



**DEPARTMENT FOR INSTRUCTIONAL AFFAIRS**  
Academic Programs | CTEC | State Campuses | FSM Fisheries & Maritime Institute | Cooperative Research & Extension

# UPDATES Department for INSTRUCTIONAL AFFAIRS

## National Campus

Ms. Marleen Mangonon is assisting with improvement of data input into Nuventive, the college assessment management system. She has helped improve links between administrative units and instructional assessment of student learning, provided better options for drop down lists, corrected outdated information such as strategic directions, program missions and program learning outcomes. Ms. Mangonon is conducting workshops with faculty to ensure information is accessible and shared as necessary for continued and improved data input.



Instructor Robert Spegal passed on November 3, 2021. He taught public health courses and was project manager for the Dentists and Doctors for Tomorrow grant. Bob first came to Micronesia in 1975 as a Peace Corps volunteer from Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Over the years he contributed greatly to the education and health of the people of Micronesia.

A detailed memorial can be found at <http://www.comfsm.fm/myShark/news/item=2734/mod=12:37:03>



Islands of Opportunity Alliance-Louis Stokes Alliances for Minority Participation (IOA-LSAMP) grant continues to offer unique opportunities for the Marine Science students. Three interns participated in research projects with the Conservation Society of Pohnpei.



The interns helped set up sedimentation traps in Dausokole Bay to measure sediment in the water column. They also participated in the Coral Reef Monitoring project along with OFA and Pohnpei State R & D to perform stationary point counts on 25 biological sites around the island of Pohnpei.

The interns presented a narrated presentation for the Islands of Opportunity Alliance-Louis Stokes alliances for Minority Participation (IOA-LSAMP) 2021 Student Conference. The presentation may be viewed at [https://www.youtube.com/embed/OPYgAclW\\_sE?autoplay=1](https://www.youtube.com/embed/OPYgAclW_sE?autoplay=1). Two of the interns also presented a narrated poster for the Louis Stokes Midwest Regional Center for Excellence 2021 Annual conference which can be viewed at <https://symposium.foragerone.com/lsmrce-2021-annual-conference/presentations/33790>.

## Career & Technical Education Center

Professor Bertoldo B. Esteban and Dean Grilly Jack among other national, state, and NGO professionals received completion Certificate IV in Project Management Practice from University of South Pacific at Island Palm Hotel through USAID. Pacific Project Management course was developing, implementing and managing projects and was delivered via online over a five-month period. The US Ambassador was in attendance at the ceremony.



## Construction projects at CTEC

Excavation and grading for a taxi drop-off by the entrance to the lower part of CTEC is underway. This development is part of the CTEC multipurpose building. This provides an essential addition and mitigation to the limited parking and traffic congestion at CTEC.

## Chuuk Campus

The college is working to extend Wi-Fi access to students in Chuuk in remote areas. On September 29, 2021, IT Director Shaun Suliol and Dean Kind K. Kanto went to Wichukuno, To, to meet with the community regarding the proposed satellite dish to be installed for the use of COM-FSM students and members of the community.

On October 2, 2021, Director Suliol met with the Mayor of Tonoas Municipality and some village chiefs and community members for another satellite dish to be installed at the municipal office, also to be used by COM-FSM students and community members. These satellite dishes will enable COM-FSM students who are taking online courses from these areas to access their courses. Community members may also use the Wi-Fi but will have to pay for it.

This project is made possible through the use of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund (HEERF) from the U.S. Department of Education. The project will be sustained through collaborations with the communities where the satellites are placed.



The college continues to support the move to distance learning by providing workshops on using the learning management system. On September 25, 2021, math instructor Dr. Danilo Mamangon conducted a workshop on Canvas 099 to some faculty members. This is an effort to equip the faculty on the use of Canvas to ensure that online instruction is effective and successful and student learning is accomplished.



Chuuk Campus renovation projects include:

- ▶ Library roof and wall replacement beginning November 5, 2021, when supplies arrive and a completion date of April 6;
- ▶ Roof replacement on buildings “B” and “C”, door replacement and painting; and
- ▶ Fencing at northern perimeter of the campus.

## Yap Campus

### Update on vaccination status

As of November 5, 2021, 196 out of 240 (80%) students have submitted records of COVID-19 vaccination leaving only 44 (20%) who have yet to submit their records. Of this number, only 15 students are below 18 years of age. All students have been informed of the availability of Pfizer vaccines for less than 18 years old. Consent forms are also being distributed. All students are being encouraged to get vaccinated. All campus faculty and staff, including part timers, are fully vaccinated.



### New hires

Peter Malmai, campus nurse, started on November 8, 2021. He has worked in health care in Yap for more than twenty-years. This position has been vacant for at least one year.



### Support to students

Yap Campus continues to support students with embedded tutoring and regular POW WOW's each semester. POW WOW #2 focused on the following:

- ▶ Students will be provided with a supportive environment designed to provide education on “early warning deficiency” and how it relates to their academic performance.
- ▶ In order to help motivate students to make positive changes in relation to their academic performance, students will be active participants in the POW WOW session.
- ▶ Students who have low grades will make changes to improve their grades prior to midterm evaluations.
- ▶ Students who are doing well academically will maintain their grades through midterm evaluations.
- ▶ Students will gain insight regarding how to improve their grades by understanding the concept of “study smart.”
- ▶ Students will indicate two benefits of meeting with their advisor prior to having academic difficulties.

