The Official Newsletter of COM-FSM

Kamorale Sharks

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ACCESS.
INNOVATION.
RESILIENCE.

College of Micronesia-FSM
YAP | CHUUK | POHNPEI | KOSRAE

Inclusive Early Childhood Education In-Service Teacher Training for the FSM

The College of Micronesia-FSM proudly announces the successful completion of the Inclusive Early Childhood Education Teacher Training for the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) – Training for Trainers of Teachers. This is a partnership project with the College of Micronesia-FSM, National Department of Education, UNICEF, which was funded by the Global Partnership for Education (GPE) that COM-FSM started working on last November 2024, and now moving forward with the rollout training for all Early Childhood Education and ECE Special Education teachers in the FSM.

This is a project in which the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) has set a national commitment to make early childhood education (ECE) compulsory for all 5-year-old children by 2024. As part of this initiative, FSM aims to provide inclusive ECE to all children, including those with disabilities and learning challenges. To achieve this goal, FSM is planning to review and revise the ECE policy, establish inter-agency coordination for ECE, develop state-specific inclusive ECE teacher training programs, create a national ECE curriculum framework, build capacity for ECE at the state level, and implement various support strategies for ECE, including school feeding and transportation. As part of education priority reform, FSM is focusing on repositioning indigenous learning in education across all levels, which will cover ECE. FSM's ECE program implementation will therefore need to be positioned within the education priority reform.





Ms. Olter brought valuable insights from her experience working with children on the autism spectrum and actively supported and contributed to each day's sessions during the training. Dean Kasiano Paul and Instructional Coordinator Joseph Felix Jr. opened the ceremony, welcoming the Vice President of Instructional Affairs, Mrs. Delihna Ehmes, who extended a warm welcome to all 20 participants representing each state of the Federated States of Micronesia.

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CONTACT US:

www.comfsm.fm | +691320-2480 | sennsant@comfsm.edu.fm | P. O. Box 159, Kolonia, Pohnpei, 96941

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INCLUSIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD

The Inclusive Early Childhood Education (ECE) In-Service Teacher Training for the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) was conducted from July 14 to 18, 2025. Each training session began at 9:30 AM and concluded at 4:00 PM. The sessions were organized around four core areas of effective classroom practice:

1. Lesson Planning- Professor Joseph J. Habuchmai

2.Teaching Strategies- Professor Magdalena Hallers

3. Assessment- Associate Professor Pearl Habuchmai Olter-Pelep
4. Classroom Management- Professor Susan Moses, assisted by Mercedes Olter

Each of these areas was assigned to a faculty member who presented on the topic throughout the day. Presentations included not only theoretical content but also practical demonstrations to support in-service teachers in implementing what they learned. The training was a success, and we are now moving forward with the plan for all Trainers of Teachers to do their training in each state.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to Madam President and Chief Executive Officer of the College of Micronesia-FSM, Dr. Theresa Koroivulaono, for her unwavering support. We also extend our sincere gratitude to each staff member of the College of Micronesia-FSM for their invaluable contributions to the success of this training.



A special appreciation goes to Sinobu Lebehn, Paul Sonden, Roselle Togonon, Sonea Carabeo, Angelica Festijo, Ruthy Lebehn, Zannette Wichep, Linda Paul, Yolina Irons, Mary Manuel, Juan Paulo Santos, Josephine Kostka, Dhiraj Bhartu, Jesse Selkar, Lorenzo Rull, and Karleen Samuel for their dedicated support. Your efforts in ensuring reliable internet access, capturing key moments through photography, managing logistics and the MITC room setup, coordinating catering with vendors, and preparing training materials played a crucial role in the success of this event. Thanks to your dedication and efforts, we are proud to announce that we will move forward with facilitating this training in each of the states.



