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College of Micronesia-FSM
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College of Micronesia-FSM shares 'our stories' at the ACCT Leadership Congress

College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM) Board of Regents Chairwoman Suzanne L. Gallen, Regent Lynn Sonden, and College President & CEO Dr. Theresa Koroivulaono, represented the College at the 2025 ACCT Leadership Congress held in New Orleans, Louisiana, beginning Wednesday, 22 October. Among 1,900 attendees, the College was honored to deliver its-second ACCT presentation titled "UXOs, AI, and Transformation at COM-FSM" at this prestigious gathering. The session highlighted how innovation, technology, indigenous ways of knowing and history converge to shape COM-FSM's transformation journey and its expanding role in Micronesia's education and development landscape. This presentation offered an important opportunity to showcase COM-FSM's work and share with the global higher education community that small island colleges like ours play a vital role in advancing and transforming learning and teaching and exemplifying resilience across our Pacific region.

Day 1 of the Congress opened with compelling messages from national and industry leaders calling on community colleges to reimagine higher education in an era of multiple uncertainties and the increasing prevalence of artificial intelligence. Keynote speakers, including Louisiana Governor, Jeff Landry, and Silicon Valley Leadership Group CEO Ahmad Thomas,



emphasized the urgency of preparing an AI-ready workforce and broadening access to innovation-driven learning.

Participation in conferences such as this provides COM-FSM with valuable exposure to global best practices, opportunities for collaboration, and insights into emerging trends in higher education. The College's presence at this year's Congress reflects its steadfast commitment to institutional transformation which also includes embracing AI as a catalyst for student success, community empowerment, and educational excellence especially in the Pacific Islands Region. We thank the ACCT leadership and team for an excellent conference that was very well organized and brought together so many passionate and committed mission-driven educators engaged directly in continuous improvement and best practices.

CONTACT US:

Chuuk Campus Buzz: Instructors Honored, New Student Leaders Sworn In, and Crucial Marine Research Underway

Weno, Chuuk – The College of Micronesia–FSM’s Chuuk Campus has been a hive of activity this past month, marked by instructor recognition, the swearing-in of new student leadership, and important community-focused events, including a critical marine biodiversity study.

Instructors Celebrated on October 9th

The Chuuk Campus celebrated Teacher’s Appreciation Day on October 9th, a shift from the official April 10th legal holiday. The celebration honored the campus’s 10 full-time and 1 part-time instructors for their dedication. The event was a collaborative effort, approved by the Chuuk Campus Management Committee, and supported by the Administration, Student Services Department, Chuuk Cooperative Research and Extension (CRE), Student Body Association (SBA) Officers and students, and supporting staff from the Instructional Department.



New Student Body Association Leaders Sworn In

The Chuuk Campus officially inducted its new Student Body Association (SBA) Officers on September 30th. The new executive team is ready to serve their fellow students:

- **President:** David Welle
- **Vice President:** Alisa Santiago
- **Secretary:** Deshawn Kau
- **Treasurer:** Noel Ratimang



Academic Workshop Held for Students

Students attending the Fall 2025 semester participated in a Student Academic Progress Workshop on October 2nd. The session was conducted by Memorina Yesiki, Financial Aid Specialist, and was designed to provide students with essential information regarding their academic journey.



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Marine Biodiversity Baseline Established in Chuuk Lagoon

An extensive marine research project has been conducted in collaboration with the Yap Aqua Researcher and the Aquaculture Agent from Chuuk CRE. The team conducted site visits and surveys at 11 locations within the lagoon, focusing on crucial marine life, including sea cucumbers and mangrove crabs.

The effort successfully identified over 13 sea cucumber species, with DNA samples collected from each site. This vital work establishes an essential biodiversity baseline for Chuuk Lagoon’s sea cucumber populations, providing foundational data for ongoing conservation, management, and sustainable aquaculture development initiatives.



Educational Outreach on Health Awareness

The campus also hosted a critical public health event on October 22nd: Educational Awareness & Prevention on STIs, HIV/AIDS. The presentation addressed the theme: “Risk Factors Related STIs, HIV/AIDS Among College Students.” Presenters included Mrs. Kayleen Takiri, the STIs, HIV/AIDS Coordinator, and Dr. Anna Maria Yomai from the Department of Chuuk Health Services, emphasizing the importance of health education for all students.



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Yap Campus Elects 2025–2026 SBA Officers



From left to right: Alpha Leyangerwel (Secretary), Zinaida H. Yolomuch (President), Martinus T. Alokoa (Vice President), and Joannista Bergun (Treasurer).

