to Teaching and the Title III Asian and Pacific Islanders Institutional Development Program. Transition to Teaching supports continued efforts toward program development and ACSCU accreditation for the B.Ed. Program. Title III has increased the number of faculty teaching Developmental English and Developmental Math, provide integrated technology support for skills development, and a “bridge” program intended to assist students with developing the English and Math proficiency necessary for success in college courses.

Data from this “College Accelerated Preparatory Program” (CAPP) shows a statistically significant increase in the number and percentage of students passing developmental English and Math courses, progressing through the levels more consistently, and demonstrating readiness for college level study after one semester of intensive CAPP courses. In general, the passing rate for English has improved from 45% to 72% and in Math from 45% to just under 70%. Data collection and analysis continues to assess success as these CAPP students progress through the General Education courses and the rest of their academic programs.

Efforts are underway to revive and develop the Apprenticeship/Retrain/Workforce Development Program in the areas of automotive, carpentry, electrical technology and welding through the review of the curricular offerings and articulation with the Vocational/ Technical School, and regular meetings with the private sector and government departments. Articulation and discussion with the ASG Department of Commerce, ASG Department of Human Resources, American Samoa Power Authority and American Samoa Telecommunications Authority on Workforce Development to strengthen the Retrain Program in automotive, auto-body, electrical technology, and welding were conducted and continue to be planned. Continuing efforts to strengthen the Trades and Technology Division include outreach to the local high schools and the community.

Development of the four-year Bachelor of Education program continues, in cooperation with WASC/ACSCU. Following the granting of Candidacy for the B.Ed. program in June of 2012, the Initial Accreditation Review was scheduled for March of 2013. ASCC completed a Self Evaluation Review in preparation for the March review. The ACSCU Visiting Team conducted a “virtual visit” via teleconference in March. The decision on Initial Accreditation will be made by ACSCU in June.

ASCC continues to fulfill the community service aspects of its mission through the translation, documentation and education to support traditional Samoan language and culture.

College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM)

Accreditation

College Status Report on SLO Implementation

On March 5, 2013, COM-FSM submitted its *College Status Report on SLO Implementation* http://www.comfsm.fm/accreditation/2013/slo-report/Status%20Report%20on%20SLO%20Implementation_COMFSM_Final.pdf. The college posits it is at the *proficiency level* and is striving to reach and maintain the *sustainable continuous quality improvement level*. The SLO Rubric has served as an excellent tool for inspiring both institutional self-reflection and purposeful dialogue leading to substantive improvements towards our focus on student learning.

Combined Midterm and Follow Up Report

On March 15, 2013, COM-FSM submitted a *Combined Midterm and Follow Up Report* to the Commission. http://www.comfsm.fm/accreditation/2013/midterm-report/MidTerm_and_Follow_Up_Report_2013_Final.pdf. The report addressed fifteen recommendations in total, four of which were recommendations for which the institution had been continued on probation.

Team Visit

The report was followed by a four-member team visit conducted March 25-27, 2013. The team was chaired by Leon Richards, Chancellor of Kapiolani Community College and also included members Susan Murata, ACCJC Commissioner and Director of Library and Learning Resources Kapiolani CC, Salvatore Lanzilotti, Acting Dean of Continuing Education Kapiolani CC, and Ms. Katie Pluta, Bakersfield College.

Supplemental Report and Appearance Before the Commission

COM-FSM will be submitting a brief *Supplemental Report* to the Commission May 15, 2013, highlighting work completed since the team visit. The president, chairman of the board of regents, and the ALO will attend and appear before the Commission during the June 2013 hearings. The president will offer additional evidence of work completed subsequent to the *Supplemental Report*.

Assessment Coordinator and Assistant Accreditation Liaison Officer

The department for institutional effectiveness and quality assurance has revised the job description for an assessment coordinator and expanded the position to include additional responsibilities as an assistant ALO. The combined assessment coordinator and assistant ALO will report to the vice president for institutional effectiveness and quality assurance. It is anticipated the filled position will be evidenced in the May 2013 *Supplemental Report*.

Accreditation Bootcamp and Accreditation Basics

All employees at COM-FSM have undergone training in what we have termed an *Accreditation Bootcamp*. Training outcomes were to:

- Demonstrate basic knowledge on our accreditation status.

