

# **“Investing in Guam’s Future with Your President Mary Okada”**

October 1 & 2, 2012

Prior to President Okada’s introduction, the Center for Student Involvement started the session by promoting upcoming student events for the spring semester.

The college’s Management Team and Administrators that were present were introduced.

President Okada was then introduced, informed the students and faculty of all the GCC activities and projects at the college, and then answered questions from the audience. She also advised students that if they wanted to ask further questions, they can also send her an email at: [gccpresident@guamcc.edu](mailto:gccpresident@guamcc.edu)

## **1. GCC Accreditation**

From March 19-22, an 11 member team from the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) from California and Hawaii were at GCC to evaluate our campus. GCC received word in July that we are now accredited for another six years without any restrictions. This validated that GCC is truly concerned with student success. Of the 25 colleges that were reviewed, GCC was one of three that was fully accredited without any restrictions. This is an important component because with our accreditation, we can transfer your credits to another educational institution, you can apply and receive financial aid and we are eligible for federal grants.

## **2. Foundation Building**

Opening on November 5<sup>th</sup> and will provide a full-fledged bookstore, a café and classrooms on the first floor. The second floor will house the adult basic education program offices and classrooms. The building is LEED certified, energy efficient and rain water will be collected to flush the toilets.

## **3. Financing**

Finance for Foundation Building renovations came from loans from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, grant funding from the U.S. Department of Interior; the U.S. Department of Energy because we have photovoltaics on the roof, and then we also have the support of our GCC Foundation. Our GCC Foundation is the fundraising arm of the college and they fundraise for capital improvements to our college and scholarships for our students.

## **4. Construction on campus**

Despite the Government of Guam’s financial woes, GCC has been able to add four buildings in four years using \$22M in federal grants and it has not cost GovGuam anything at all. This is all possible because GCC is very good at managing its money, looking at many other funding sources and applying for grants using our Master Plan.

The next building in the plan for renovation is Building 200 and it will be a two-story building. We are waiting for a federal grant to be awarded and the Foundation is applying for a Department of Agriculture loan through SBA. An elevator will be put in to service buildings 200 and 100 which will also become a two-story building and we plan to put in a gym on the second floor. We are hoping to break ground on Building 200 as soon as we get the award.

The Crime Lab will also be extended and while that is a Guam Police Department building, there will be a classroom and lab for GCC students and a couple of faculty offices. GPD will also start doing DNA testing on Guam at the Crime Lab.

## **5. Photovoltaics**

All of our new buildings have photovoltaics on their roofs. They don’t generate enough power to totally support those buildings but we are doing our part to be sustainable. The parking lot lights are also photovoltaic. We are now developing three courses dealing with photovoltaics and renewable energy. These are emerging courses that are being developed because a number of businesses are starting to go green.

6. **Sustainability**  
Here at GCC we are working to be very sustainable on campus. We have energy efficient computers, we recycle aluminum cans and bottles, we have photovoltaic parking lights, and we ensure that our vending machines have energy saving devices installed.
7. **Miscellaneous**  
Check the MyGCC website and sign up for the PDN text alerts where we can text you regarding emergency notifications such as a pending typhoon and whether or not there will be classes.  
Parking – we know this is an issue so we are working on trying to secure additional property or redesigning the current parking lots. The Master Plan does call for a parking garage but we need to work on getting more classrooms first and then parking lots.

