



Reaching
NEW HEIGHTS
Northern Marianas College
FY2016 Accomplishment Report

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BRIEF HISTORY OF NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE

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 November of 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 a special election held in January of 1986.

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 & Universities of WASC (WSCUC) granted NMC initial accreditation for offering a Bachelor of Science degree in Education. This marked the first time in the history of WASC that a two-year community college offered a four-year degree.

Northern Marianas College's accreditation was evaluated again in 2006 - 2007 and reaffirmed by the Accrediting Commission for Colleges and Junior Colleges. The institution underwent a six year comprehensive evaluation in 2012 by ACCJC and WSCUC. The College was placed on Show Cause status in February 2013 and a visit was scheduled for October 2013. Accreditation was Reaffirmed in the February 7th, 2014 Action Letter. Immediately afterwards NMC applied for accreditation fully under WSCUC and was granted Initial Accreditation on July 7th, 2014. In the spring of 2014 NMC also completed Substantive Change to offer a Bachelor of Science in Business Management. This was approved in the summer of 2014. NMC now offers a Bachelor of Science degree in Education and Business Management.

Since its beginning, NMC has focused on meeting the higher education and vocational training needs of the CNMI. From the time 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 academic programs of study leading to associate's and bachelor's degrees. 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 3,000 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, Community Development Institute, and the Cooperative, Research, Extensions, and Education Service (CREES).

FY2016 ACCOMPLISHMENTS



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER



BEFORE



AFTER

RECOVERING FROM DISASTER

NMC Completes Renovation and Recovery Work in Record Time

As reported in last year's NMC Annual Report, a significant portion of the Saipan campus was destroyed by Super Typhoon Soudelor. On August 2, 2015 the storm brought winds of up to 200mph and tore through the campus, ripping roofs off buildings, destroying computer and other electrical equipment, flooding classrooms, and toppling trees. The storm damaged 19 of 25 buildings, several of which were rendered unusable. Some employees had to be relocated to facilities off campus because their offices were completely destroyed. The NMC Bookstore, NMC Cafeteria, and NMC Student Center were all damaged to the extent that major construction repair was required.

Through efforts led by the Administrative and Resources Development (ARD) Department, major recovery work was undertaken to ensure the safety of all students and employees, and that the delivery of quality instruction could continue in a comfortable learning environment. In record time, roofs were replaced, walls rebuilt, and structures reinforced – all in all, 18 of 19 damaged buildings were restored. As a result of the campus community's hard work and commitment to complete recovery work, the Fall 2015 and Spring 2016 semesters proceeded smoothly.

To help with funding requirements for the recovery efforts, the 19th Saipan Northern Islands Legislative Delegation (SNILD) unanimously approved two Saipan Local Laws in support of NMC's effort to rebuild and renovate the main campus on Saipan. The delegation passed Saipan Local Law (SLL) 19-06 in the amount of \$1 Million and SLL 19-08 in the amount of \$280K.

Additionally, the NMC Board of Regents also adopted Resolution 2016-03 that paved the way to proceed with the rebuilding of a new Student and Community Learning Center using the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Public Assistance Program Alternate Procedures Permanent Work Pilot Program in the amount of \$4.8 million. This is one of nine in the entire United States.





