



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Keep Your Guard Up to brief GCC Apprenticeship employers

The over 100 employers that take part in Guam Community College's Apprenticeship program are being invited to a "Keep Your Guard Up Initiative" tomorrow, Thursday, December 12, from 11 A.M. to 1 P.M. in the GCC Multipurpose Auditorium. Keep Your Guard Up is a collaborative effort between the local government, the military, and Guam's business sector to assist nearly 600 returning veterans with employment opportunities. The veterans will be returning to Guam early next year from their tour of duty in Afghanistan. Nearly half of them are classified as unemployed.

Tomorrow's Keep Your Guard Up initiative will have Lt. Col. Robert Crisostomo of the U.S. Army brief employers on the KYGU program. Chelsa Muna-Brecht, GCC program specialist, will present to employers the ways in which returning soldiers are using the GCC WorkKeys program to validate their skills for potential apprenticeship opportunities that can lead to sustainable careers. The goal is to partner with the employers to have them pledge at least one apprenticeship position for those unemployed soldiers.

"The pledge of the Keep Your Guard Up initiative is to ensure the employers that these soldiers, with the National Career Readiness Certificates they have, or will have earned through the WorkKeys program, have the skills needed to be successful apprentices," said Victor Rodgers, GCC Assistant Director, Office of Continuing Education & Workforce Development.

According to Lt. Col. Crisostomo, the soldiers are scheduled to return sometime in mid-January, and will then be participating in a 90-day training course at Guam Community College.

Individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services please contact 735-5597  
For more information, contact Jayne Flores, GCC Asst. Director of Communications & Promotions, at 735-5638 (office), 483-6409 (cell), or via email at [jayne.flores@guamcc.edu](mailto:jayne.flores@guamcc.edu).