



OFFICE OF COMMUNICATIONS AND PROMOTIONS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GCC accredited for full 7 years by ACCJC

The Guam Community College has been awarded full seven-year accreditation – the longest period possible for a community college – by the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

“We are very pleased, yet not surprised, by the ACCJC announcement,” said Dr. Mary Okada, GCC President. “Everyone at GCC, from the faculty, to the staff and our administrators, has been working diligently in their various roles since our last visit in 2012 to ensure that all of the ACCJC recommendations for improvement we received back then were implemented, and that our assessment and governance processes are working and viable.”

The ACCJC peer review team met June 6-8 to consider GCC’s accreditation status, following a 10-member ACCJC team visit to the College March 7-9, 2018, and following the submission in January 2018 of the College’s required Institutional Self-Evaluation Report to the commission. The peer review team gave GCC four commendations, signifying that the institutions has exceeded standards in the following areas:

- Commendation 1 – The Evaluation Team commends Guam Community College for its sustained and collegial dialogue about the assessment of student learning. Assessment results have been broadly communicated through the publication of the Annual Institutional Assessment Report which has been issued for 16 consecutive years. (ACCJC Standards I.B.1, I.B.8)
- Commendation 2 - The Evaluation Team commends Guam Community College for being the only agency of the Government of Guam to be designated as low-risk for 16 consecutive years. GCC’s robust fiscal planning and astute fiscal management has allowed it to maintain student tuition and fees at the same level since the fall of 2011, a key component to student access and, ultimately, student success. (Standard III.D)

GCC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.
Individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services please contact 735-5597.

- Commendation 3 - The Evaluation Team commends Guam Community College for its transformational initiatives through the President’s Innovative Ideas Program and Small Assessment Grant Awards, which support student learning, expand access, and improve success in college-level curriculum. This is the result of institutional leaders creating an environment that encourages innovations like Reach for College, DEAL, Chalani 365, and CLYMER. (Standards II.A.4, II.C, IV.A.1)
- Commendation 4 – The Evaluation Team commends the President for her vision and effectiveness of her leadership which has transformed and expanded the campus by steadfastly pursuing grants and commitments for new buildings, including the first LEED Gold certified building for the Government of Guam. (Standard IV.B)

The ACCJC peer review team had no recommendations for compliance, and no recommendations for improving institutional effectiveness for GCC.

“Dr. Okada and I have been on several ACCJC evaluation teams for peer colleges, and to have received no recommendations for compliance, and no recommendations for improvement, is rather amazing,” said Dr. Ray Somera, GCC Vice President for Academic Affairs and GCC’s Accreditation Liaison Officer (ALO). As the GCC ALO, Dr. Somera oversees the assessment process at the College.

“Proper assessment ensures that an institution is analyzing the effectiveness of its curriculum, its budget processes, and its governance processes, to ensure that they all work together effectively toward the goal of student success,” said Dr. Somera. “We are extremely proud of having received such a glowing report as a high performing institution from the ACCJC.”

The full ACCJC letter to GCC is available on the GCC website at www.guamcc.edu, under About GCC, Accreditation.

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