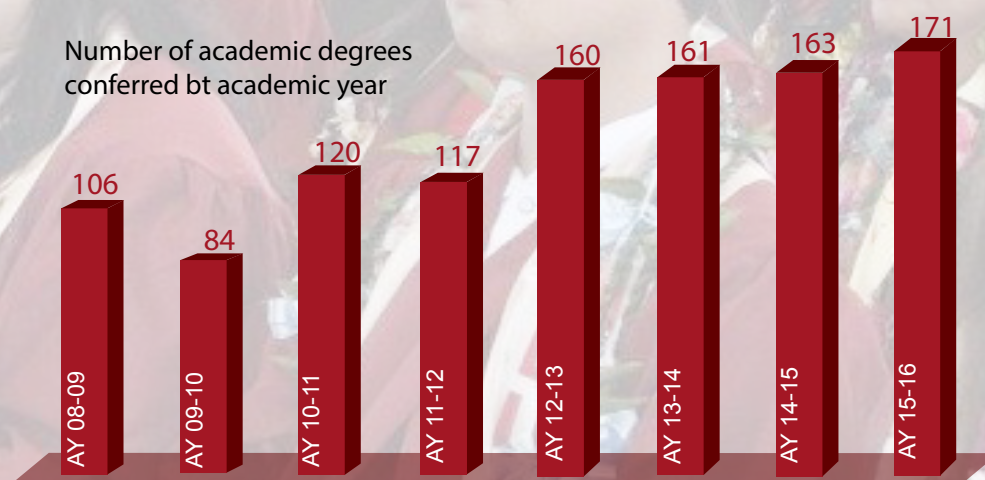
REACHING NEW MILESTONES

NMC Graduates Largest Class in its 35-Year History

In 2016, Northern Marianas College conferred the largest number of degrees in its 35-year history. At its commencement exercise held in May, the College awarded 171 associate degrees in education, liberal arts, natural resource management, nursing, business administration, criminal justice, and hospitality management and bachelor degrees in education. This was the first time the College also graduated the first group of students who had earned their bachelor's degree in business management. This new degree program had been launched two years earlier in response to local workforce needs.

The record number of graduates comes after a continued overall upward trend of number of degrees conferred that has been seen for the past 10 years.

During the ceremony, several awards were presented: the Academic Excellence Awards were presented to Riya Nathrani (AA, Liberal Arts & BS, Education) and Nicole Sablan (BS, Education). Nathrani also received the Student Leadership Award. The Excellence in Service Award was presented to Carey Demapan (AA, Natural Resources Management).





Brook Velasco Ong
NMC Business Student

MATCHING GRADUATES WITH JOBS

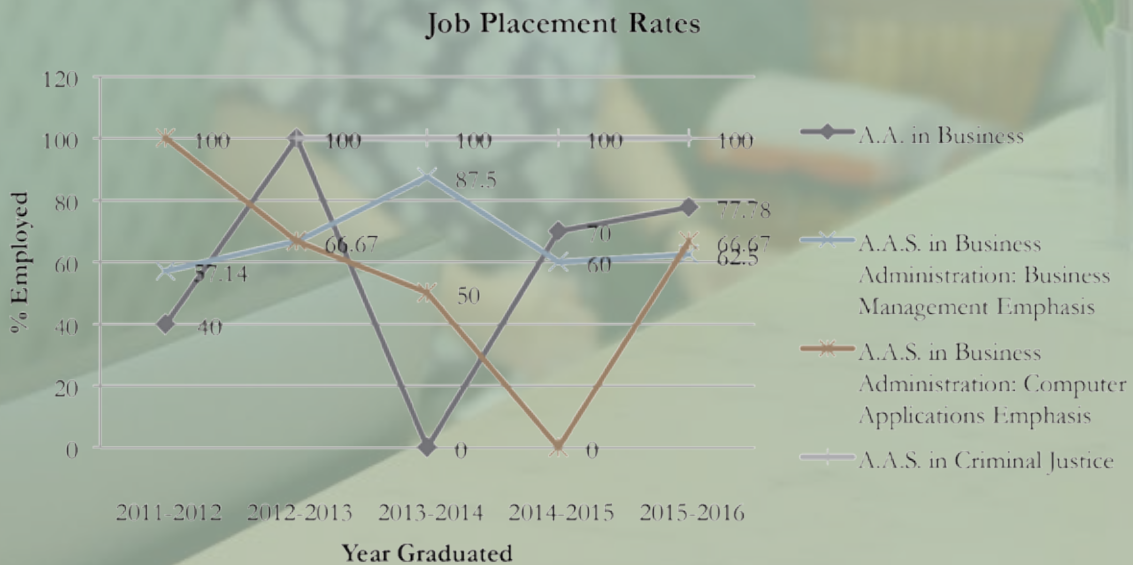
NMC's Job Placement Rates Rise

Northern Marianas College graduates continue to successfully transition to meaningful careers after earning their degrees. There is variation in NMC's job placement rates by program, ranging from a low of 36 percent in the A.A.S Hospitality Management to a high of 100 percent in the A.A.S. in Criminal Justice program.

For the past two years, job placement rates of graduates with a Criminal Justice degree have steadied at 100 percent. Additionally, 90 percent to a 100 percent of graduates with an education degree have also placed into jobs within the last two years.

Other degree programs have also seen an increase in job placement rates from the previous year. 78 percent of graduates tracked in the A.A. in Business program placed into jobs in as compared with 70 percent from the year prior 2014-2015.

Further, 63 percent of graduates tracked in the A.A.S. in Business Administration: Business Management program have placed into jobs, an increase from 60 percent in 2014-2015. Moreover, 67 percent of graduates tracked in the A.A.S. in Business Administration: Computer Application program placed into jobs as compared with 50 percent in 2014-2015.