- Demonstrate basic knowledge on the accreditation process.
- Discuss SLO rubric and your perceptions of where we are towards proficiency.
- Be able to define, discuss, and offer specific examples of authentic assessment.
- Commit to authentic assessment.
- Demonstrate understanding of faculty/staff/administrative roles and responsibilities towards the SLO Report and Midterm Report.

Additionally, COM-FSM has been striving this year to have 100% completion of the *ACCJC Online Accreditation Basics Course* by all college employees and our board of regents by June 1, 2013. The college is on target to obtain its goal with all regents, all faculty, and all employees on five out of six campuses having completed the course successfully. The National Campus, with the largest number of employees, is the only campus yet to reach 100% completion. In total, over 380 employees have successfully completed the course.

Instructional Coordinator Maria Dison of Pohnpei Campus was inspired by the accreditation boot camp training and decided to offer accreditation training for the college employees at Pohnpei Campus who are not English proficient. Mrs. Dison translated all training slides into the Pohnpeian Language and offered accreditation training during the February 22, 2013, professional development day activities. Mrs. Dison provided an excellent example of the power of purposeful dialogue and effective communication.

Strategic Planning

COM-FSM is completing the end of a year-long, three-phase strategic planning process that involved both internal and external stakeholders in all four states of the FSM. The college held visioning summits in all four states during fall 2012. A strategic planning working group has been using the results of the visioning summits and a board of regents visioning workshop to complete a strategic plan. Input into the development of the plan has continued via the Planning and Resources Committee, Management Team, and Executive Committee. The strategic plan will be evidenced in the May 2013 *Supplemental Report*.

Space Utilization Study and Energy Audit

COM-FSM obtained a technical assistance grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs in order to complete a *Space Utilization Study*. The study will be completed by the Beca consultancy firm, a New Zealand based organization that is well known and respected in the Asia-Pacific region. The *Space Utilization Study*, to be completed fall 2013, includes, but is not limited to, a spatial review, condition assessment, energy audit, facilities master plan report, and master plan implementation.

WASC Meaning, Quality, and Integrity of the Degrees Workshop

A five-member team from COM-FSM attended the WASC Meaning, Quality, and Integrity of the Degrees Workshop on May 3, 2013, held at Chaminade University, Honolulu, Hawaii.

Guam Community College (GCC)

Spring semester highlights

In January, spring semester 2013 at the Guam Community College officially opened with 2,428 students enrolling in postsecondary classes. The office of Continuing Education and Workforce Development also launched the first of 19 Community Access Points (CAP) at the Inarajan Mayor's office, in partnership with the Guam Contractors Association and the Guam Chamber of Commerce, to provide residents access to free online training via the KeyTrain component of WorkKeys. The AIER and the Academic Vice President's office also initiated the mission statement review, soliciting input from the campus community. Talks regarding the development of a court interpreting program were also held this month, as spearheaded by the Education Department. The chair of the department is working with the Superior Court of Guam to develop the program in order to train individuals who speak various languages in the region to become court interpreters.

In February, both Okkodo and Simon Sanchez High Schools won their respective Lodging Management Program (LMP) and Prostart (Culinary) island-level competitions for the third year in a row. During this same month, President Okada met with students (see details below) while the GCC Foundation hosted its second annual Parade of Shoes fundraiser. Professional Development Day for staff and administrators was also held towards the end of this month, providing an emphasis on "shooter on campus" training. Likewise, newly-elected senators and returning members of the 32nd Guam Legislature attended an Ethics Training course taught by former senator Judith Guthertz in the Student Center Training Room on February 7. Dr. Guthertz conducted the session for free, and GCC donated use of the training room. During their lunch break, President Okada gave the senators a brief tour of the new buildings on campus which opened in 2009 (Allied Health Center), 2010 (Learning Resource Center), 2011 (Student Center) and 2012 (renovated Foundation Building), respectively.