On September 19, 2025, following the second All-Campus Meeting, Yap Campus students participated in an exciting democratic process—casting their final votes to elect the Student Body Association (SBA) Officers for the 2025–2026 school year.

Earlier in the month, nominations were held to identify potential leaders within the student body. The top nominees were then given time to campaign for their desired positions: President, Vice President, Secretary, and Treasurer.

During the All-Campus Meeting, each candidate delivered a campaign speech outlining their goals and vision for enhancing student life at Yap Campus. After the speeches, students cast their ballots, and the votes were tallied to reveal the following results:

- **President:** Ms. Zinaida H. Yolomuch
- **Vice President:** Mr. Martinus T. Alokoa
- **Secretary:** Ms. Alpha Leyangerwel
- **Treasurer:** Ms. Joannista Bergun

The newly elected officers have already expressed enthusiasm about their upcoming plans to strengthen student engagement and organize meaningful activities for both the current and upcoming semesters.

Congratulations to the 2025–2026 Yap Campus SBA Officers!

Yap Campus Shines as Yap State Varsity Basketball League Kicks Off

Weno, Yap State – November 9, 2025 – The competitive spirit and athletic talent of Yap State's youth are on full display as the 2025 Yap State Basketball Varsity League officially tipped off on October 14, 2025. This year, the league features a significant addition: the College of Micronesia-FSM Yap Campus (COM-FSM Yap) varsity teams, competing alongside four high schools in a tournament designed to foster teamwork, sportsmanship, and future talent.

Organized by the Yap Sports Council and hosted at the bustling Yap Matson Sports Complex, the annual event is more than just a trophy chase. It serves as a vital training ground, preparing future players, coaches, and officials for local and national competitions, including the prestigious Micronesian Games.

The Teams and Divisions

The 2025 league saw strong participation across both divisions:

- Girls' Division: 3 teams competed.
- Boys' Division: 5 teams entered the fray.

The participating institutions are: COM-FSM Yap Campus, Yap High School (YHS), Yap Catholic High School (YCHS), Faith Christian Academy (FCA), and Seventh-Day Adventist High School (SDA). COM-FSM Yap Campus proudly entered one team in each division.

Girls' Team Clinches Third Place

The COM-FSM Yap Campus girls' team demonstrated exceptional dedication and teamwork throughout their campaign, facing off in spirited matches against YHS and YCHS.

The Girls' Division culminated in a thrilling final on October 24, with Yap Catholic High School (YCHS) claiming the championship title. Yap High School (YHS) secured the second-place spot, while the COM-FSM Yap Campus girls finished their strong run in a respectable third place.

Congratulations to the Yap Campus girls for their impressive performance and hard work throughout the season!



Boys' Division: The Battle Continues

The Boys' Division competition remains intense. The Yap Campus boys' team has already secured one victory in games played against FCA, SDA, and YCHS.

The team faced a critical stretch of games as the league entered its final week:

- October 28: Yap Campus challenged Yap High School (YHS).
- October 29 (Semi-Finals): The team was scheduled for a rematch with the undefeated YHS squad.

A victory in the semi-finals would propel the Yap Campus boys to the championship game on Friday, October 31. Fans across the campus and community are eagerly awaiting the final results, demonstrating unwavering support for their players.

The final league results and championship winner for the Boys' Division are pending and will be shared in the next official campus update. Go Yap Campus! Your hard work and teamwork make us proud!

Yap Campus Researcher Wins Best Presentation Award at RCCC 2025

Dr. Murukesan Krishnapillai, Researcher and Extension Specialist at the College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM), Yap Campus, represented the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) at the Regional Climate Change Conference (RCCC) 2025, held in Colombo, Sri Lanka, from October 13 to 15, 2025. The event brought together scientists, policymakers, and development professionals under the theme "The Intersection of Climate Science, Adaptation, and Climate Financing: Focus on the Global South and Inclusivity."

The RCCC, organized by the International Institute of Knowledge Management (TIKM) and the IHE Delft Institute for Water Education in the Netherlands, aimed to strengthen dialogue and cooperation among countries in the Global South, which bear the brunt of climate impacts despite contributing the least to global emissions.

Dr. Muru presented a paper titled "The Economics of Climate Change in the Federated States of Micronesia," highlighting the severe economic vulnerabilities faced by small island economies under worsening climate conditions. His analysis projected that under a high-emission pathway (SSP5), FSM's average temperature could rise by nearly 3 °C by 2100, coupled with a 0.7 m sea-level rise, leading to increased typhoons, flooding, and droughts. These compounded hazards could cause annual GDP losses of up to 10% without adequate adaptation.

