

Report to the Board of Regents

September 1, 2023

IA MISSION STATEMENT

"The department for instructional affairs is the center for academic activities of the college that is committed to student success and achievement by providing leadership and guidance in all instructional affairs across all site through continually sustaining the quality of academic and career & technical educational programs and improving learning support services, strengthening faculty and staff, and collaborating with internal and external stakeholders."

Getting Started: IA Department Strategic Planning 2024-2029

The core of a successful organization lies on the organizational mission which can guide it into a specific pathway of goals and how to meet those goals with the intention of providing information on what the organization offers, and how it can serve its clients, customers, community, employees, and other stakeholders. This was the noble idea behind the Instructional Affairs (IA) Department endeavor when it convened in a series of training sessions with the Deans, Directors and ICs of the COM-FSM campuses during Summer 2023.

As part of the IA SWOT Analysis exercise, IA sub-units were tasked to review their essential functions, duties and responsibilities, through discussions and brainstorming. This resulted in the team's effort to align and draft missions and goals that reflects consistency across all 6 campuses.

The streamlining of the IA sub-units mission, goals and outcomes are guided by ACCJC Standards, the COM-FSM Board Policies and Procedures, and the Strategic themes and focus areas for Strategic Plan 2024-2029. The strategies taken in the formulation of the mission and goals ensured that they are all S.M.A.R.T.E.R. (Specific, Measurable, Attainable, Realistic, Time-bound, Evaluated, Reviewed/Readjust).

Furthermore, this will ensure clear and specific missions and goals: can track progress, can be realistic and achievable, can be relevant and aligned to college mission, will have clear target dates, can be evaluated or assessed regularly, and can be reviewed and readjusted through improvement plans and appropriate implementation.

The outcomes of this SWOT Analysis exercise for each IA sub-unit from this Summer 2023 are depicted on the illustrations, as can be seen on the left. It should be noted that these are the recommended contributions to the newly installed administration's strategic planning foci on learner centered, continuous improvement, and best practices adaptation.

By putting in place the respective missions and goals, the IA Department envisions objectives/outcomes and strategies/action plans that will facilitate accountability and effective cyclical reviews and assessments, with data-driven reports. As such the reports should inform actions that are linked to the goals of the other reporting units of the college. The relevant data and information can also be used for future planning, just as information can be retained for future reference should the administrative unit personnel changes.



A Glance At IA Inside Reports

- Sustaining the Quality of Instructional Programs
- Strengthening Faculty
- Improving Learning Support Services
- Collaborating with Stakeholders
- CLA Consolidated Reports
- Featured Programs
- Featured Campus
- Instructor Profile
- Administrative Profile
- Student Profile
- Issues Corner

CLA Consolidated Reports AC2022-2023

The Course Level Assessment (CLA) for AC2022-2023 resulted in the following student achievement rates per campus:

	FALL 2022	SPRING 2023
Yap	81%	92%
CTEC	78%	84%
National	78%	81%
Chuuk	71%	75%
Kosrae	76%	74%

The Course Level Assessment (CLA) for AC2022-2023 resulted in the following assessment completion rates (by courses and sections offered) per campus:

	FALL 2022	SPRING 2023
Yap	97%	71%
National	90%	82%
CTEC	84%	69%
Kosrae	82%	87%
Chuuk	72%	66%

The Course Level Assessment (CLA) for AC2022-2023 resulted in the following student achievement rates per mode of delivery per campus: *F2F - Face to Face *DL - Distance Learning

	*F2F Fall 2022	F2F Spring 2023	DL Fall 2022	DL Spring 2023
Chuuk	78%	76%	66%	74%
CTEC	80%	86%	74%	74%
Kosrae	75%	61%	75%	85%
National	86%	82%	72%	79%
Yap	90%	94%	78%	91%

IC_GOAL_3. Assure evaluation of instructional programs and courses.

Source: COM-FSM AMS (TracDat)

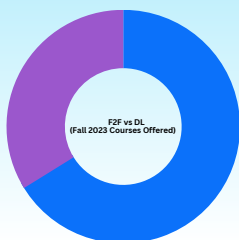
Comparing the Modes of Delivery

Fall 2023	Section Count
Face to Face	266
Distance Learning	136

266 face to face (residential) course sections and 136 online sections were offered in Fall 2023.

That's an **18.8%** increase in residential sections and a **2.9%** decrease in online sections from Spring 2023.

Distance Learning
33.8%



Face to Face
66.2%

Sustaining the Quality of Instructional Programs

Efficient Assessment Mechanism in Place

The Department for Instructional Affairs in collaboration with the Office of the Academic Programs has currently established a mechanism that is perceived to be an effective and efficient approach to the periodic assessment of academic programs and courses. From each of the programs being offered at the college, a program coordinator was identified from the respective program faculty, tasked to lead in assessing program and course learning outcomes. Each program coordinator, in collaboration with the program faculty, will determine assessment strategies and collecting and reporting of assessment results in a timely manner, which will also require artifacts that will support the assessment done. This will make the program review more meaningful, and planning would be more productive with the goal of assuring the identification of gaps, preparing improvement plans, and ensuring "closing the loop", so that continuous improvement of all the academic programs will be accomplished.