### Questions asked October 1 & 2, 2012

1. **There are vending machines in the Tech Center that don't work and take our money, what can be done about that?** J. IGE: if a vending machine takes your money, please come down and report it to the Student Support Services office in Building B and we will advise the vendor. It sometimes takes them 3-6 months to respond.
2. **There's no clock in the lounge to let us know the time so we can get to class on time. I believe there is now a clock in the Student Lounge.**
3. **I was at the library last week on Wednesday and it closed at 7pm. Is there a quiet place for students to study after 7pm here on campus? Is the college looking into something like that?** We are short on library staff right now and we're working on recruiting so we'll see if we can adjust the times once that is done.
4. **Is there any way the college can create a safe drop-off area for students? I got into accident by Building B while I was getting dropped off at the college.** J.IGE: security will be manning that area so they'll check on that. M.OKADA: we will revisit that parking issue with our architect.
5. **What kind of gym will it be?** I don't know yet. Once we get the plans we can post it up on the website for everyone to see. Hopefully, there should be treadmills.
6. **Will GCC be offering more classes to transfer to UOG?** There are several classes that are currently transferrable to UOG right now and we are always working on getting more courses to articulate. We are also working on transferring whole programs to UOG. If you go to the GCC website and go under the Admissions tab, you can see all the courses that articulate.
7. **I know there was supposed to be a new, high technology projector put into Building 100 although I know that building is really old. I no longer have access to a projector but need one to teach my class. Do you know why that high tech projector wasn't installed?** Probably because we are scheduled to start construction on that building next year so even though we may have the equipment available, it may not make sense to put it in now and then have to take it right out. What classroom? 105.
8. **I was asked by the department chair last year to assist the CJ department with integrating an automated report writing system. Right now I'm teaching report writing and I'm using a 1976 book which is still a good book and covers everything. However, the way reports are now being written, at least at the Guam Police Department, it's all automated. I'm not sure what the other law enforcement departments are using but the Guam Police Department is almost fully automated. In the classroom, they can get the fundamentals but if they were to go to GPD, they'd have to learn the process all over again. What course are you teaching?** Police Report Writing. We will have to take a look at curriculum to see if we need to update it to include the automation component you are talking about.
9. **Sometimes there are children in the computer lab but there is no sign saying that children are not allowed. Can you look into this as there is a school policy regarding children not being allowed on campus?** If you are not an officially enrolled GCC student and do not have a GCC I.D., you are not allowed to utilize our services nor bring your children. Administrators are checking the labs at night, we will address this issue.
10. **For the new café, who will run it and what will be on the menu?** The contract has been awarded to Roasted and they will be managing the café. They will not be cooking there but they are prepared to do salads, pastries, sandwiches and food like that.

11. **Can the culinary arts program run the café?** When I receive a business proposal from the Culinary Arts Department that allows us to maintain the café and provide all the meals and services for all the hours that we have identified, then I will be more than happy to award the contract to them. Culinary students can do this as part of their curriculum, but when the curriculum changes, how do we still meet the needs for all our students? It's an excellent idea and it's done in many other locations, we just need to figure out how to make that model work for us here. **Do you know the hours of the café yet?** No, not at this time.
12. **Can you expand the automotive shop?** Yes, once I get more of the buildings up and more classrooms up. When I get the funds, I want to move the shop to another location and expand it. In the meantime, we will be repairing the roof and the restrooms in that area.
13. **Do you know if the bookstore & café are hiring?** We have many students that participate in the work study program so if we start to expand in what we're offering in the bookstore and it requires more personnel and the assessment shows that we need to hire more, we will hire more. The bookstore is going to be really nice and much larger.
14. **Will the bookstore come with cheaper books?** We are always looking for cheaper books, electronic books, and books that can be downloaded onto your laptop. We are hoping to get more electronic versions of the books. Remember that for a lot of the e-books, not all publishers have converted from hard copy to electronic, so they may not be available.
15. **Are there any improvements planned for buildings A & C?** Not at this time, we need to address older buildings first. We will however do classroom upgrades in those buildings.
16. **Is there a lack of funding in the culinary program?** No. **We were not able to get ingredients for our shopping lists and we were told there were no funds?** You may have been caught at the end of the fiscal year, beginning of the fiscal year period where they cannot submit purchase orders for processing. I will check with the culinary instructors on this. You are paying the tuition and the lab fees for this class and lab fees are being used to purchase the items you need for the class. Which class is this? **International cuisine and patisserie.** OK, I will take a look into this.
17. **Is there a policy regarding teachers?** **We worked hard on our power-point presentation and while we're presenting it, the teacher fell asleep.** After this, I would like to know who that faculty is. You're paying tuition to receive an education here at the Guam Community College. If someone is falling asleep on you, please let me know because this institution does not sleep.
18. **I think I speak for the majority of the female student body when I ask why in most of the GCC restrooms, women don't have individual trash bins in the stalls for bio-hazardous female waste products? Is there any way that we can get those installed?** Yes, I will have a survey done tomorrow to identify which restroom stalls in the ladies restrooms don't have a trash bin. The newer buildings have them. **Yes, I'm referring to the older buildings but we can't always walk to the newer buildings when we need go.** OK, then we will take a look at those bathrooms that need to have a trash bin installed.
19. **Will GCC have a dormitory?** It is not anywhere in the plans right now to have a dormitory. Back in 2001, we built a dormitory and the administration moved in. We are working on perhaps entering into some arrangement with some of the surrounding facilities in the event that you need a place to stay. Please let us know as we don't have a lot of interest right now. There have been some students that stayed at the UOG dorm so it is available if space is available.
20. **I had an issue with financial aid. The previous year I applied on-line as was told that I qualified and they applied it. Then I went to school last semester only to find out that it didn't apply, yet no one informed me that whole semester. I ended up skipping a couple of semesters to work so I can earn money to pay off that outstanding balance. So I came this year and paid it off. I was just wondering if that was my fault that I didn't go back to the Financial Aid department to double check if it would apply.** Remember that when you apply for financial aid, it is granted based on the information that you submitted. At some point, the information is verified. We have had students apply for financial aid, get the form for the deferment and then end up not being qualified for something. As a student, you should always follow through to make sure that your financial aid has been applied or awarded and you can check this on-line. The financial aid rules are federal rules, they are not rules that GCC creates. There are rules and a new process now that when you apply for financial aid, you actually have to prove that the information you are providing to us is accurate. Financial aid is the largest federal funding that is provided by the U.S. Department of Education for all institutions in all areas and they are dishing out billions of dollars. Last year, GCC students received over \$6M. They provide more money and they really want students to finish school but the restrictions will be harder as to how many times you can take the same class. I will take your information to follow up and see what may have happened in your records.