The presentation emphasized the urgent need for climate-resilient infrastructure, national adaptation funds, and improved access to international climate finance. It proposed establishing a National Climate Adaptation Fund within FSM's Department of Environment, Climate Change and Emergency Management (DECEM) to bridge a projected US\$0.5 billion adaptation financing gap over the next 15 years. The study also demonstrated that dedicating even 20% of public investment to resilience measures could substantially reduce disaster-induced losses.

Dr. Muru's presentation received wide acclaim for its analytical rigor and policy relevance. It was selected as the Best Oral Presentation under the Special Session on "Climate Vulnerability, Adaptation, and Innovation in Small Islands."



Reflecting on the recognition, Dr. Muru remarked, "It was an honor to bring FSM's voice to an international platform focused on the Global South. This award reinforces the importance of investing in resilience and innovation for our island communities."

COM-FSM congratulates Dr. Muru for this outstanding achievement and for his continued contributions to advancing climate research, policy, and community resilience across the region.

CTEC Campus Hosts First Mental Health Fair

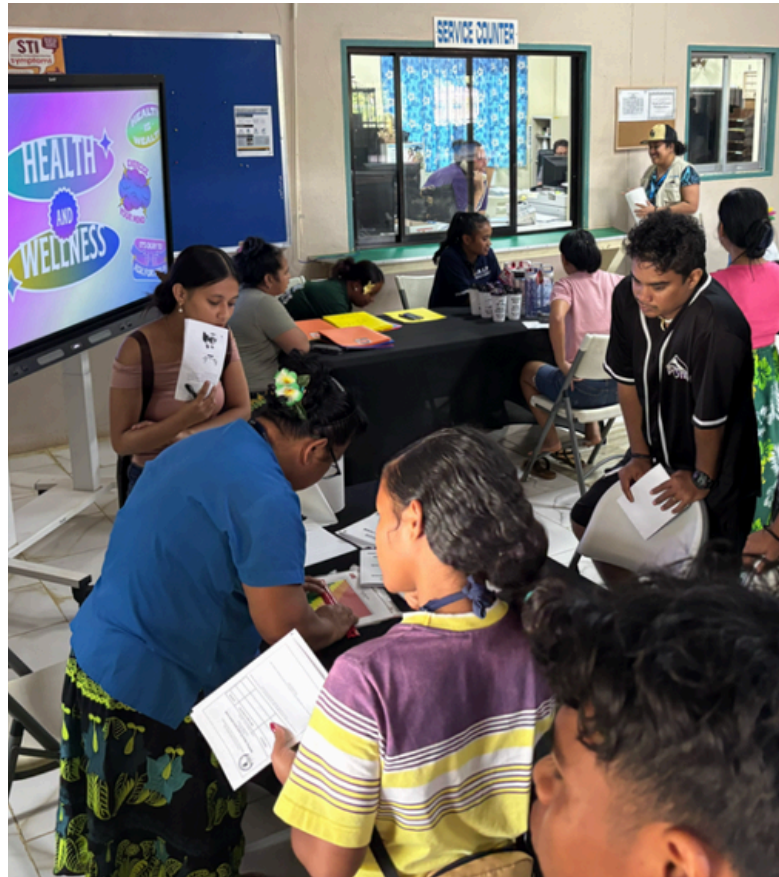
The College of Micronesia-FSM CTEC Campus held its first-ever Mental Health Fair on October 15, bringing together over 100 students, staff, and community partners for an engaging and meaningful day centered around wellness and self-care. The event wrapped up a week of mental health awareness activities around World Mental Health Day.

The event featured representatives from Pohnpei State Primary Health Care Programs, UNICEF, Pohnpei State Social Affairs, the COM-FSM CTEC Counseling Office and Health Clinic, and the CTEC Student Body Association (SBA) all sharing valuable information and resources about maintaining mental well-being, seeking support, and building healthy habits.

Students had the opportunity to explore interactive booths covering topics such as stress management, emotional health, and community support services related to physical health and wellness. Conversation filled the space as participants enjoyed and learned through displays, answered trivia, spun a wheel for prizes, played bingo and took a break in the Relaxation Room, a calm space designed for quiet reflection and mindfulness.

The fair not only offered practical information but also encouraged open discussions about mental health, helping to break down stigma and remind students that taking care of their minds is just as important as taking care of their studies and their physical health.

A heartfelt thank you goes out to all who attended, presented, and helped make this event possible. With its success and positive feedback, the CTEC Campus looks forward to making the Mental Health Fair an annual tradition of connection and awareness.



