



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## GCC's renovated Foundation Building opens

For the fourth time in as many years, the Guam Community College celebrated the opening of a new building today – this time, the completely renovated Foundation Building. Today's ribbon cutting honored several of the original donors who sponsored classrooms in the old building: the family of the late Pedro D. Perez, the former First Savings & Loan (now BankPacific), First Hawaiian Bank, Hawaiian Rock, and the Hotel Nikko Guam.

“Over 20 years ago, several members of the community made an investment in (GCC's) mission: Pedro D. Perez, First Savings & Loan, First Hawaiian Bank, Hawaiian Rock, and the Hotel Nikko Guam. Today, we recognize their investments by rededicating the rooms in their names,” said Dr. Mary Okada, GCC President & CEO.

Okada noted that all of the new buildings on campus are the collective efforts of GCC employees, its Board of Trustees and Foundation Board of Governors, friends in Washington D.C., and the generous donors to the College. After thanking Congresswoman Madeleine Bordallo and Asst. Secretary of the Interior Tony Babauta for their help in securing federal funding from the U.S. Department of Agriculture and other federal sources for the Foundation Building project, Okada pointed out just how much of the money for all of GCC's new buildings did not come from the government of Guam's general fund.

“Today, with all of you present, I submit to you that the hard work and dedication of ALL the GCC employees - our pride in what we do - has garnered over \$22 million in both federal and local support for all these upgrades and construction projects,” Okada said, receiving a round of applause from the over 200 people in attendance.

The \$5.8 million project is slated to be the second LEED-certified building on campus. The 21,000 square foot structure was designed by Michael Makio of Taniguchi Ruth Makio Architects and constructed by Orion Corporation. It will house classrooms, an expanded GCC Bookstore, and a café on the first floor, and the entire Adult Education Office on the second floor.

“We assist over 700 students a year in our Adult education and GED programs, and these new facilities will allow us to provide them even more focus and more assistance on their path to sustainability,” Okada said.

The Foundation Building's LEED features include photovoltaic panels on the roof, a rainwater catchment system, energy efficient lighting and windows, furniture made of recyclable materials, and tiles from the original building reused in the renovation.

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