SLT Cultivates Collaborative Future at 4th Retreat

The Senior Leadership Team (SLT) recently concluded its two-day retreat, held on July 22-23, 2025, in the Training Room of the FSM Development Bank. This vital gathering underscored the team's unwavering commitment to the College's mission and its continuous pursuit of excellence.
This year's retreat, building on the successes of previous sessions, was meticulously designed to foster strategic discussions and solidify collaborative efforts. The program highlights included in-depth sessions dedicated to:

- **Strategic Planning for Academic Year 2025-30:** Focused on refining academic goals, curriculum enhancements, and innovative pedagogical approaches to ensure students receive the highest quality education.
- **Operational Efficiencies and Resource Optimization:** Discussions centered on streamlining administrative processes, leveraging technology, and maximizing resources to support student success and institutional sustainability.
- **Student Experience and Well-being Initiatives:** Brainstorming and developing new programs and support systems to further enrich the student journey, ensuring a holistic and supportive learning environment.
- **Team Building and Leadership Development Workshop:** Interactive sessions aimed at further strengthening communication, trust, and shared leadership within the SLT.





As with previous retreats, a consistent and increasingly profound outcome of these gatherings is the palpable strengthening of camaraderie among the SLT members. The two-day intensive program provided invaluable opportunities for open dialogue, shared visioning, and the development of actionable strategies. This dedicated time together consistently reinforces a singular common goal: the betterment of the College for its students.

Furthermore, these retreats, the fourth within the past 2.5 years, have demonstrably cultivated a solution-based approach within the SLT. Challenges are met with collaborative problem-solving, fostering an environment where innovative and effective solutions are consistently sought and implemented.

The SLT emerged from this fourth retreat energized and more unified than ever, ready to translate their robust discussions and refined strategies into tangible improvements for the entire College community. The insights gained and the bonds forged during these sessions are instrumental in driving COM-FSM forward, ensuring a bright and prosperous future for its students.

FSM-FMI Cadets Represent with Pride at the 4th Micronesian Career Expo





The FSM Fisheries and Maritime Institute (FSM-FMI) proudly participated in the opening ceremony of the 4th Micronesian Career Expo held at the Yap Sports Complex. The event brought together delegations and participants from the four states of the Federated States of Micronesia—Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae—and was officially opened by the Honorable Aren B. Palik, Vice President of the Federated States of Micronesia. Before the official proceedings began, the cadets received a special visit from two highly respected dignitaries: The Honorable Aren B. Palik, Vice President of the Federated States of Micronesia, and Her Excellency Jennifer Grant Curnow, Australian Ambassador to FSM. Both leaders personally stopped by to greet the cadets, offering words of encouragement and acknowledging their role in the day's ceremony. Their gesture was a decisive moment of recognition and a clear reminder of the pride and trust placed in the cadets as national representatives. As the ceremony formally commenced, nineteen FSM-FMI cadets stood in precise formation and paid respect by saluting each state delegation as they marched past. Their disciplined bearing and coordinated movements reflected the rigorous training and professionalism instilled at the institute. In addition, the FSM-FMI Color Guard had the honor of presenting the National Flag—an assignment entrusted to the cadets by the Yap Visitors Bureau in recognition of their reliability and conduct. These two responsibilities—saluting the delegations and representing the nation through the flag—were carried out with dignity and respect.

After the ceremony, the cadets had the opportunity to explore the career expo briefly. They visited booths, interacted with peers, family, and community members, and engaged with exhibits showcasing FSM's educational initiatives, cultural heritage, and career development programs. Their respectful engagement and curiosity throughout the event reflected their maturity and growing awareness of opportunities nationwide.

The involvement of FSM-FMI cadets in the 4th Micronesian Career Expo served as a proud moment for the institute. It highlighted the critical role of youth in national events. It showcased the institute's contribution to developing future maritime professionals who are disciplined, community-minded, and ready to serve the Federated States of Micronesia.



SS 111 Cultural Anthropology class participated in the Field School

The SS 111 Cultural Anthropology class participated in the archaeological field school in collaboration with the field school led by Dr. Maureece J. Levin from the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. The Cultural Anthropology instructor, and the current Micronesian Studies Program Coordinator, Dr. Karen Kan-Lun Tu took the precious field school collaboration opportunity in bringing her students to the field as part of emphasizing Course Student Learning Outcome (CSLO) 1: Describe the scientific concepts of environment and ecology.