## FSM Fisheries & Maritime Institute (FSM-FMI)

The first new group of 15 new cadets (ten from Chuuk and five from Yap) already completed their Basic Safety course, and their ten-week sea-time shipboard training on MV Hapilmohol I. They are currently doing their watch-keeping rating course.



### FSM-FMI meeting with the Assistant Secretary of the FSM Department of TC&I

A face-to-face meeting was held on October 6, 2021, between FSM-FMI, Yap State Aircraft Rescue & Firefighting (ARFF), and the FSM Department of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure (DTC&I) team that was led by DTC&I Assistant Secretary Thomas Kostka. The main meeting agenda was on the use of FMI fire-fighting facility by FSM airport fire-fighters for course upgrading.

A second round of meeting between FSM-FMI and Assistant Secretary Kostka was held on October 9, 2021, basically on Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping (STCW) matters, followed by a welcome function on October 11, 2021, at FSM-FMI campus involving all cadets, staff and faculty. BSS Certificate presentation for second year cadets and induction for the 33 new recruits were conducted during this special day by Assistant Secretary Kostka.



Welcome salute for DTC&I Assistant Secretary Thomas Kostka during the October 11, 2021, induction for FSM-FMI first year cadets.



DTC&I team led by Assistant Secretary Thomas Kostka during FSM-FMI welcome party for the team.

## Learning Resources Center (LRC)

Statistics: Program & Services

Campus	Patron Usage	Course	Circulated Materials	Visitors	Computer Usage	Tech Assists	Reference Assists	Total Volumes
Chuuk	1,669	0	0	0	1,669	1	1	11,290
CTEC	2,821	81	187	16	1,941	65	24	4,607
Kosrae	627	0	61	0	893	8	13	4,518
National	24,047	48	350	29	4,135	73	74	73,836
Yap	2,585	11	178	1	2,408	48	35	11,642
<b>Total</b>	<b>31,749</b>	<b>140</b>	<b>776</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>11,046</b>	<b>195</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>105,893</b>

## CTEC: Construction projects ... from page 4

Installation of the CTEC's FM Station 89.9 antenna tower is underway. This is not only new, but taller, antenna is made possible by the Center for Entrepreneurship. The new antenna is anticipated to extend the reach of the station's podcasts and information dissemination.



The construction site for CTEC's multipurpose building is cleared. The excavation of the foundation and footings of the building is underway.



## Kosrae Campus

Higher Education Emergency Relief Funding (HEERF) projects at Kosrae Campus include a generator and generator house, and fencing around the campus perimeters. The generator project is in pre-bid phase and the fencing project has yet to go out for bids.



The education faculty are coordinating with Kosrae Department of Education to select and train master teachers in preparation of offering ED 492/498 Student Teaching/Internship. This is the last class education students take prior to graduation. This collaboration includes schedules of visits to schools for practicum students as well.



Faculty and student services worked together to meet with students at risk and provide the necessary assistance. Students were also informed to early register for the spring 2022 semester. These meetings are similar to the POW WOW approach used in Yap.

### LRC Activities

- ▶ The LRC received four boxes of 109 donated materials from the University of Hawaii Hamilton Library through Jean Thoulag. Twenty-eight (28) of the materials were sent to CTEC library to supplement the HTM and vocational education programs.
- ▶ The LRC also received a donation of 38 books and eight CDs from the Chinese Embassy in September.
- ▶ Four scanners, five laptops, and one desktop computer including accessories were shipped to the state campus libraries for their use, funded by the CARES Act.

**CRE** | College of Micronesia-FSM  
**Cooperative Research and Extension (CRE)**

This is a report summary highlighting the program impacts including examples of participants and clients successes achieved through CRE programs and efforts in the FSM communities during FY21 under the USDA/NIFA approved five-year COM Land Grant Plan of Work. Through hands-on trainings, demonstrations, informal classroom lectures, one-on-one interventions, and technical assistance, CRE was able to achieve the following impacts and outcomes in FY21 under the six extension programs/critical issues which indicated that program participants were able to increase their knowledge and skills, adopt practices, and improve their family well-being.

**Lack of local food production and food insecurity**

**Issue:** Traditional home gardens are the main source of food and sometimes income for the island communities. Improving them is critical to attain poverty reduction targets and food security objectives. Home gardens are integrated into family life. Studies indicate home gardens play a major role in reducing food insecurity when nutrient rich foods are readily available to the families. The most fundamental social benefit of home gardens stems from their direct contributions to household food security by increasing availability, accessibility, and utilization of food products. Families who grow their own food are more likely to eat fresh produce than families who do not.

**Activity:** Hands on training, one-on-one interventions, and technical assistance were provided to family members, small scale farmers, homemaker, educators, and students on how to grow crops and vegetables at home, schools and in the communities for consumption and the local market.

