Distance Education Quarterly Report

2013, Quarter 1 (Jan–Mar)

ACCJC AIP recommendation, "…the College develop a plan for distance education, including continuing education offered through distance education, and implement appropriate support services and procedures to deliver instruction online."

STRATEGIC PLAN

In preparation for a bid for contractual services to develop a Distance Education strategic plan, preparation in the form of a *Scope of Work* began in March, 2013.

GRANTS

GCC has submitted two proposals to fund a strategic plan.

The first proposal was a Rural Business Opportunity Grant submitted on August 6, 2012. On Sept. 6, 2012, we were declared ineligible for this grant.

The second proposal, *Feasibility Study on Advancing Informal STEM Learning via Distance Education*, was submitted to the National Science Foundation as part of CFDA #47. 076.

This grant requests $250,000 to develop a feasibility study on advancing informal STEM learning via distance education and has one goal and four objectives.

> *The goal of this project is to be able to determine the need for and the capability of its technology infrastructure and college resources to support distance education at Guam Community College. The objectives are (a.) to determine the numbers, characteristics, and attitudes of potential users of the program, (b) to determine the capacity of DE programs for Guam, (c) to determine the college's capacity to support distance education, and (d) to develop a plan for Distance Education for implementation.*

As of April 5, no word has been received on whether the grant has been approved.

MOODLE

Moodle is the Learning Management System ((LMS) currently in use at GCC. It is an *open source* system available for free and used by hundreds of colleges throughout the world. Many schools use Moodle not only for distance education courses (on-line and hybrid) but also as class support for non distance education classes (web enhanced).

The main users and drivers in the use of Moodle at GCC is the Education and Early Childhood programs. Both programs are the only ones offering Distance Education classes. Several other programs are currently using Moodle as part of web enhanced classes. These tend to be teacher-driven rather than program-driven.

In May, 2012, Dr. Somera issued a memo stating:

a. *The MOODLE site will be placed under the purview of the Education Department, and **only** approved online and hybrid courses will be stored at this site;*
b. *The maintenance of this site will be the Education Department's responsibility, with modest funding support from the Academic Vice President's office;*

Since then, ongoing Moodle courses used for web enhanced courses have been approved to continue to operate on the site. The development of new courses are subject to the above memo and none have been developed since then although there has been interest by other teachers to take advantage of this system.

Currently, the college is pending the update of the DE strategic plan and has not updated any plans to address the usage of Moodle.