March 2013 brought news that GCC had received its 12th consecutive clean audit, with commendation from the Guam Public Auditor for being the **only** low-risk government agency on Guam. According to the Office of the Public Auditor, independent auditors Deloitte & Touche, LLP gave GCC a clean bill of financial health issuing an unqualified "clean" opinion on its FY 2012 financial statements and its compliance and internal controls. Likewise, GCC students' service learning efforts placed the college on President Obama's Higher Education National Community Service Honor Roll for the 4th consecutive year. During this same month, the annual spring semester "Students Leading Students" and Adult Education conferences took place, and residents in the CAP program in Inarajan logged over 386 training hours. Also, GCC science students hosted their first science symposium for over 150 elementary students from Tamuning Elementary School under the auspices of the LSAMP grant, as coordinated by Dr. Jay Sunga. The Math Department, similarly, hosted the 14th Math Kangaroo, an international math competition, where approximately 230 students from grades K-12 took their math tests on campus.

In early April, GCC received approval of its second program-to-program articulation, with its Associate of Science in Criminal Justice graduates to be given junior standing when they choose

to pursue their BA in Criminal Justice at the University of Guam. At the national LMP competition, the Okkodo LMP team took second place honors.

The end of April came with the Simon Sanchez Prostart team going against 42 other schools across America in a competition that tested their culinary skills and knowledge. ProStart is a National Restaurant Association Educational Foundation program that prepares students in high school for careers in the culinary field. The GCC team was graded on preparation skills, which included everything from the uniform they wore to cutting poultry properly. They then prepared a three-course menu, which they collaborated on with their mentor chef, which included an appetizer of a crispy seafood beggar's purse, with lobster, shrimp and scallops; a main course of pan-seared pork tenderloin stuffed with goat cheese, sundried tomatoes and bacon with truffle-flavored mashed potatoes; and for dessert, they prepared a mocha pot de crème coffee and cake. At the end of the competition, they were recognized as the national Prostart champions besting 42 other schools across the nation.

In May, the Academic Vice President's office, along with campus leaders representing the Faculty Senate, Faculty Union, Council of Department Chairs, and the Staff Senate organized the 1st Annual GCC picnic at Ypao Beach Park to provide all GCC employees dedicated time to enjoy the sun and the beach, alongside food, entertainment and games.

Continuous Accreditation Support

With the guidance of the Academic Vice President, who is also the college's Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO), the Office of Assessment, Institutional Effectiveness and Research (AIER) continues to provide support to the four (4) accreditation Standard Committees (as standing committees of the Faculty Senate led by faculty members) by performing the following tasks for the period covered by this report:

- Developed a matrix outlining timeline due dates for the data collection progress reports in preparation for the final mid-term report due to ACCJC in March 2015.
- Developed a twelve-month meeting date schedule for the monthly Standards Committee meetings for 2013.
- Developed a format for the final data collection report which will be incorporated into the mid-term report.
- Assisted the Standard Committees in drafting their committee goals.
- Monitoring and compiling the Data Collection Reports submitted by the Standard Committees for the AIPs and the recommendations from the evaluation team.
- Continuously uploading all evidence addressing the actionable improvement plans (AIPs) and the four evaluation team recommendations to the Institutional File Server (IFS) folders.
- Monitor and assist CE&WD implementation of the CE Assessment strategy to address evaluation team recommendation to assess non-credit courses.
- Create and maintain the MyGCC Group Studio page for the Accreditation 2018 and all the subgroups including the four Standard Committee Groups.
- Compile and convert for electronic upload all evidence and reports submitted by the Standard Committees.

AIER also completed extracting and formatting all the data requested in the 2013 ACCJC Annual Report which the college submitted to the Commission on March 30, 2013. As

completed by the Vice President for Finance and Administration, the Annual Fiscal Report was likewise submitted on time. Both reports were sent to ACCJC from the President's email address, thus certifying to their veracity and accuracy.

The President's Performance Appraisal Survey Report was published in March by AIER and disseminated to members of the Board of Trustees and the Foundation Board of Governors. AIER also posted this on MyGCC for the benefit of the whole college community.

The SLO Report, which was due this spring 2013, was submitted by the college one semester ahead of schedule (in October 2012), with permission from Dr. Beno.