Pohnpei Catholic High School Students visited the Learning Resource Center



The 12th grade students from the Pohnpei Catholic High School (PCS) visited the COM-FSM Learning Resource Center (LRC) on the 29th of September to broaden the students' reading materials in their research. LRC Director Mrs. Karleen Samuel hosted the group along with librarians Mrs. Juvelina Rempis-Recana, and Mrs. Lucy Oducado in introducing the Learning Resource Center facilities and collections.

The students came to the college library to work on their research paper based on a topic related to Micronesia in their Language Arts class with the collaboration of the Social Studies class. The PCS students were accompanied by the English Coordinator Mr. Harold S. Salac, Social Studies Coordinator Ms. Herlinta S. Kohler, Secretary Ms. Caroline Jano, and the volunteer teacher Dr. Karen Kan Lun Tu who is the current Micronesian Studies Program Coordinator at the college.

The librarians assisted the students in searching for relevant materials based on each individual's research topic from the Pacific Collections. Most of the students dove into the given reading materials right away with abundant notes taken from the provided college collections. The LRC is delighted to assist the community in finding suitable materials, and the LRC expects for greater community engagement, and future collaborations with high schools, public and private sectors.

COM-FSM Collaborates with the New Zealand Consulate in Honolulu in Promoting the Manaaki Scholarships



The College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM) has taken a significant step toward expanding opportunities for its students and alumni, thanks to a promising collaboration with the New Zealand Consulate in Honolulu. The partnership is focused on promoting the prestigious Manaaki Scholarships, which offer fully covered undergraduate and postgraduate study opportunities in New Zealand.

The initiative began in June when Mr. Sam O'Brien, Policy Adviser for the New Zealand Consulate, reached out to the office of the Vice President of Instructional Affairs (VPIA) at COM-FSM to explore avenues for collaboration.

Following this initial contact, the VPIA office, under the leadership of Mrs. Delihna Ehmes, swiftly organized an outreach session. Dr. Karen Kan-Lun Tu was appointed to host the crucial Zoom session on September 5th at the MITC (Micronesia-FSM Information and Technology Center), ensuring that students from all COM-FSM state campuses could dial in and participate remotely.

The virtual session featured key representatives from New Zealand, who provided comprehensive details about the scholarship program:

- Mr. Sam O'Brien, Policy Adviser, New Zealand Consulate to Hawaii
- Mr. David Cannon, Policy Officer, NZ Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Ms. Sarah McDowell, Engagement Specialist, Education New Zealand.

The college's administration also voiced their support and gratitude. VPIA Mrs. Delihna Ehmes and Dean of Academic Programs Mr. Kasiano Paul both spoke, acknowledging the immense value of this collaboration and encouraging students to seize the life-changing opportunity offered by the Manaaki Scholarships.

The VPIA Office has made it clear that this initial information session is only the beginning. They are actively seeking long-term collaborations between COM-FSM and the Manaaki Scholarships to ensure a sustained pathway for students to pursue world-class education in New Zealand.

The VPIA Office extended its deep gratitude to the New Zealand Consulate in Honolulu for initiating the outreach and for their ongoing support to the college. Special appreciation was also extended to Dr. Karen Kan-Lun Tu, Mr. Timothy Mamangon, and Mr. Sam O'Brien for their dedicated efforts in facilitating the successful informational session for the students.

This collaboration marks an exciting new chapter for COM-FSM, potentially opening doors to advanced academic pursuits and international experience for its bright students and graduates.

For further information, please visit The Manaaki Scholarships Website: <https://www.nzscholarships.govt.nz/>
(The next application window will open in **February, 2026 for study in 2027**)



Workplace Development Office
MONTHLY TRAINING SERIES

CTEC Security Training

November 13, 2025 Security Training
Time: 12:00PM - 2:00PM

**Mental Health Awareness and
Suicide Prevention Training**

November 17, 2025 CTEC Students
Venue: Student Hall

November 18, 2025 CTEC Staff Members
Venue: Student Hall

November 19, 2025 Kosrae Staff members
Zoom to be sent later

November 20, 2025 Kosrae Students
Zoom to be sent later

Share and Chat Series
November 25, 2025 11am-12noon
Zoom to be sent later

Data Analysis Training

November 13, 2025 Data Analysis
Time: 12:00PM - 2:00PM



Workplace Development Office is calling on interested college personnel to partner with the office to support its activities including hosting Share and Chat sessions, delivering targeted trainings in areas of expertise and/or brain storm on ideas relating to workplace development initiatives. You may reach the WDO by calling extension 124 or email wdo@comfsm.edu.fm Would you be interested in delivering a training in one of the following topics? If yes, reach out to WDO now.

- Technology Proficiency
- Online Learning
- Communication and Teamwork