Three different activities were hosted for the field school collaboration. On June 10, Dr. Levin's team visited the college to meet with the SS 111 students and provide an overview of the project within the allocated four weeks. On June 18, Dr. Tu took the students to Lohd, Madolenihmw, where the field site is located, and where the 6 COM-FSM students began their hands-on work immediately. During that day, the students learned about site excavation, bucket flotation, and excavation measurement, as linked to CSLO#1.

On July 8, Dr. Levin and Dr. Seikel hosted an open presentation on "Food systems and land management in the Pohnpeian past" to conclude the field school in Pohnpei—the SS 111 students presented during the open presentation.



The field school collaboration invitation first reached the VPIA's office in 2024 during the preparation stage of the field school. The collaboration received support from the VPIA office, bringing archaeological expertise and benefits to COM-FSM students while supporting VPIA's objective of stakeholder engagement.

Special appreciation goes to the Field School team, especially to Dr. Levin and Dr. Seikel, the VPIA office for arranging the van, the maintenance office for supporting a driver, and finally, the dining hall for preparing lunch for the field trip students. The students had a fruitful summer participating in this special field school.



Kosrae Campus Student Secures Silver Medal at Recent Pacific Mini Games



The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) delivered an impressive performance at the XII Pacific Mini Games held from June 29 to July 9 in Koror. We're proud to congratulate all FSM participants, especially our College of Micronesia - FSM student-athletes for their dedication and success on the regional stage.

A highlight of the Games came from Iberson Barnabas, a current student at the College of Micronesia - FSM CTEC Campus enrolled in the Hospitality and Tourism program, who competed in Greco-Roman wrestling (67 kg). Iberson delivered a stellar performance throughout the tournament and secured a well-deserved silver medal, bringing pride to both his nation and his college community. And to incoming Freshman, McGonnaphey Ioanis set to begin his studies this Fall in Telecommunications Technology at CTEC Campus, congratulations on his bronze medal in Freestyle wrestling (92 kg).

Team FSM was represented across a wide range of sports, including Weightlifting, Wrestling, Athletics, Volleyball, Baseball, Softball, 3X3 Basketball.
To all FSM competitors: thank you for your determination, your sportsmanship, and for wearing our flag with honor. We look forward to applauding even more successes from the next generation of student-athletes!

College to launch the new Alumni Online Platform



COM-FSM is pleased to announce the launch of its new Alumni Online Platform, a vibrant digital space designed to foster connections, collaboration, and ongoing contributions to growth among our valued alumni community. This innovative platform aims to:

- Open Pathways for Accessibility: Provide seamless access for alumni to log in, access personal data, connect with fellow alumni, and stay informed about current happenings at the College.
- Facilitate meaningful connections: Meet, share, and collaborate with fellow alumni to discover new ways to support one another.
- Share Experiences & Resilience: celebrate Stories of resilience, overcoming challenges, and collective success that inspire and uplift our community
- Give back to the College: Participate in initiatives that support current students and future generations through mentorships, donations, and volunteering.

Join us in building a stronger, more connected alumni network committed to mutual growth and the ongoing success of the College. Stay tuned for upcoming events, forum discussions, and ways to get involved!

Together, let's innovate, inspire, and give back—powered by resilience. Access the platform today at https://alumni.comfsm.edu.fm/user/login.dz. Plus, participate to win cash prizes of $1,000, $3,000, or $200!

Please share this announcement on your news feed and with friends. Let's build a thriving, connected alumni community!

Yap Campus Celebrates 25 Years of Upward Bound Program and Summer Bridge Graduation





On July 19, 2025, the College of Micronesia-FSM Yap Campus celebrated a significant milestone—the 25th anniversary of the Upward Bound Program—alongside the graduation of students from its Summer Bridge component.

Launched in 2000 under the leadership of the College of Micronesia-FSM, Yap Campus, Dean Lourdes Roboman, the Upward Bound Program has provided crucial support to first-generation and low-income students from Yap High School. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, the program offers a range of academic, personal, and social services designed to prepare students for college success.

One of the program's key initiatives is the Summer Bridge, which allows high school students to take college-level classes on campus. This unique experience will enable students to immerse themselves in college life, build confidence, and gain academic credits, helping to ease their transition from high school to higher education.
The 2025 celebration honored both the legacy of the program over the past 25 years and the achievements of this year's Summer Bridge graduates—students who are now one step closer to becoming college-ready.