President's engagement with students

The Center for Student Involvement (CSI) organized the "Meet the President" sessions held on February 18th and 19th at 6 pm in the Multi-Purpose Auditorium, with 272 students and faculty in attendance for both days. This session is done twice during the academic year (in February and October) with the President engaging the students in every aspect of their college experience. In each of these sessions, the President informs the students and faculty of GCC activities and projects at the college, and then answers questions from the student audience. She also usually advises students that they can email her directly with their questions or concerns at gccpresident@guamcc.edu. In a tone that is conversational and informal, the President engaged in a "group chat" with students at these sessions, highlighting the following (the president speaks, in italics):

1. **Current "pulse" of the island**

There were a number of tragic events (e.g. rampage in Tumon) that have occurred on island over the past couple of weeks and some of these may have affected you personally. Please be advised that GCC has excellent counselors who can assist you with coping with these events. Always be safe on campus and be very aware of your surroundings.

2. **Student ID's on campus**

You must wear them or have them in your possession while you are on campus. We have great facilities for you as students but we also have other people coming on campus to try and use our facilities. You are our priority and these services are strictly for our students.

3. **Enrollment**

Spring semester has over 2,400 students enrolled and our enrollment has been going up. Because of this, we are trying to grow our campus with new buildings and services.

4. **Campus Improvements**

Building 200 – the bid should be awarded soon and hopefully, construction can start in the next couple of months. This will be a 2-story concrete building.

Building 100 – we now have the funding for the design renovations. No set date for construction but for all you cosmetology and CJ students, that building will be next. This will be a 2-story concrete building.

Forensic Lab extension – we will be building new classrooms and labs in this building for the criminal justice program use.

Automotive buildings – these are on the Master Plan to become 2-story buildings.

MPA – eventually, in the Master Plan, this will all be for the culinary use.

Improvements in air conditioning units, renovation of some restrooms, and other upgrades.

Buildings are financed from many funding sources: federal, local and private donors.

5. **Registration**
Register on-line and early – avoid the lines at financial aid, at admissions and at the cashier to pay.
6. **Sustainability**
Photovoltaic – we hope to get Buildings 100 & 200 fitted with photovoltaics so that we can save more money for the college by feeding electricity back into the grid which helps GCC save money each year.
COPSA and the EcoWarriors student organization have been very aggressive over the years with their recycling efforts on campus. Please recycle your aluminum cans and plastic bottles in our recycling bins.
7. **Scholarships**
GCC offers lots of scholarships, so please apply. Sometimes we don't get enough people to apply for these scholarships that private organizations give to us so please take advantage of them.
8. **Miscellaneous**
Financial issues – despite the challenges with GovGuam, GCC has no plans to raise tuition.
PDN news alerts – please sign up for this with your mobile phone so you can be alerted of any situations that may arise here at the college.
Parking issues – I know that parking is still an issue. A parking garage is in the Master Plan so if we can get funding for it, we can move forward with this. There is also an effort on our part to turn Sesame Street, which is GCC property, into a one-way street so that we can have more parking. We're working on that with the Department of Public Works to see how we can move forward.

Student leaders, like the President, are also doing the best they could to disseminate all these important information to their fellow students. This is being done in forums like the Council of Postsecondary Student Association (COPSA)-organized “Students Leading Students” Conference, which was held on March 1, 2013 with 160 GCC student participants. During this event, the Phi Theta Kappa campus organization (honor society for two-year colleges) mounted a student signature campaign, garnering over a hundred pledges for those students present to commit to student completion. This is the initiative that the President and the Board Chair signed together at the end of last year to signify their commitment towards student success and completion. This is also in keeping with President Obama’s 2020 student completion agenda.

Northern Marianas College (NMC)

Northern Marianas College has experienced a very industrious and productive six months since the last PPEC report submission. On February 2013, the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) placed NMC under show-cause status and required the College to submit a show-cause report by October 15, 2013. The College now has the burden of proof to “show cause” for why it should retain accreditation.

Immediately after receiving the action letter, the College moved quickly to address the issues and concerns raised in ACCJC’s action letter and has diligently continued its commitment to providing quality education, continuous improvement, and progress in meeting accreditation standards and eligibility requirements. Since the last reporting period, constituent groups, governance committees and standard teams have dedicated significant time and unparalleled commitment to the College’s accreditation efforts. Members of the College community continue to work in 12 standard teams and Ad-hoc committees to address accreditation standards and eligibility requirements. More than ever, the College is committed to having its accreditation reaffirmed and to ensuring that it continues its role of helping students achieve success in their educational goals.

Student Success and Retention

NMC has continued to build on its successful recruitment efforts by increasing its outreach activities to prospective students in public and private high schools, in government and private sector offices, and in the community.

In Fall 2012, the College enrolled 1,275 full time equivalent students, which is an increase of 8% over the same period the previous academic year. This was the second highest FTE student enrollment in the history of the College.

Also, for the first time in many years, the College held early registration for the Fall 2013 semester. As of April 2013, close to 500 FTE students have enrolled in various programs. This move was a response to student feedback requesting that students be allowed to register early to better plan their semesters.

Student retention continues to be a priority for the institution, and the College has launched a number of programs to ensure that students are provided the support and services they need to continue their studies until graduation. Retention from Fall to Spring continues to improve: in 2008, Fall to Spring retention was at 65%, while in 2012, the figure rose to 78%. Fall to Fall retention also improved during this five year period. Fall to Fall retention in Fall 2007 was 41%; in Fall 2011, retention was at 50%.

Faculty and staff participated in several viewings of the webinar, *How We Retain More Students by Intervening Earlier*, prior to Advising Week. The webinar was useful in fine-tuning and intensifying the College’s retention and college completion initiatives. Since the last reporting period, a First Year Experience (FYE) Coordinator was hired to promote retention and recruitment goals and effectively connect students to the College and their classes. NMC recognizes the value and importance of the FYE Coordinator role to the success of the first year experience across the College.

Improve the Utility of Information Technology

Several initiative and activities were undertaken in the Information Technology (IT) Department since the last report submitted to PPEC, including the hiring of a Director of IT on April 2013.

Since his hiring, the Director of IT initiated acquisition of the domain “marianas.edu” from Educase. The IT department is in the process of outlining the migration plan from “nmcnet.edu” to “marianas.edu.” The new domain name is more distinctive and will mitigate website confusion with other sites such as “nmc.net” or “nmc.edu.” The IT team is actively in the planning phase of migrating to Google apps email system during staff meetings. The new email system is more robust with a host of collaborative features that will improve organizational communication and ensure online security.

The College has also worked on supporting and improving the new Integrated Library System (ILS) to support the information and research needs of faculty and students. The ILS application is currently on a temporary server while a Request for Proposals (RFP) is being prepared to migrate it to a virtual server. Since the last reporting period, the College has completed the upgrade of its backend database (from SQL 2005 to 2008 server) to enable PowerFaid, which is designed to automate the entire financial aid process, from performing need-analysis calculations, to packaging, communications and reporting.

Further, the IT department implemented the Barracuda NG Firewall system on the Saipan, Rota and Tinian sites in 2012 to ensure the protection and privacy of the College’s networks. This system leverages the power of application visibility and user awareness to manage traffic and bandwidth intelligently, and adds capabilities to optimize network performance and reliability. NMC continues to make significant progress in enhancing the institution’s information technology infrastructure for all students, faculty and staff. To this end, the College has secured additional bandwidth to support current and even future IT operations for the College.

Improving NMC’s Student Information Management System

Since the last reporting period, the College continues to take significant steps toward the implementation of a new student information management system (SIMS) that would manage student data and integrate all aspects of any student’s academic pathway, including admissions, registration, and financial aid.

In addition to handling inquiries from prospective students, handling the admissions process, automatically creating classes and teacher schedules, providing statistical reports, the new student information management systems and accompanying modules will allow the College to implement an online registration system that would make the current manual registration process a thing of the past. In 2012, the contract to purchase the necessary modules to launch the fully integrated student information management system was signed. The College is now gearing up for a full implementation of the system, with anticipated implementation for Fall 2013. The Director of IT is currently conducting inquiries to determine the departments that need to be involved in the process to ensure project success.

“Believe” Campaign

With efforts underway to meet each recommendation and eligibility requirements noted in the Commission’s action letter, NMC employees and students launched the “Believe” campaign in early March 2013. Its aim is to launch a campus and island-wide coalition to rally community support behind the institution. The “Believe” campaign has had an overwhelming response and will continue to bolster support leading up to the October 15 show-cause deadline.

NMC is currently gearing up for its Charter Day (founding day) celebration and Commencement exercises for the Class of 2013. The theme of this year’s Charter Day “32 Years of Making

Dreams Happen” speaks to the College’s role in helping thousands of students realize their dreams through higher education.

