

The *4-H Youth Development Program* aims to develop the local youth by lining them with caring adults in order to foster relationships that encourage the youth population to envision potential and acquire positive attitudes towards themselves and others. The program teaches youth that by incorporating the use of their health, hands, head, and heart, they can grow up to become self-directing, responsible, and contributing members of the CNMI. The underlying themes in all CNMI 4-H programs are personal, physical and mental health.

For more information, visit the CREES website at <http://www.crees.org> or call 234-5498, extension 1728.

ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS

NMC also maintains and has articulation agreements with the following institutions:

- Ashford University
- Chaminade University of Honolulu
- DeSales University
- Framingham State College & International Education
- Hawaii Pacific University
- Palau Community College
- Pohnpei Accord
- Rio Salado College (Maricopa Community College)
- University of Alaska - Fairbanks
- University of Guam
- University of Guam-SROTC
- University of Hawaii at Hilo

WESTERN INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (WICHE)

In an effort to help residents of the CNMI have access to affordable college tuition. WICHE provides CNMI residents with the opportunity to go abroad to complete their studies and be able to avail of a discounted tuition rate. We recently became a member of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, also known as WICHE. WICHE also helps to promote innovation, cooperation, and resource sharing among member states. WICHE has a total of 16 members, 15 of which are U.S. states and the CNMI being the only U.S. territory and also the newest member in 25 years. CNMI membership became effective on April 1, 2013. The fifteen member states are as listed: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawai'i, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, north Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Every member state has three WICHE Commissioners. For the CNMI, they are Dr. Sharon Hart, former Lt. Governor Jude Hofschneider, and Mr. Joshua Sasamoto.

The CNMI is currently participating in 2 of the many programs under WICHE. These are the Western Undergraduate Exchange program (WUE) and the Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP).