

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).

The WUE program is for students who are interested in obtaining a two or four year degree. If a student chooses to enroll in a WUE participating institution in one of the 15 member states, they are eligible to avail of a cheaper, discounted tuition rate, at no more than 150% of the regular resident tuition rate. Currently, there are over 150 participating institutions throughout the Western United States.

On the other hand, the WRGP is a program for those people who are interested in obtaining a Master's degree, a PhD, or a graduate certificate in various areas. There are over 500 degree programs available under the WRGP, some of which can be completed through full online classes. The WRGP allows students from the CNMI to avail of the regular resident tuition rate.

The student must be a resident of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to avail of this program, however, eligibility requirements may vary depending on the institution. Some institutions may require a student to show proof that he/she is a CNMI resident. If a student needs to have his/her residency certified, please contact the CNMI WICHE Certifying Officer, Christine Inos, at the Counseling Programs and Services office by calling 237-6878, or email her at Christine.inos@marianas.edu. You can also visit the website at <http://www.wiche.edu/wue>.