

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 30, 2012 3:00 P.M.

## Western Partitions is 100<sup>th</sup> GCC apprenticeship partner

Western Partitions, Inc., today became the 100<sup>th</sup> company to partner with the Guam Community College Apprenticeship program. Dr. Mary Okada, GCC president, presented Western Partitions, officials with their official Department of Labor apprenticeship certificate this morning at GCC.

"Our apprenticeship program is a win-win situation for everyone involved," said Okada. "The companies get trained employees, the employees acquire sustainable skills that make them more valuable to their employers, and the economy gains a more educated workforce."

Western Partitions is helping to build the new Naval Hospital Guam in Agana Heights.

"We always intended to use the local workforce," said Dan Rockway, Project Superintendent. "We bring a lot of young people into our company so that we can train them in the way that we want them to be trained with regard to construction work."

GCC currently has 345 active apprentices in the program. Western Partition's two carpentry apprentices, Dominick Santos and Aaron Taylor, are excited about joining that number. "It's a job with a purpose, and I get to go somewhere," said Santos.

"It's a good opportunity," Taylor added.

Other advantages of GCC's apprenticeship program include a tax break for the company through the Department of Revenue and Taxation, and for the apprentices, a fully-funded education that leads to journeyman status upon successful completion, according to Jayne Flores, GCC Asst. Director of Communications & Promotions.

For more information about the Apprenticeship Program at GCC, call 735-5571 or email <u>apprenticeship.info@guamcc.edu</u>.

Suggested photo caption:

Dan Rockway, project superintendent, and Mike Conway, project manager of Western Partitions, Inc., accept the official Department of Labor Apprenticeship program certificate from Dr. Mary Okada, GCC president, along with Western Partitions carpentry apprentices AaronTaylor and Dominick Santos, and Victor Rodgers, GCC asst. director of Continuing Education & Workforce Development.

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), 483-6400 (cell) or via email at jayne.flores@guamcc.edu.