21. **I wanted to find out more about the articulation between UOG and here. Are you working on getting more core classes to be articulated?** Absolutely. On the website Admissions tab, it shows what courses articulate from GCC to UOG. That list is updated all the time. We have courses that transfer and we are now working on entire programs that will transfer. Articulation with UOG has increased significantly over the past several years.
22. **Not all courses transfer over to UOG, are you working on that?** Remember that the articulation requirement or acceptance is always on the receiving institution. The receiving institution has to say that these courses meet their requirements for their programs.
23. **If UOG is hesitant to accept some of our classes, what are the chances of GCC becoming a 4-year institution?** I think we would have a very hard time with the legislature to become a 4-year institution because UOG is right next door. But remember, that the courses you take here don't only transfer to UOG, they also transfer to Hawaii and other institutions. It all depends on your program, what status you are as a student, and where you want to finish. If you are taking a course here at GCC and it's not on the articulation list, ask, maybe we can work on it being articulated.
24. **What is the average time of the evaluation of military transfer? I registered back in the summer and whenever I check, all I ever get told is they're still reviewing it?** Sometimes it depends on what information is presented at the time to do the evaluation. Sometimes we require a syllabus so we can do our comparison and figure out what course it can actually convert to or if it can be accepted here at the college. Sometimes if we request for information, we don't get it right away. Let me have your information and I can follow up. We have to ask the institution for information, we have to do our comparison...in this case, we are the receiving institution and we have to make sure that when we receive those credits, that it meets the criteria as an accredited institution so that we safeguard our accreditation process.
25. **The registration lines are always long, can you add more people?** Do what you can to register on-line or register early. We're looking at ways to offer registration more efficiently and effectively. Spring registration opens up in a couple of weeks. Identify your classes and start registering now. Don't wait until the last minute. If you need training on how to register on-line, let us know and we can arrange sessions for that.
26. **I'm in Early Childhood Education, are there any plans for GCC to open a daycare?** 18 years ago, GCC did operate a day care but it was very expensive to operate. UOG had one, they closed it. The financial support is not there and we just don't have the capability right now to operate a daycare.
27. **When classes get cancelled, it hinders my FAFSA and my time here at GCC. How can I make sure they won't be cancelled again?** Please make sure you work with your advisor to monitor the classes you need because they can tell you how many people are registered before the classes actually start. We'll do our best to help accommodate you and meet your educational plan.
28. **Since parking is a problem, can we then get classes just offered once a week on Fridays or on-line so that we are here less often?** We can offer more classes on Fridays if you want it, just let us know. If you want classes on Fridays and we can get students to support it, it can happen. Maybe we can get a survey going to find out how many students really want to get more classes on Fridays. On-line is a little different because we have to have the infrastructure to support it and we don't have that right now. One of the recommendations from the accreditation team was that the college needed to develop a strategic plan to address distance education. That strategic plan, once developed, will tell us if there's enough interest from students, if we have the infrastructure to support it, and if we have the capability of offering 24/7 computer access and support.
29. **Can GCC offer aircraft technology classes?** There used to be an aircraft school in Tiyan many, many years ago, but it shut down. GCC was the receiving institution for their transcripts and records. So for everyone that was enrolled in that program, there was a closure plan to get them finished. It might not be physically possible to offer the training here, but we may be able to offer some of the courses at other venues.
30. **Can the college look at offering boat or water craft repair?** Anything is possible if we have enough students and the support to get the equipment to do the training. Some of the courses and programs are very expensive when you have to bring in the necessary equipment. As long as we're able to obtain the funding to support it, we have the space, we have the students, and we have the instructors, then it's always a possibility.