



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **GCC Fall 2012 enrollment remains high**

Island residents continue to invest in the educational programs and courses at Guam Community College. Enrollment for fall semester 2012 is at 2,546 students – only 10 fewer (less than a one percent decrease) than Fall 2011’s all-time high of 2,556 students. The fall 2012 enrollment number includes 906 new freshmen, or 36 percent of the total student population. This steady enrollment figure is the culmination of five years of unprecedented growth in student population for the college: Since 2007, GCC’s enrollment has increased by a total of 41 percent.

“We are proud that our students continue to show faith in GCC’s ability to provide them with the education and skills they need to be competitive in today’s increasingly technological workforce,” said Dr. Mary Okada, GCC President. “We feel that with the addition of our new and updated facilities and programs, and our successful reaffirmation of accreditation this summer, we are providing them with an institution they can be proud to attend.”

Students attending GCC are also maintaining a steady course load. Students are taking an average number of 3.32 courses this semester, which is virtually the same number (3.31) that they took in Fall 2011, according to Patrick Clymer, GCC registrar.

“The fact that the course load has kept pace with student enrollment is a good sign that students are committed to their educational goals and to earning that valuable degree or certificate,” Dr. Ray Somera, GCC Academic Vice President, said.

The top enrolled programs at the College are Allied Health (Pre-Nursing, Practical Nursing, and Medical Assisting), Education and Early Childhood Education, and Criminal Justice.

GCC students can look forward to continued improvements at the college over the next several years as segments of the updated campus facility master plan are put in place.

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