In addition to the assessment task, the Program Coordinator will also assure the currency of all academic programs, ensure that all course outlines are periodically updated, and bench marking of program offerings with regional institutions will be done to assure that best practices are adopted and applied.

With this new mechanism in place, the assessment processes at the College could be more proactive and systematic with the aid of the college's Assessment Management System (AMS) known as TracDat.

New and Updated Course Outlines

A total of **thirty-two (32)** new and modified Course Outlines (COs) from different programs were endorsed by the Curriculum Committee (CC) and approved by VPIA department.

The Course Student learning Outcomes (CSLOs) of the said COs were written S.M.A.R.T. to ensure currency aligned with industry requirements, community needs and using latest editions of textbooks, etc. in order to capture new trends and innovations in respective programs' fields.

AP_GOAL_3. Ensure assessment of student learnings.

IA_GOAL_1. Assure quality of academic and career & technical education programs

Administrative - Instructional Affairs Department	Document Repository
[BA090 Principles of Food Processing.pdf (08/23/2023)	
[BA 462 Business Strategy _ Policy .pdf (08/23/2023)	
[BA 110 Contemporary Business_MarleneMangoronGM.pdf (08/23/2023)	
[BA210 Business Law .pdf (08/23/2023)	
[BA260 Fundamentals of Management.pdf (08/23/2023)	
[BA270 Principles of Marketing .pdf (08/23/2023)	
[BA412 Internship signedByJ.pdf (08/23/2023)	
[BA431 Accounting Information Systems.pdf (08/23/2023)	
[BU 095 Office Procedures.pdf (08/23/2023)	
[CC August 9 2023 Memo_signed.pdf (08/23/2023)	
[CE 102 Electrical Drawing _ Sketching.pdf (08/23/2023)	
[CE 111 Electrical Wiring I .pdf (08/23/2023)	
[CE 112 - Electrical Wiring II.pdf (08/23/2023)	
[CO 5C 255 General Zoology .pdf (08/23/2023)	
[EN123 Technical Communication.pdf (08/23/2023)	
[ESL089 Reading V .pdf (08/23/2023)	
[MR240 Oceanography.pdf (08/23/2023)	
[MS 099 Intermediate Algebra.pdf (08/23/2023)	
[MS101 Algebra _ Trigonometry.pdf (08/23/2023)	
[NU245_Leadership in Clinical Practice Capstone.pdf (08/23/2023)	
[SC 180 Microbiology Course Outline Needs further revision.pdf (08/23/2023)	
[VCF 104 Introduction to Cabinet _ Furniture Making.pdf (08/23/2023)	
[VCF 114 Commercial Construction.pdf (08/23/2023)	
[VCF 120_Work Shop Administration.pdf (08/23/2023)	
[VCF 132 Surface Preparation _ Finishing Techniques .pdf (08/23/2023)	

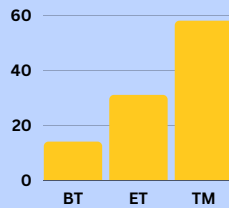
ACCJC STANDARD I.B.2

The institution defines and assesses student learning outcomes for all instructional programs and student and learning support services. (ER 11)

Fall 2023 Population per Programs

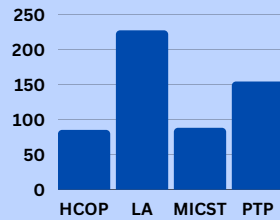
Associate of Applied Science

- **BT** - Building Technology (AAS)
[Population: 14]
- **ET** - Electronics Technology (AAS)
[Population: 31]
- **TM** - Telecommunication (AAS)
[Population: 58]



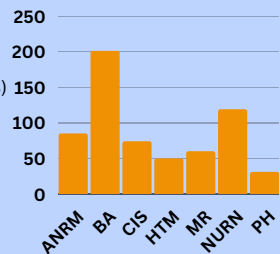
Associate of Arts

- **HCOP** - Health Careers Opportunity Program (AA)
[Population: 85]
- **LA** - Liberal Arts (AA)
[Population: 227]
- **MICST** - Micronesian Studies (AA)
[Population: 88]
- **PTP** - Pre-Teacher Preparation (AA)
[Population: 154]



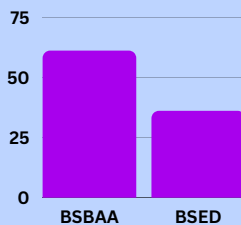
Associate of Science

- **ANRM** - Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (AS)
[Population: 85]
- **BUA** - Business Administration (AS)
[Population: 201]
- **CIS** - Computer Information Science (AS)
[Population: 74]
- **HTM** - Hospitality and Tourism Management (AS)
[Population: 50]
- **MR** - Marine Science (AS)
[Population: 60]
- **NURN** - Nursing (AS)
[Population: 119]
- **PH** - Public Health (AS)
[Population: 31]