WORKFORCE TRAINING IN HIGH GEAR

NMC Continues to Provide Training to Community Partner Agencies and Organizations

The College's Administrative and Resource Development Division, through its Community Development Institute, partnered with numerous agencies and businesses in the CNMI and provided a vast array of training programs designed to meet their training and development needs. In 2016, more than 1,500 training participants from agencies like the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, DFS Galleria, Saipan World Resort, CNMI Department of Labor, Office of Attorney General, and many other organizations were engaged in training activities like the following:

1. Administration & Supervision in Early Childhood Programs
2. Basic American Sign Language (ASL) Training for Service Providers
3. Business Writing
4. Communication Skills for Managers & Supervisors
5. CompTIA A+ Boot Camp Training & Certification Program (Cohort 1)
6. CompTIA Network+ Boot Camp Training & Certification Program
7. Customer Service & Work Ethics Training
8. Customer Service Training
9. Data Analysis & Research Training
10. Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month Trainings - Saipan, Rota, and Tinian
11. Developmentally Appropriate Practices
12. Disabilities Awareness Training
13. Disability Awareness & Workforce Readiness for Consumers & Family Members
14. English Language Development Course
15. English Language Development Course, Koryo High School
16. Feeling Safe, Being Safe Training
17. Google Apps Features and Essentials Training
18. Infant & Toddler Care Training (Cohort 11)
19. Infant/Toddler Environment Rating Scale-Revised - Cohort 2
20. NCLEX-RN Preparatory Course
21. Nursing Assistant Training
22. Principles of Caregiving (Level 2): Developmental Disabilities Module, Aging & Physical Disabilities Module.
23. Principles of Caregiving Training (Level 2): Aging & Physical Disabilities Module
24. Respite Care: Fundamentals of Caregiving Part 1
25. Transition Coalition Conference: Developing Dreams to Goals to Action
26. Transition Coalition Conference: Soft Skills Basic
27. Work Readiness Workshop



Jason Ray R. Palacios
IT&E Customer Service Supervisor
NMC Business Student



STREAMLINING WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

NMC Signs Agreement with NMTI

To ensure streamlined services, Northern Marianas College and Northern Marianas Trades Institute signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA). The agreement highlights both organizations' commitment to collaborate and establish clarity with regard to the training and vocational-technical, career, and professional courses and certificates offered through either NMC or NMTI for the people of the Commonwealth to fulfill the intent of U. S. Public Law No. 110-229 Section 712(a) (iii).

The agreement was an outcome of the meeting between NMC and NMTI officials who wanted to make certain that the Commonwealth Workers Fee Funds (CW) will be expended wisely and effectively without duplication of programs, courses, or training offerings provided by either institution. This MOA allocated \$545,000 to both NMC and NMTI.

The College received an additional \$60,000 of CW funds from the Secretary of Labor to implement computer and network based certification trainings for the CNMI. The classes were so popular that additional training sessions had to be offered. The College also created a lab and is now able to administer online certification testing for those who choose to get certified.



Sheralin Ann Guerrero
NMC Business Student

BY THE NUMBERS

NMC Launches Bachelor's Degree in Business Management with Concentration in Accounting

In 2016, the Business Department graduated 12 individuals for the first time from the new Bachelors of Science in Business Management degree program. The graduates received new appointments and promotions in current organizations. Four of them were employed in private organizations, while six were employed by the government in various positions. Two of the graduates are entrepreneurs and already manage their own businesses.

Using this success as a springboard, the Business Department also launched the BSBM Accounting Concentration in Spring 2016. The students who enrolled in the program are on course to graduate with their BSBM Accounting Concentration degree in Spring 2017.



MEETING INCREASING TRAINING NEEDS IN GAMING

Business Department Launches of the Certificate in Casino Operations Program

In response to the growing casino industry, the Business Department has launched its new Dealing Academy as well as a new the Certificate of Achievement in Casino Management.

Both programs aim to provide students with an opportunity to seek employment in entry-level casino and gaming positions. For those currently employed in the industry, this certificate enhances opportunity for job advancement, professional growth and career mobility. Students who enroll will obtain a basic knowledge of casino games, as well as casino management, casino marketing, gaming regulations, gaming law and human relations in the casino industry.



