

COLLEGE PROFILE

A BRIEF HISTORY OF NMC

Northern Marianas College was established in May 1981 when Governor Carlos S. Camacho created the College as an official governmental entity through Executive Order #25. The Executive Order established the College as one of the divisions within the Commonwealth Department of Education. By mid-summer of 1981 the College was offering training programs for government employees and teachers of the public school system.

In January 1983 Public Law 3-43 established NMC as a public, nonprofit corporation having the Board of Education as its governing board. In March of 1985 the passage of CNMI Public Law 4-34 made NMC a public corporation under the general governance of its own Board of Regents, and granted it autonomy in both fiscal and personnel matters. This law stipulated the mission of the college and designated NMC to serve as the land-grant college for the Commonwealth.

In 1985 the Second Constitutional Convention in the CNMI adopted a series of proposed amendments to the CNMI Constitution. Among them was Amendment 38 concerning education in the Commonwealth. Article 15, Section 2 of that proposed amendment provided for the establishment of Northern Marianas College, and stipulated that the College's Board of Regents should have autonomy in conducting its affairs. This amendment restated the mission of the college and guaranteed annual funding. Amendment 38, among others, was adopted by the people of the Commonwealth in the general election held in November 1985.

In June 1985 the college received its initial accreditation from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). The accreditation was reaffirmed in 1990, 1996, 2001, and 2009. In March 2001, the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities of WASC granted NMC initial accreditation for offering a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. This marked the first time in history of WASC that a two-year community college offered a four-year degree.

Since its beginning, NMC has focused on meeting the higher education and vocational training needs of the CNMI. From the times of its first program in teacher education, NMC has developed a comprehensive set of academic programs and services to meet the social, cultural, occupational and economic development needs of its island communities. Today, students are enrolled in various educational programs of study leading to Certificates of Completion, Associate Degrees, and the Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education. In addition, there are hundreds of students enrolled in credit and non-credit, continuing adult education courses. Throughout the years, more than 20,000 people have enrolled in regular NMC degree and certificate courses, over 3000 persons have been awarded certificates and/or degrees in programs offered or coordinated by NMC; and more than 12,000 individuals have been served in our community through such programs as the Adult Basic Education, Continuing Education, and the Cooperative, Research, Extension, and Education Service.

MISSION

As stated in the CNMI Constitution, "The mission of Northern Marianas College shall be to provide the best quality and meaningful postsecondary and adult educational opportunities for the purpose of improving the quality of life for the individual and for the Commonwealth as a whole. The College shall be responsible for providing education in the areas of adult and continuing education, postsecondary and adult vocational education and professional development for the people of the Commonwealth."

PHILOSOPHY

Respecting the human dignity and unique talents of each person, Northern Marianas College is dedicated to helping its students actualize their potentials for the enhancement of their individual lives as well as for the improvement of the Commonwealth as a whole. The College is committed to an on-going process of planning, assessment, re-evaluation, and improvement in all aspects of its mission.

ADMINISTRATIVE ORGANIZATION

NMC is governed by a seven-member Board of Regents appointed by the Governor to four-year terms with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Board of Regents sets policy for the College and appoints the President who is responsible for the operation and general administration of the College.

Board of Regents Members

Juan T. Lizama, Chair

Elaine Hocog Orilla, Vice-Chair

Frank M. Rabauliman, Treasurer

Andrew L. Orsini, Member

Maria (Malua) T. Peter, Member

William S. Torres, Member

Honorary Members

Keolester Buenpacifico, *Honorary Student Regent*

Roy Greenland, *Honorary Faculty Regent*

Marie Coleman, *Honorary Staff Regent*

Administration

Sharon Y. Hart, *NMC President*

ACCREDITATION

In June 1985, NMC received its initial accreditation from the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC) of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC). This accreditation was reaffirmed in 1990, 1996, and again in 2001. In 2001, NMC was given initial accreditation by the Accrediting Commission for Senior Colleges and Universities (ACSCU), a rare distinction among U.S. community colleges. This accreditation allows the College to offer its Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education.

Northern Marianas College's accreditation was evaluated in 2006 – 2007 and reaffirmed by the Accrediting Commission for Colleges and Junior Colleges. The institution is scheduled to undergo its six year comprehensive evaluation in 2012 – 2013.

Baccalaureate Program. The School of Education (SOE) provides a Teacher Preparation Program. The School is dedicated to enhancing the quality of education in the CNMI by providing the baccalaureate degree in Elementary Education. In addition, the SOE offers and is developing courses and certificate and endorsement programs in the areas of Elementary Education, Early Childhood Education, Special Education, Related Services, Early Intervention, Bilingual Education, Physical Education, Library Science, Reading, and Instructional Technology.

NMC now offers a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education. The College was granted accreditation by the Senior Commission of the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC) in Spring 2001, and the 2001–2002 Academic Year was our first to offer this four-year degree. Thirty students completed their baccalaureate degree and graduated from the program in Spring 2002.

The Teacher Preparation Program is supported by a Curriculum Resource Center (CRC). The CRC is used by mentors, master teachers, and teachers-in-training to examine, experiment with, and evaluate the latest in program-related curricular materials: books, videos, software, and manipulatives.

CAMPUS AND FACILITIES

Saipan. The main NMC campus is located in the As Terlaje area of the island of Saipan. Except for the Business and the Vocational Education building, the facilities of the Saipan campus are renovated buildings formerly used as the Dr. Torres Hospital and as the Trust Territory School of Nursing. The population of Saipan is approximately 48,220.

Tinian. NMC has an Instructional Site on the island of Tinian, which lies four miles south of Saipan and has an area of approximately 39 square miles. The population of Tinian is about 3,136.

Rota. The College also has an Instructional Site on the island of Rota, which lies 75 miles south of Tinian and has a land mass of about 33 square miles. The population of Rota is approximately 2,527.

SAFETY AND SECURITY

At the As Terlaje Saipan campus, the Safety and Security Office is located in the Administrative Services Office in Building O-1. Security personnel are on campus 24 hours, seven days a week. The Safety and Security Office may be contacted by dialing extension 1911 from any telephone on NMC's system or at 234-5498 extension 1911 from any other telephone on or off campus. For police, fire, and medical emergencies, the CNMI Department of Public Safety (DPS) should be contacted by dialing 911. Escort services to vehicles are provided upon request. To make a request, visit the Safety and Security Office or call extension 1911. Any person or student who witnesses a criminal activity should immediately report it to the Safety and Security Office. Any activity observed that could result in harm to an individual, and any medical emergency or fire should be reported directly to DPS, then to the Safety and Security Office. If you are a witness to a crime, you are encouraged to provide the Safety and Security Office and DPS all information you have that may lead to solving the crime. It is your civic duty to report crimes.

COURSE AVAILABILITY

At present the full range of academic courses offered by the College is available only on Saipan. Classes are offered at the As Terlaje campus Monday through Saturday during daytime hours and in the evenings. Also on the Saipan campus, personal interest and self-improvement classes are offered in the evenings and on Saturdays through the College's Community Development Institute.

On Tinian and Rota, the College provides Adult Basic Education, and selected courses coordinated by the Community Development Institute. Some of the courses and educational workshops are made available to the sites via video teleconference. The College's agricultural researchers also conduct experiments in crop production and offer advice and assistance to local farmers on both Tinian and Rota. NMC's Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program and the Home Economics Program also provide services on these two neighboring islands.