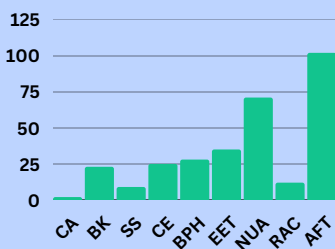
Bachelor of Science

- **BSBAA** - Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting (BS)
[Population: 61]
- **BSED** - Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education (BS)
[Population: 36]



Certificate of Achievement

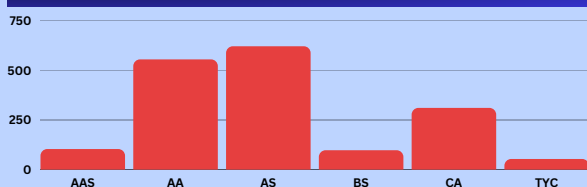
- **AFT** - Agriculture and Food Technology (CA)
[Population: 102]
- **BK** - Bookkeeping (CA)
[Population: 23]
- **CA** - Carpentry (CA)
[Population: 2]
- **CE** - Construction Electricity (CA)
[Population: 25]
- **BPH** - Basic Public Health (CA)
[Population: 28]
- **EET** - Electronic Engineering Technology (CA)
[Population: 35]
- **NUA** - Nursing Assistant (CA)
[Population: 71]
- **RAC** - Refrigeration and Air Conditioning (CA)
[Population: 12]
- **SS** - Secretarial Science (CA)
[Population: 9]



Third Year Certificate

- **TPE** - Teacher Preparation - Elementary (TYC)
[Population: 53]

Summary by degrees and certificates



Featured Programs

Academic Programs' Innovation

Introducing... The Business Administration Programs Seal



The Business Administration Programs include Associate of Science in Business; and Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting. Nodding to the college seal, where the college serves as the canoe that can bring students to their intended dream destinations, the Business Administration Programs make use of the five functional

areas of business (symbolized by the five quadrilaterals that will catapult students to become well-rounded individuals (circle). The four stars symbolize the growth of the students during their formation years in these programs, as they are continuously supported to achieve certain levels of proficiency in the various institutional student learning outcomes of the college. The darker blue circles represent the four Program Goals, and the four lighter blue circles signify the four Program Student Learning Outcomes of the programs. The round shape of the seal is not an attempt to conform to the usual way many seals are presented; this characterizes the intention of the college to mold students to possess its core values towards a life-long commitment to continuous improvement as an individual, a professional, and a member of the community, so that they can play important roles in the development of their home island states and ultimately, of the Federated States of Micronesia.

IA_GOAL_1: Assure quality of academic and career & technical education programs.

BSBAA Internship Program Launched

The Bachelor of Science in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting (BSBAA) program on its second year of operation, has embarked on the Internship Program aimed at providing a business student with an opportunity to gain knowledge and skills from a planned work experience in a business-related field. It is expected that at the end of the required 192 hours, students who have no working experiences yet will gain workplace competencies that will prepare them for an eventual work soon after their graduation. Those who are already working will be assigned to set goals that they will have to apply in their own work locations which will intend to level up their work performances and attain proficiency in their respective employments. With returning students from the former Third Year

Certificate in General Business and Third Year Certificate in Accounting programs, a total of 35 students interns this semester, and are expected to be the first batch of graduates this Fall 2023. Most of the students are working at the national, state, and municipal government agencies with only a few coming from the private sector.



IA_GOAL_4: Assure stakeholders collaboration

Outside Studies

Micronesian Studies and Marine Science instructors engaged on a field trip to Lenger with their students. The 50 History of Micronesia students were part of an archeological excavation on Lenger, that was jointly conducted by Pohnpei Historic Preservation Office and Japanese archeologists.

Featured Campus

Recognition and Inspiration of Evolving Excellence: Fisheries & Maritime Institute

LEARNER-CENTERED

A total of 15 new cadets from Kosrae, Chuuk and Yap, started their training at FSM-FMI on Monday August 14, 2023. This new group and 14 second year cadets brings total number of cadets to 29. One new former female engineering graduate also enrolled in the master class 5 program in order to attain a dual class 5 master/engineer qualification.

Though NORMA training overlaps with FMI BSS and Class 5 programs including shipboard training, the 3 trainings went smoothly.

CONTINUOUS IMPROVEMENT

Eleven (11) NORMA trainees and three (3) trainers arrived in Yap FMI on the early Wednesday 7/5/23 morning flight, for their seven (7) weeks of BSS and PIRFO training. Two other SPC trainers later arrived on 7/12/23 to assist with the PIRFO courses. This training was funded by NORMA and FFA, and was completed on 8/18/23. All trainers and trainees departed FMI/YAP to their respective states on 8/23/23 on a United Airlines flight.

Ms. Yumi Schultz, a long term JICA expert, will be working as a JICA coordinator for cadets affairs.

An expert from the Wartisila Voyage Pacific Pte Ltd company in Singapore, Mr. Johnny Ong, provided training for all navigation instructors on the use and operation of the Bridge simulator. All navigation instructors received their certificates at the end of the training.