**Impact statement:** There has been an increased number of communities, schools, farmers and families engaged in home gardening and agriculture production, mostly for consumption and more often for surplus income. Vegetable production has increased with some producers reporting their combined earnings at more than \$50,000 this year compared to last year's reported sale of around \$8,000.

**Sustainable aquaculture development**

**Issue:** There is minimal participation in sustainable aquaculture activities such as giant clam farming that have potential to provide social, economic, and environmental benefits.

**Activity:** Fishermen, youth, and community members, and resource managers participated in workshops and training sessions and increased their knowledge and skills in giant clam spawning, larval rearing, nursery management, and ocean grow-out.

**Impact statement:** There has been an increase in the number of community members participating in aquaculture activities, specifically for giant clam aquaculture. In comparison to the previous year, the number of participants in Yap and Chuuk increased this year by 109% (from 273 to 571), the adoption rate of aquaculture practices increased by 133% (from 33 to 77), and giant clam farms have increased by 79% (14-25). Because of the pandemic and risk of food shortages, communities are beginning to see the value of aquaculture as a means of supplying additional protein.

**Youth and family Issues in the communities**

**Issue:** Youth members have limited knowledge and skills in social, moral values, and entrepreneurship opportunities.

**Activity:** Students and community youth members participated in sport activities, mentoring and counselling sessions, workshops in healthy food choices and lifestyles, and hands-on trainings to improve entrepreneurial skill.

**Impact Statement:** Youth, families, and other community members experienced positive and harmonious relationship in the family, increased their capacity to make healthy and wise decisions, developed positive friendship and support network, and improved livelihood opportunities. 1,745 participants were engaged in youth extension programs compared to 822 participants in FY20.

**Climate change challenges in Micronesia**

**Issue:** Island communities in the FSM are vulnerable to climate change impacts as they are exposed to several climate-related stressors and projected climate change impacts. As many of the projected impacts are unavoidable, implementing some degree of adaptation is essential to enhance food security, strengthen livelihoods, and increase the resilience of FSM communities to future climate risks. There needs a greater emphasis on various site-specific climate-smart adaptation strategies to enhance the livelihood opportunities of the communities.

The overarching goal of the climate change extension program is to enhance the island communities' adaptive capacity and climate resilience. More specific objectives of the program include:

1. To increase the awareness, knowledge, and skills in climate-smart agriculture.
2. To present the importance of site-specific climate-adaptive practices.
3. To deliver science-based climate-smart information to strengthen livelihood opportunities.

**Impact Statement:** The extension efforts on climate-smart adaptation practices focused on hands-on training, in-house advice sessions, and technical assistance programs to displaced and vulnerable island communities. Training sessions reinforced the importance of alternative crop production methods to bypass degraded and poor soil conditions and improved staple crop production in degraded lands. This year, outreach efforts allowed extension staff to engage 54 households/in-person contacts and over 200 indirect contacts. The program staff also engaged 58 Early Childhood Education staff to adopt climate-smart vegetable production methods at school premises and home gardens.

**High incidence of food and waterborne illnesses**

**Issue:** There is limited knowledge of food and waterborne germs that causes illnesses through contaminated water and food.

**Activity:** Training sessions and presentations were conducted at schools and communities. Participants learned various ways of safe food preparation, cooking, storage, and reading of food labels.

**Impact Statement:** Participants increased their awareness of health problems caused by germs through contaminated food and water sources and poor hygiene. Outreach programs reached 874 participants this year compared to 517 last FY. Survey respondents indicated 70% have adopted proper hand washing practices, 60% read food labels, and avoided buying expired food products.

**Childhood obesity**

**Issue:** There is limited knowledge amongst school children of good nutrition, food portioning, physical activities including exercise, and monitoring health status. Baseline information on health status for student population is not available.

**Activity:** Trainings were provided to schools and communities to improve their knowledge and skills in obesity prevention, good nutrition, food portioning, physical activity, and how to collect data for Body Mass Index (BMI) and waste circumference to track student's health status.

**Impact Statement:** Obesity is a major problem among children and adolescents in Micronesia. There is a trend showing that students become overweight or obese as they grow older or their school grade level increases. Obesity preventive activities introduced at schools have resulted in more students with increased knowledge and awareness about obesity and BMI values. School and community interventions targeted 2,645 students and children this year compared to 712 participants last FY. Surveys indicated 65% of participants have developed habit of managing meal portion sizes, consumed more fruits and vegetables, and increased their exercise and physical activities.

**AES Research Project**

A research project, "Characterization and Evaluation of FSM-Chuuk Local Taro (*Colocasia esculenta* (L) Schott Varieties" was completed this year with the following highlighted accomplishments:

- Seven cultivars of taro were identified through morphological characterization. A survey conducted resulted in documenting local indigenous practices for taro production and processing.
- Field tests identified two cultivars (*Otohar* and *Otopwech*) with higher corn and biomass yield and greater resistance against pests and diseases.
- After harvest treatment methods were tested to demonstrate improvement in storage life of corn.

Results of the project will help improve taro production, consumption, and overall goal of supporting food security for families and communities.