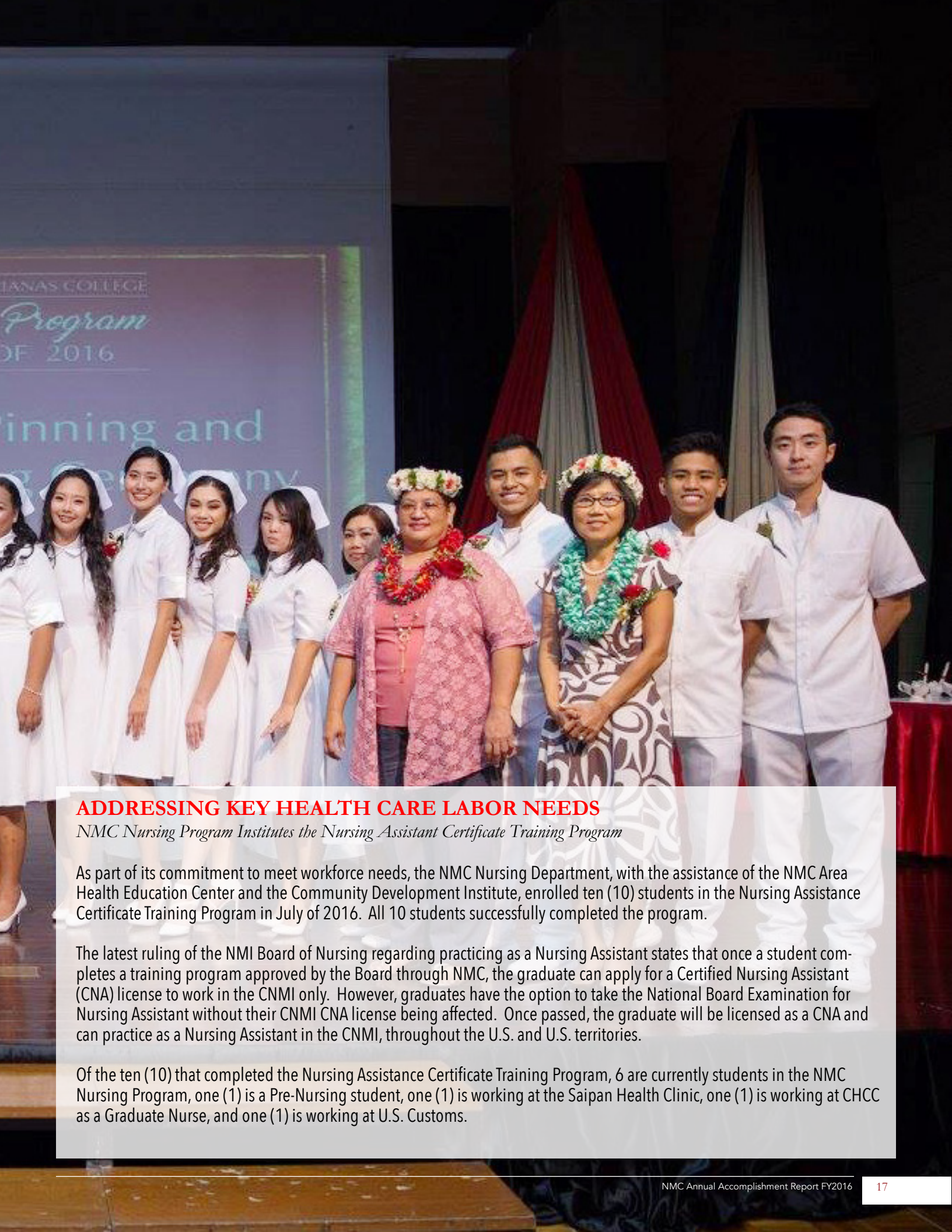
REPLICATING THE BUSINESS ENVIRONMENT

Bank of Hawaii Donates \$25K for Business Simulation Lab

In 2016, the Business Department was the recipient of a grant totaling \$25,000 from the Bank of Hawaii.

The proceeds from the grant are being used to build the Business Simulation Lab. The lab will be equipped with computers for student to utilize when meeting in a group to complete assignments. Students will also be available to assist individuals from the community who need help formulating business plans.





ADDRESSING KEY HEALTH CARE LABOR NEEDS

NMC Nursing Program Institutes the Nursing Assistant Certificate Training Program

As part of its commitment to meet workforce needs, the NMC Nursing Department, with the assistance of the NMC Area Health Education Center and the Community Development Institute, enrolled ten (10) students in the Nursing Assistance Certificate Training Program in July of 2016. All 10 students successfully completed the program.