BEST PRACTICES

The Japanese Ambassador to FSM, Mr Hisashi Michigami, accompanied by his researcher, Ms. Maho Inomata, visited FMI on Tuesday August 15, 2023, at 15:00. A color guard presentation was performed by the FMI cadets in honor of ambassador Michigami.

AP_GOAL_4. Ensure professional development and trainings for faculty and staff.

A Spotlight on Challenges

Issues:

- Trainees attending workshops were in compliant with FMI regulations regarding alcohol possession, punctuality, and wifi use.
- Shipboard training cadet count was low, and delays were made.
- Cadet uniforms were not ready.

Recommendations:

- Seek public safety assistance, remind NORMA trainers to remind, reprimand and remove any trainee from the training who violated FMI rules and regulations. Impose strict rules and work closely with all concerned parties.
- Work closely with other COM-FSM state campuses student services staff on advertising FMI courses, and application. Visit high schools in other FSM states on a timely manner, and also work closely with their student services staff.
- Send staff to procure uniforms in Guam without delay, and request more funds for cadets' supplies.

Capturing Excellence



NORMA/SPC trainers and trainees during PIRFO July to August 2023 training.



Bridge Simulator training for FMI instructors conducted by Mr. Johnny Ong, PMO Manager.



FSM-FMI welcome parade to honor the Japanese Ambassador to FSM, Mr. Hisashi Michigami, and researcher, Ms. Maho Inomata.



Ambassador Michigami gives a public address.

AP_GOAL_4. Ensure professional development and trainings for faculty and staff.

Administrative Profile

Welcoming New Administrators

Learning Resource Center Director

Karleen Samuel was appointed to the role of Acting Learning Resource Center Director. She assumed her responsibilities as such on 29th of July, and will continue to do so until further notice.



Dean of Academic Programs

Professor Kasiano K. Paul received his Master's degree in Theology from St. Patrick's Seminary & University in 2002 and his M.Div. from St. Anthony Mary Claret College in 2007. He has been working at COM-FSM since September 2008, starting out as the Student Services Coordinator at FSM-FMI Campus in Yap. In August 2012, he moved to the National Campus, filling a faculty position that was available. In April of 2023, he assumed the role of Acting Dean of Academic Programs, and on the 7th of September, he officially became the Dean of Academic Programs.



Yap Campus Instructional Coordinator

Jerry G. Fagolmul received his Bachelor's degree in Science & Mathematics from Hawaii Pacific University in 1983 and his M.Ed. in Curriculum Studies from University of Hawaii at Manoa in 2013. He previously worked for the college in the Upward Bound program for 10 years. He then left to take a seat in the Yap Legislature in 2011. Now returned, he has been teaching under the Upward Bound Program and also teaching as a part-time instructor. On the 7th of September, he filled the Yap Campus' Instructional Coordinator position.



Honoring Legacies

Dr. Richard Allen Womack passionately served the college for over 3 decades. His love for education and for Micronesia inspired him to serve the college community up to his senior years. Dr. Womack was very instrumental to both the Education and Business divisions in the earliest years of development. He was well-liked by many and often sought out for advise. Dr. Womack on August 05, 2023. Although gone, he is remembered for his handwork, dedication, and determination among many others.



Professor Abraham started offering his services to the college on January 4, 2007. Abraham was an Education instructor who contributed much of his time and effort to ensure that FSM has enough teachers. His passion for teaching is reflected in his 16 years of service with the college. The college is saddened by the departure of Professor Abraham as his passing on August 07, 2023 was also a loss to the college. Abraham is remembered for his commitment to his work, as was reflected in his achievements. During the school year 2000-2001, he was the recipient of the Student's Choice award for which a faculty is nominated and selected by the student community.



Kosrae Campus Dean Mike Nena became a member of the family as the IC of Kosrae campus. After 11 years of being Instructional Coordinator, his dedication to the College earned him the promotion to become Dean of Kosrae campus. Nena departed from College because of medical reasons. Many remember him as an active and very involved member of the college management team.



John Haglegam became an instructor in the Division of Social Science at the National Campus. In February 1992, the Board of Regents of the College appointed him as Regent Professor. Professor Haglegam taught government and politics, Micronesian history, world history, and East Asian history, and was a strong advocate for preserving and reviving the knowledge of Micronesian history. His passion and devotion for such and for politics led to numerous meetings and negotiations that gained the college's governmental support to offer the *History of Micronesia* course as a General Elective for all Degree programs at COM-FSM. He served the college for 31 years and retired earlier this year.



Instructor Profile

Scholarly Achievement

A big congratulations to Prof. George Manganon who just graduated in his PhD. in Business Administration at the Virgen Milagrosa University Foundation in the Philippines on July 4, 2023. Prof. Manganon took advantage of the 2 year pandemic hiatus to finish his dissertation entitled, "The Micronesian Emigration Phenomenon: Its Knock-on Effects". His accomplishment is an additional credential to the new Business Administration degree program that the college started last Fall 2022. Prof. Manganon has been with the college since 2006 and his background in his previous work at the Department of Trade and Industry in the Philippines in initiating entrepreneurial livelihood projects for farmers surely can boost the business program, in addition to his educational attainment. He was a computer programmer and also worked as an Executive Assistant to a provincial government leader in his home province and these experiences can contribute to the enhancement in the different requirements of the program. Incidentally, Prof. Manganon has already been awarded "Faculty of the Year" twice within his stint at the college.



