

**Guam Community College
Board of Trustees**

PRIOR LEARNING ASSESSMENT

WHEREAS, GCC recognizes the value of non-traditional college-level learning such as Prior Learning Assessment (PLA); and

WHEREAS, Prior Learning Assessment is defined as a structured process for colleges to assess and validate a learner's prior learning and competencies; and

WHEREAS, the College recognizes that students may have had prior learning experiences, which might translate to academic credit; and

WHEREAS, the College adheres to the following standards for assessing experience for awarding college credit:

- Credit should be awarded only for learning, and not for experience.
- College credit should be awarded only for college-level learning.
- Credit should be awarded only for learning that has a balance, is appropriate to the subject, and lies between the theory and practical application of the subject.
- The determination of competence levels, and of credit awards must be made by appropriate subject matter and academic experts.
- Credit should be appropriate to the academic context in which it is accepted; and

WHEREAS, since 1977, GCC has officially recognized "Non-Traditional and Sponsored Learning" as a legitimate way of earning college level credit; and

WHEREAS, since 1977, GCC has awarded credit to students for "Non-Traditional and Sponsored Learning" such as credit by examination, external examination, transfer credit, military education, prior learning, and work experience; and

WHEREAS, GCC's institutional philosophy includes, but is not limited, to providing each and every individual seeking an education at the College the opportunity to develop his or her greatest potential by offering courses and programs that are characterized by:

- Responsiveness to the educational and cultural needs of the community;
- Affirmative action for nontraditional students; and
- Currency and relevance through Continuing Education and Lifelong Learning;

and

WHEREAS, GCC is committed to student success that lead to increased graduation rates; and

WHEREAS, GCC believes, through established research studies, that students who receive credit via PLA have a higher chance of completing their program of study towards an industry certificate, a certificate or degree; and

WHEREAS, GCC needs to consolidate its PLA practices into one central policy to conform to accreditation standards and best practices.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that Guam Community College hereby adopts a consolidated policy governing recommended standards of practice in Prior Learning Assessment (PLA).

Adopted: February 6, 2014

Resolution: 2-2014