This year’s commencement exercises will make the largest graduating class in five years at 180 students. Further, the first graduating cohorts in the School of Education Bachelor of Science in two concentrations, Elementary Childhood Education and Rehabilitation & Human Services, will receive their diplomas during the 2013 commencement.

Palau Community College (PCC)

Accreditation

In January, the college Accreditation Steering Committee continued to work on the 2013 Midterm Report where the committee reviewed the third draft of the said report. After the review of the third draft, the committee submitted the final report to the college President on January 25, 2013 for his review. The college President reviewed the report and sent the report back to the committee with his comments and recommendations. The committee addressed the President’s comments and recommendations and sent the final report to the President and the College Board of Trustees for their review and approval in February 2013. The college submitted its Midterm Report addressing the four recommendations and 2009 planning agendas to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges in March 2013.

Palau Community College also continued to work on its College Status Report on Student Learning Outcomes Implementation. The Accreditation Liaison Officer and the Assistant Accreditation Liaison Officer worked closely with the Dean of Academic Affairs, Dean of Student Services, Library Manager, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs/Committee on Programs and Curricula Chairperson and faculty to complete the report. The Accreditation Liaison Officer submitted the report to the college President in February 2013 for his review and approval. The college submitted the College Status Report on Student Learning Outcomes Implementation to the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges, Western Association of Schools and Colleges in March 2013.

Both the 2013 Midterm Report and the College Status Report on Student Learning Outcomes Implementation were due to the Commission in March 2013. Palau Community College awaits the Commission’s decision of both reports which will be available after the Commission’s meeting in June 2013.

Palau Community College Accreditation Office continues to conduct different trainings, workshops and meetings with different college programs and services to ensure assessment, planning and implementation continue at the different levels of the institution. In April, a meeting with the Department of Administration and Finance and a meeting with the Division of Student Services took place to review the most revised program review templates, to discuss different assessments required by the different levels of services, and to remind each department/division of its action plans’ implementations. The Accreditation Office began noon time meetings with academic program/department faculty on April 17th. The noon time meetings were conducted daily and continued until May 21st. Noon time meetings discussed course

assessments, the most revised course assessment and academic program/department review templates, signature assignments, program/department mappings, and course outlines. Noon time meetings also allowed the faculty an opportunity to ask specific questions and/or request specific assistance from the college Accreditation Liaison Officer, Assistant Accreditation Liaison Officer and Associate Dean of Academic Affairs for their specific academic degree programs or academic departments.

The college Accreditation Liaison Officer sits as the college Institutional Assessment Committee (IAC) chair. One of the responsibilities of IAC is to review program reviews from different programs and services of the college and make recommendations to the college Executive Committee and the college President. The IAC met four times in spring 2013 to review ten (10) programs/departments program reviews. IAC sent its report which included recommendations to the college Executive Committee and the President at the end of May 2013 for their review, recommendations and/or approval.

In April, the college sent the Dean of Student Services, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs, Accreditation Liaison Officer and Assistant Accreditation Liaison Officer to attend the WASC 2013 ARC which was held in San Diego, California. The WASC 2013 ARC provided more focused and in depth workshops on assessments, collection of data, planning, implementation, and closing the loop. Attending this conference gave the college an opportunity to continue learning, to get updated, and to bring back more knowledge and ways on how to support student learning and ensuring institutional effectiveness.

With financial assistance and support of COM-FSM Land Grant, Palau Community College received \$50,000.00 to support its accreditation work. With this assistance, PCC is in the process of procuring and implementing the TracDat program. TracDat is a tool that can help college programs and services to stay on top of the assessment process. This program will assist the management of the assessment-based portion of academic and non-academic programs and services. It will assist the college in the management of the assessment process itself. The TracDat software will help the college to document the decisions made after evaluating outcome findings, it will serve as a reminder of results and action plans that need to be addressed in the following years, and it will also document college successes and improvement needs. The above mentioned support will allow the college to generate assessment reports not only at the individual program and service levels but also at the institutional level. TracDat will also help the college to understand how different program outcomes match to accreditation standards and expectations, college goals, learning outcomes and the institutional master plan. TracDat will support the college with different reports which will allow more understanding on how well the college is meeting its goals/objectives/learning outcomes and also provide the college a true picture of where it is going.