New Faces

The institution has been fortified with the recruitment of a new faculty member, Dr. Nuno Pedrosa, an artist and researcher, who will be teaching *Introduction to Art* courses. He received his PhD in arts and sciences of the art from Panthéon-Sorbonne University and his MFA from the San Francisco Art Institute.



In addition to this, Dr. McClain Worswick has also been added to the college as a part-time instructor in the Business Administration Program. He holds a BS in Commerce-Business Administration, an MSc in Business Administration in Accounting & Finance, and a PhD in Commerce and Educational Administration.

Adding to The Excellence

In Kosrae Campus, Sharon Oviedo, a math instructor, got certified to teach Science course (with and without lab), eliminating the need for students to travel to the National Campus to take the required Science with lab courses.

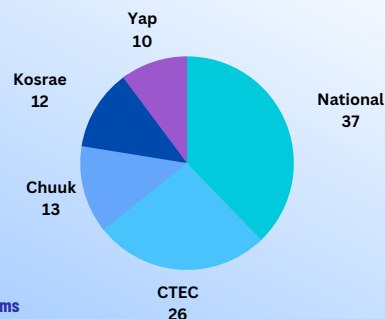


Additionally, two part-time instructors have been hired. Professor Alokoa Sigrah was hired to teach *Exercise Sports Science* courses, and Dr. Nick Zoa was hired to teach Science courses.

IA_GOAL_3. Ensure professional development for faculty and staff.


Counting Pillars

As of Fall 2023, the distribution of instructors across campus sites is as follows: National Campus currently employs 37 instructors, while CTEC Campus has a faculty count of 26, Chuuk Campus boasts a dedicated staff of 13, Kosrae Campus holds a team of 12, and Yap Campus supports 10 of our educators.




AP_GOAL_1. Ensure delivery of all academic programs

Strengthening Faculty

 **National Campus and CTEC Campus** faculty members attended a Faculty Workshop that jump-started the Fall 2023 semester. Three issues were addressed:


- **Absenteeism Issue:** The number of students not showing up in class is growing. Remedial actions to this issue include: offering more courses in the Distance Learning mode of delivery, implementing and enforcing an attendance policy, and introducing this policy to new-comers or reminding continuing students of this policy during orientation.
- **Contact Hours Issue:** Concerns were raised about instructors not putting in sufficient contact hours for the courses they offer. Remedial actions include: providing make-ups for absences, uploading video recordings of lectures in Canvas, and furnishing evaluation forms regarding instructors' tardiness and absences.
- **Academic Advising Issue:** Some problems related to this issue include students enrolling into unnecessary courses or not being able to enroll into required courses due to pre-requisite difficulties. Remedial actions included: early course planning via contact with academic advisors, regular advising inventory to ensure correct course selections, and a system-based mechanism for course approval.

Additionally, the faculty members underwent curriculum mapping with the assigned program coordinators to devise an effective curriculum plan for the 2023-2024 assessment cycle.


 At **CTEC Campus**, shortage of staff created opportunities to nurture versatility through cross-training, broadening skill sets of our faculty beyond their normal line of responsibilities. This has helped to address immediate issues, while also equipping our staff with the ability to adapt.

 At **Chuuk Campus**, Faculty Workshop Fall 2023, the instructors established three committees:

- *Absenteeism Committee* - whose role is to collect attendance for the first two weeks of instructions from the Face-to-Face classes for assessment and provide strategic plans to help combat the issue.
- *Faculty/Student Interaction Committee* - whose role is to create a Facebook Group and invite students to discuss issues with faculty. Issues are not limited to class-related matters.
- *Canvas Committee* - whose role is to conduct workshops during the first week of instruction (or more if needed) on the use of Canvas so that navigation would be more familiar to students.

 At **Yap Campus**, a Faculty Workshop was held on the 4th of August tackling the following topics:

- Critical Thinking Skills
- Team Building Activities to Foster Teamwork
- Hands-On Use of Provided Technology
- Canvas: Dashboard Designing and Organizing
- Effective Strategies for Using Humor in the Classroom

 At **FMI Campus**, 11 NORMA trainees completed 7 weeks of Pacific Island Regional Fisheries Observer (PIRFO) training and Basic Sea Safety (BSS) training. The training was funded by NORMA and FFA and assisted by 3 NORMA and 2 SPC trainers.

AP_GOAL_4. Ensure professional development and trainings for faculty and staff.

Faculty Show & Tell Project






COM-FSM President, Dr. Theresa Koroivulaono has created a platform for the faculty as a way to learn and keep abreast of the work being carried out by faculty members in the continuing cycle of improving and increasing the quality of COM-FSM Education.

Dr. Koroivulaono has earmarked from August 2023 to July 2024 the time frame to which the faculty can embark on the "Show and tell" project to the President.






The August presentation was on "Canvas learning platform, with teaching and learning software" carried out by Professor Dana Lee Ling, Math/Science Instructor from the National Campus.

Issues Corner

Challenges:

-  As of September 8, 2023, 25 positions at the college still remain vacant. Vacant positions are have been re-advertised due to interested applicant or a pool lacking the minimum qualifications.
-  Faculty had expressed low student participation in their online courses. Students have expressed concern over not being familiar with Canvas.
-  Students are hesitant to ask for assistance even when they are in urgent need of it. (Chuuk Campus)
-  Lack of certified staff to administer the Teacher Competency Examination (Chuuk Campus)
-  Kosrae Community Outreach had limited participants due to poor dissemination methods and time conflicts with other occurring events.

Recommendations:

-  An alternative to respond to challenges in hiring and vacancies, the IA department has aggressively recruitment part-time instructors and certified existing qualified full-time faculty to teach courses in other areas.
-  The VPIA has reached out to VPEMSS to begin a collaboration on offering training sessions for students college-wide. Recommendations are in place to work with EMSS staff, beginning with working alongside counselors in scheduling of these Canvas sessions.
-  ICs should ensure that academic advisors are providing the necessary guidance to help inform students on where they can find help and who to seek support from.
-  Now that the Dean of Academic Programs position has been filled, one of his many objectives will include working closely with the Education Program coordinator to identify training opportunities and times to certify staff to administer the TCE.
-  Kosrae campus will continue to improve in recruitment efforts by working more closely with the larger community to avoid clashing schedules that can hinder community support and participation.

The Averages

The following chart shows the Student-Instructor ratios and Section-Instructor ratios per campus:

	Students per Instructor	Sections per Instructor
National	92	5
CTEC	58	4
Chuuk	53	4
Kosrae	42	3
Yap	46	3

Promoting Programs Through Social Media

Social media can be a powerful tool for promoting educational programs. It can be a venue to create connections with students and alumni: it can provide a way for institutions to quickly and directly communicate with students, faculty, staff and alumni, fostering connections across various audiences. Social content can attract prospective students, keep parents informed, grow alumni networks, promote on-campus events and more. Focusing on nurturing community and publishing engaging content can also help increase enrollment.

This modern facility got the attention of some instructors specifically at the Career & Technical Educational Center (CTEC). Professors Bertoldo Esteban and Nelchor Permitez created Facebook pages for their respective programs and share news and updates through short write ups, photos, and video clips which provide glimpses of what happens inside their classrooms. These create images of interesting learning setups that shun away the usual perception of a boring classroom. Kudos to this ingenious idea!



TECHNO CLUB



Student Profile

Garnering Quadruple Crowns



The culmination of an exceptional academic year resulted in an extraordinary achievement: not one, but four individuals ascending to the status of valedictorians at National Campus in Spring 2023. Their dedication, diligence, and unwavering pursuit of knowledge led to an academic triumph that was nothing short of remarkable. With three valedictorians and an additional achiever earning the cum laude title, this achievement exemplifies high standards of both the learners and the institution.

Celebrating Student Success



Yap Campus celebrated the success of their students on Student Award Day, held on the 5th of May. A total of 36 students received certificates and prizes to recognize their achievements in the following categories: Academic Excellence, Perfect Attendance (in Face to Face classes), Greater Participation (in Distance Learning classes), Most Improved, and a special Dean's

Award that signifies exemplary demonstration of leadership and skills in team-building by a student.

A Friendly Match Between Scholar & Guide

CTEC Campus initiated friendly competitive sports matches to promote camaraderie between students and faculty. These activities combat the issue of psychological distancing that can be found between the parties by presenting the factor of fun, which is mutually attained by participating.



eTSP Pre-Senior Internship Program



Josy Adalpret from Pohnpei Island Central School and Deloura Etse from Madolenihmw High School participated in the eTSP internship program (as interns) at CTEC Campus from the 10th of July to the 21st. We hope to see you soon, as enrollees!



LRC Corner

Improving Learning Support Services

Statistics for July 2023

Programs/Services	CTEC	NC	YC	TOTAL
Patron Usage	439	5033	264	5736
Materials Circulated	3	129	18	150
Visitor Usage	6	46	99	151
Computer Usage	123	888	176	1187
Computer Assists	6	43	6	55
Reference Transactions	3	17	4	24

Collection Development	CTEC	NC	YC	TOTAL
Total Volumes	4662	76312	11706	92680
Total Titles	3708	47728	10770	62206
New Acquisitions	3	52	0	55
Cataloged	0	121	0	121
Donations	0	5	0	5
Serials	0	52	0	52

IQBE .Training Schedule Updates

- a) Yap-----Cohort 3 completed academy training 1, 2, and 3 (July 12-Aug 01, 2023) #of participants 18
- b) Pohnpei-----Cohort 2; Academy 2 (August 28-September 08, 2023) #of participants 21
- c) Kosrae----- Cohort 3; Academy 1 (October 2023) #of participants _
- d) Chuuk-----Cohort 2; Academy 2 (November 2023) #of participants _ 41