Yap Campus Choir Shines at 25th Micronesian Exposition Opening Ceremony



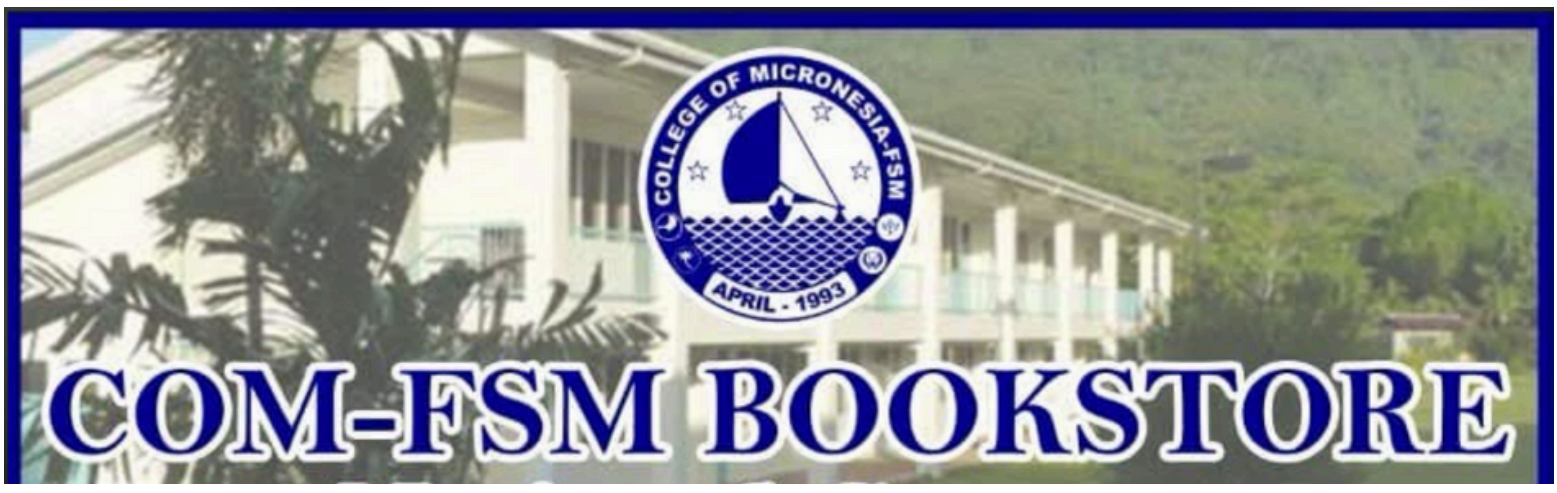


The Yap Campus Choir (YCC) delivered a stirring performance during the opening ceremony of the 25th Micronesian Exposition, hosted this year by Yap State.

The choir's performance reached its emotional peak with the powerful delivery of Spirit of KAMORLE, an original composition by music director Dan John Fox. The song's heartfelt lyrics and uplifting melody resonated deeply with the crowd, encapsulating the spirit of Micronesian unity and pride.

Audience members were visibly moved. Many rose to their feet during the song, and in an outpouring of appreciation, began approaching the choir—offering donations directly to the performers as a spontaneous gesture of gratitude. It was a truly beautiful moment; you could feel the pride in the air. The choir didn't just sing; they told our story, and they did it with grace, power, and authenticity."

The performance marked a triumphant moment not just for the choir, but for the entire community of the College of Micronesia–FSM. Under the direction of dedicated Music Instructor, Dr. Muller, and Music Director, Dan John Fox, the YCC did a tremendous performance at the opening ceremony. and Ttheir delivery of "Spirit of KAMORLE" will be remembered not just as a performance but as a moving expression of identity, unity, and the enduring spirit of Micronesia.



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JOIN OUR TEAM



Current Job Opportunities

- Accountant IV [Pohnpei]
- Public Health Instructor [Pohnpei]
- Nursing Instructor [Pohnpei]
- Marine Science Instructor [Pohnpei]
- English Instructor [Pohnpei]

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The College of Micronesia - FSM is an equal opportunity employer.
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SEND YOUR CV

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