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GCC launches marine & terrestrial enforcement program



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The Guam Community College's criminal justice program is thinking green with the introduction of the new marine and terrestrial enforcement concentration.

Department chair Peter Roberto said, "What it does is it expands workforce capacity and this time looks at marine terrestrial meaning, that, as you know, there are many laws governing the protection of our wildlife not only on our land but also in sea, so people don't know that with law enforcement there are poachers out there that is a very specialized area of training. In fact, the purpose of this grant was at the request and collaboration of the Department of Agriculture and the need to train conservation officers especially in deep jungle and deep ocean and through this collaboration it was also recognized that having equipment like this can not only assist in expanding local workforce development, but also regional."

And in the process of building our islands workforce the program ensures that our environment and its resources are protected for the future. "GCC has been moving a lot in the direction of sustainability going green and here when you start to think about promoting environmental sustainability that we need to protect our species because once it's gone it's gone and that even includes our plants that are indigenous to our island and some of the animals, too," Roberto added.

He says this was made possible through the Carl D. Perkins CTE Grant, which allows the college to not only provide training in the field but also allowed for the purchase instructional equipment to include a 25-foot vessel, two vehicles, ATVs, jetskis, and corresponding gear. The program focuses on compliance with conservation laws, especially in protected areas on land and sea.

He added, "There are poachers out there so this is very important to ensuring the sustainability of our environment and so some of these indigenous species occur in

deep jungle at different time of day so you need to ensure their protection and so that is what this program will assist our students in learning to address."



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