Statistics for August 2023

Programs/Services	CTEC	NC	YC	TOTAL
Patron Usage	439	8208	155	8802
Materials Circulated	3	278	12	293
Visitor Usage	6	1	3	10
Computer Usage	123	779	75	977
Computer Assists	6	4	4	14
Reference Transactions	3	7	17	27

Collection Development	CTEC	NC	YC	TOTAL
Total Volumes	4662	76312	11706	92680
Total Titles	3708	47767	10770	62245
New Acquisitions	3	0	0	3
Cataloged	0	21	0	21
Donations	0	20	0	20
Serials	0	50	0	50

Learner Highlights

Improving the Quality of Basic Education

1. IQBE at COM continued training academy modules to the 4 states in the FSM for the new school year. Training outcomes:



- Identify strengths and weaknesses of teaching ELA.
- Demonstrate understanding of how ELA curriculum standards and benchmarks are used at an elementary school using student learning outcomes.
- Demonstrate understanding of how to use assessment (formative) in an ELA lesson.
- Demonstrate understanding of basic teaching strategies and activities for teaching ELA.
- Expand Understanding of the Quality Pedagogical Framework
- Develop and Deliver appropriate ELA lesson plans based on FSM or State-approved minimum curriculum standards to peers.

2. November 10 - 23: a 10-member delegation from COM-FSM, consisting of students and a chaperon will be doing a study tour to Japan at Tokyo Metropolitan University.

Collaborating with Internal and External Stakeholders



• COM-FSM engages in active collaboration with the community. Key individuals, including the VP/IA; the Deans of Chuuk Campus, Yap Campus, and CTEC Campus; the Chuuk Campus IC; and the UB Director, play significant roles as Board Members for state Departments of Education. Additionally, National Campus' IC also serves as a Board Member for both Pohnpei Utilities Corporation and Small Business.



• Recently, Pohnpei DOE approved a representative from COM-FSM to serve on the Pohnpei Special Education Advisory Council.



• An MOU was signed between Pohnpei Department of Education and COM-FSM to provide tutor to 25 Non-Admit students from PICS high school. The tutors are math and English instructors from CTEC campus.



• With BSBA's Internship Program launched, the VP/IA has endorsed numerous Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) to signify a formal commitment between the College and external partners, allowing students to gain needed experience and forming new relationships or strengthening existing ones with these partners.



• eTSP internees completed their internship with CTEC Campus. On the same note, the Maintenance Office at CTEC Campus has 2 RAC 150 internees who are assisting our Air Conditioning Technician.

IA_GOAL_4. Assure stakeholders collaboration

Chuuk Campus Debuts Vocational Boot Camp

On August 04, 2023 COM-FSM, Chuuk campus celebrated the completion of its first ever 5-week boot camp on basic trade skill training in the areas of Carpentry, Masonry, and Electricity. In its effort to respond to the need for CTE training as called for by the Chuukese community and its leadership. This response was an initiative brought on by the collaborative work of the Cooperative Research Extension (CRE) and the Instructional Affairs (IA) departments at COM-FSM that made the implementation of the program possible.

The 5-week boot camp entailed learning objectives that covered safety and ethics in the areas of carpentry, masonry, and electrical. Throughout the training, trainees engaged in activities that helped them meet certain learning objectives:

For carpentry and masonry objectives, trainees were expected to:

- Demonstrate the safe way of using hand tools commonly used in the construction trade.
- Read basic blueprint- what's in a set of blueprint.
- Find the number of lumbers needed for wooden walls and wooden floors/ceiling joists.
- Find the number of wall studs and wall sidings/ sub-flooring and ceiling.
- Compare wooden/timber structures to concrete/masonry structures.
- Build a wooden bench safely.
- Practice safety when using a hand tools and power tools.
- Find the number of CHB needed for a wall with and without openings.
- Measure, mark, and secure story poles properly.

For the electrical objectives, trainees were expected to:

- Demonstrate safety when using hand tools common in the electrical trade.
- Find the number of outlets, lights, octagons boxes, switches, Utility boxes, etc.
- Wire a single pole circuit.
- Wire a three-way circuit.
- Wire a split receptacle way circuit.

The successful outcomes of meeting these objectives resulted in the maintenance work that was done on Chuuk campus as well as out in the Chuukese community. This gave the opportunity for both the trainers and trainees to engage in the installation of air-conditioning at a private home of a Chuukese community member, the electrical wiring of COM-FSM hydroponic building, and the construction of new benches for Chuuk campus, along with other maintenance work that was done around Chuuk campus. Furthermore, the successful achievement of this boot camp resulted in 30 trainees having completed basic training in trade skills. The COM-FSM community is grateful to the Chuukese leadership and the community for this call and to Chuuk and CTEC campuses for making this call a reality.

A huge thank you to CTEC instructors Xavier Yarofmal and Romino Victor for their dedication to this training. The leadership and support of Chuuk and CTEC campus deans, along with CRE coordinator are also very much appreciated. The success of this first-ever boot camp proves that this will be the beginning of many more learning opportunities like this one. They have truly demonstrated the core of the college mission: Promoting learner-centered activities, implementing best practices, and striving for continuous improvement.