The college Accreditation Office continues to work closely with faculty, staff, students and administrators to ensure that the college continues to be and remains as an accredited institution.

Spring Highlights:

- The Spring 2013 set off to a new start with the College New Student Orientation that was held on January 03, 2013. President Patrick U. Tellei welcomed the students and gave a brief remark. Dean of Student Services, Sherman Daniel introduced key staff members and provided information on available college services for students at the Student Services Division. The orientation gave new students a chance to tour the campus, participate in sessions with the advisors for their major as well as types of financial aid available including eligibility requirements and required supporting documents.
- The College continues its effort to offer PCC Based Scholarships to selected students each academic year based on their academic achievement as means to support their financial and educational needs.
- The current PCC/SDSU BA degree cohort program is progressing with the completion of five (5) of the 18 required program courses. There are 25 students enrolled and are continuing since the program commenced on June 2012. SDSU professor Dr. Minjuan Wang was on PCC campus in January 2013 for two weeks teaching one of the course to the cohort students. Drs. Aida Allen and Kelly Johnson will be on island beginning February 18, 2013 to start/teach the next course. The tentative completion date of all courses and the program is expected in Fall 2014 or early Spring 2015.
- The College and San Diego State University (SDSU) are also working on a proposed new Masters (MA) degree in Public Administration program for Fall 2013.
- New Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society - Beta Omicron Zeta Chapter held an induction ceremony on Thursday, Feb. 28, 2013 at Assembly Hall. Witnessing the ceremony were Dr. Tellei, Dean Chilton, Dean Daniel and other college officials with members' families, friends, and classmates.
- Career/Technical Education Week started on March 13 - 14, 2013 with instructors and students of Technical Education programs giving demonstrations and displaying student projects. Participating schools included Maris Stella School, Belau Modekngai School, Bethania High School Emmaus High School, Mindszenty High School, and Palau High School.
- The Asia Pacific Association of Fiduciary Studies (APAFS) Student Investment Conference was held for the second year in row to high schools students at PCC Assembly Hall. Dr. Tellei believes that high school students need to gain a broader understanding of the business world. The keynote speaker, Jason Miyashita, Instructor/Accredited Investment Fiduciary Analyst and Senior Investment Management Consultant at Morgan Stanley, introduced the students to the field of finance and investment. His lecture included Investment 101 and How to Read a Stock Table.

- The Board of Directors of REL Pacific met on campus in the Assembly Hall from March 26-28, 2013. REL Pacific is one of the 10 Regional Education Laboratories funded by the U.S. Department of Education and is operated by the Pacific Center for Changing the Odds at Mid-Continental Research for Education and Learning (McREL). McREL is a private nonprofit corporation that draws upon the best of education research to translate what works into innovations and results. REL Pacific connects educators in the Pacific with research on teacher effectiveness, family and community engagement, and college and career readiness. The meeting marks the first time the Board held its meeting in the Micronesian region, hosted by a local college. In addition to the Board meeting, REL Pacific, in partnership with educators in Palau and Guam, presented a bridging event - **Taking Action with Education Data** on March 27. This is designed for educators, administrators, and stakeholders at local education agencies interested in developing the skills needed to use educational data in their daily decision making. Facilitating the event were Dr. Richard C. Seder of McREL's Pacific Center for Changing the Odds, Dr. Isebong Asang of PCC, Dr. Felicity Grandjean of UOG, and Collette Beausoliel of Guam DOE. Also held in conjunction with the Board meeting were Locally-Based Consultants and Research Alliance Meetings.
- In line with the College Institutional Learning Outcomes, the PCC Maintenance Assistance Program (MAP) in April of this year conducts two trainings. With this effort, Rangers from various Marine Protected Areas in Palau recently completed a "Boating Safety and Outboard Engine Troubleshooting" training course. The 40-hour course was developed for rangers from state governments in Palau that have designated marine protected areas. These rangers must depend on their boat in order to be able to carry out their protection and regulate activities. Water operators from outlying states of Palau also have been attending training to review and sharpen their skill at troubleshooting the electrical systems of their water treatment plants. This has meant becoming familiar with the electrical control panels for their pump stations—how they work, how they are wired, and what are their components. They also learned how to use an electrical tester. The goal of the training was to learn how to identify defects in the electrical system when a pump is not working, so that experts can make proper adjustments or repairs to the system.