Collaborations in Action



Trainees wiring a three-way circuit.



Teaching Boot Camp trainees how to read electrical blueprints.



Building a masonry structure.



Faculty members participating in a team-building activity



Improving the Quality of Basic Education (IQBE) Program at Ohmline Public Elementary School

IA_GOAL_4. Assure stakeholders collaboration



Summer Boot Camp Closing Ceremony

IA_GOAL_4. Assure stakeholders collaboration

Collaborating with Internal and External Stakeholders

cont...



Waseda University

The college collaborated with Waseda University over research on "Students' perception of Micronesian Economy". One hundred students were involved in a series of experiments from September 4 - 6. This provided a good venue for our students to experience a different platform of learning through the experiments conducted by the researchers.



The relationship between the college and Waseda University dates back to more than 2 decades ago, in 2002, when an agreement between the parties was made that enabled the facilitation of faculty visits, student admissions, and exchange students.

Visits by faculty and students of Waseda University have been made since, and COM-FSM students have been offered multiple scholarship opportunities to study at Waseda University. The scholarship opportunities include one-semester studies, one-year studies, and the occasional summer programs.



Ritsumeikan University

Eight students from Ritsumeikan University visited COM-FSM National Campus to engage in learning exchanges with COM-FSM students from September 3 through 10.



USFS & MCT

COM-FSM currently shares an MOU with the United States Forest Service/Micronesia Conservation Trust sponsored internship with the College of Micronesia and Pohnpei Resources and Development.

COM-FSM was identified as the intern's host organization, and will provide space for the intern to work, laboratory space and equipment to process the manual turbidity sample and to safely store equipment, and space to use the provided field laptop to save and share data. The host organization will provide a faculty mentor who will advise and help the intern when necessary and answer questions about the monitoring and research process, water quality, mangroves etc., and with requesting supplies or services to be purchased using the USFS funding.



Professor Peltin Olter-Pelep was selected by the Vice President for Instructional Affairs to be the advisor to the student intern. The student intern, Jeanylynn Aimy Andrew is a Marine Science Student at COM-FSM. Under this project, COM-FSM will receive funding through a contract with MCT that will specify overhead and administration costs, hiring and payment to the intern, procurement and supplies including transportation and fuel costs, etc. To date, Professor Olter-Pelep has led 4 field trips to monitor the collection of turbidity samples.



Deploying the turbidity sensor.



Retrieving data from the turbidity sensor.

IA_GOAL_4. Assure stakeholders collaboration

Kosrae Campus' Community Outreach

Kosrae Campus carried out a community outreach across the 4 municipalities (Tafunsak, Lelu, Malem, and Utwa) from July 24th through 28th. Meetings were conducted from 4 pm to 6 pm, and were mainly focused on raising awareness of the program offerings at the College and to encourage enrollment, namely, for those who previously discontinued shortly after enrolling. Additionally, participants were given the opportunity to input their thoughts on what programs they wished to see offered (in Kosrae Campus & at the College in general) in the future.



Over all the meetings, 66 people participated in this community outreach: 12 from Tafunsak, 10 from Lelu, 14 from Malem, and 30 from Utwa.

Faculty and staff who participated in the outreach thought that their efforts in promoting the college were worth it. They acknowledged issues regarding dissemination strategies and proper calendaring, and hope that these challenges are given solutions before the next community outreach.

Preparing for the Next Attempt

The issues underlying the outreach were that of poor dissemination strategies and time conflicts.

The meetings were announced to the public by means of a radio station in Lelu. Unfortunately, this means that only people in Lelu received the announcements. Ironically enough, Lelu had the least amount of participants compared to the other municipalities. Nonetheless, other means of communicating future community outreach efforts will include the use of social media, religious gatherings, and community meetings.

The meetings scheduled were in conflict with community meetings within the municipals. Additionally, over 400 Kosraens departed to Pohnpei for the Presidential Inauguration that took place on the 28th. Time conflicts with these events limited the audience count for the meetings. Occurring activities within the community should be taken into consideration before the next community outreach is launched.

IA_GOAL_4. Assure stakeholders collaboration

Added Features in AMS (TracDat)

The Nuventive Improve Platform popularly known as TracDat is an online assessment management solution that helps institutions record, track, analyze, and store assessment reports from all academic and administrative units. The college has chosen this system to enter, compile, and track assessment results linked to defined outcomes at the course, program, and institutional levels. The said Assessment Management System (AMS) of the college provides data and information for administrative and program planning, assessments, and program reviews.

The Instructional Affairs Administrative Unit and sub-units have added a new feature where VP, Deans, Directors, and ICs can submit their monthly report on a deadline-driven scheme to foster high levels of organization and efficiency. Under the instructional units, Program Assessment Summaries (PAS) and Instructional Program Reviews (IPR) can be systematically added. Currently, Mr. Fiji Meshak Phillip is the user-support specialist who assists the IA administrators and instructors across all campuses. Mr. Phillip is a recent product of the Business Administration program and one of 3 Spring 2023 class Valedictorians. COM-FSM is honored to have him on board.