The latest ruling of the NMI Board of Nursing regarding practicing as a Nursing Assistant states that once a student completes a training program approved by the Board through NMC, the graduate can apply for a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) license to work in the CNMI only. However, graduates have the option to take the National Board Examination for Nursing Assistant without their CNMI CNA license being affected. Once passed, the graduate will be licensed as a CNA and can practice as a Nursing Assistant in the CNMI, throughout the U.S. and U.S. territories.

Of the ten (10) that completed the Nursing Assistance Certificate Training Program, 6 are currently students in the NMC Nursing Program, one (1) is a Pre-Nursing student, one (1) is working at the Saipan Health Clinic, one (1) is working at CHCC as a Graduate Nurse, and one (1) is working at U.S. Customs.



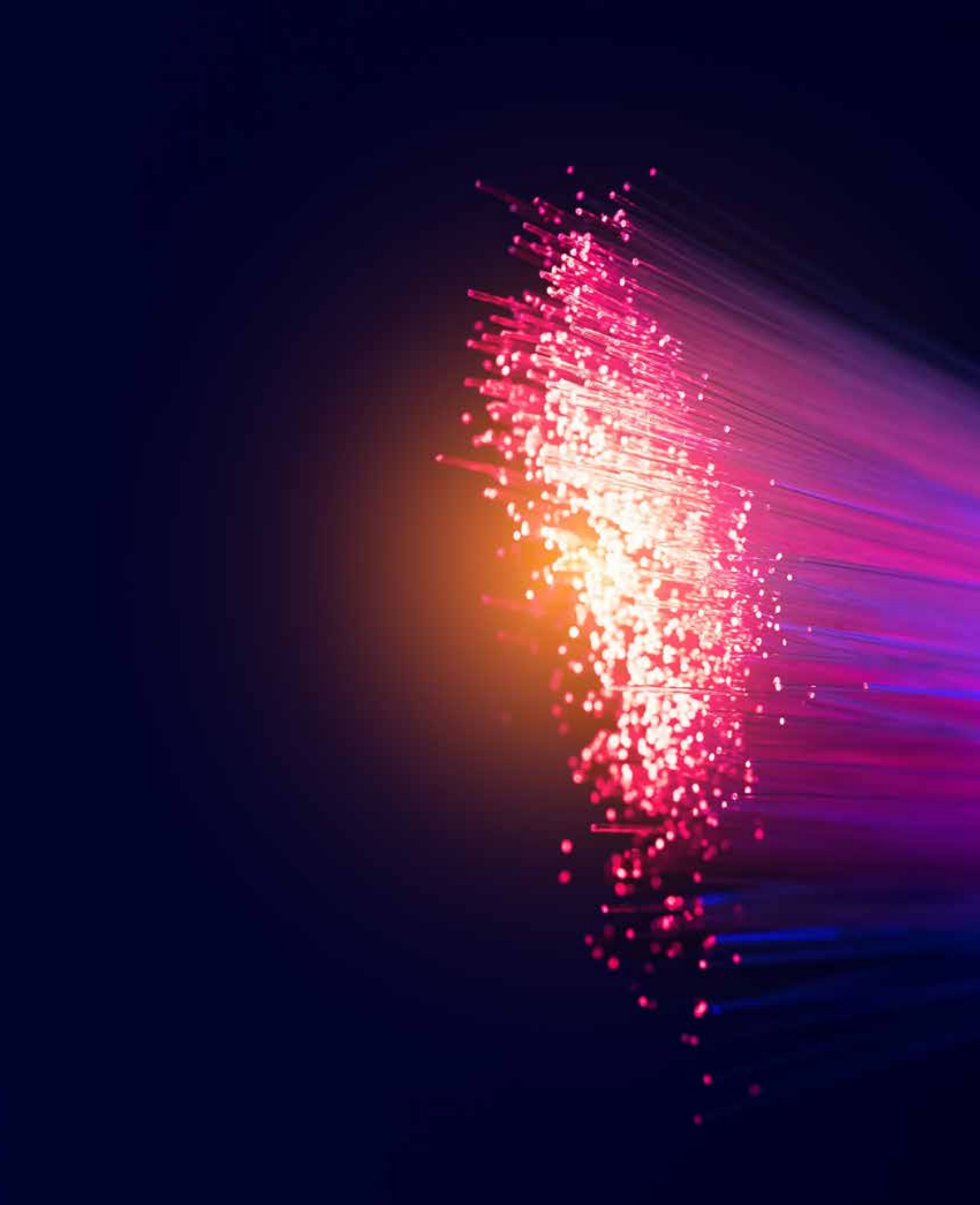
BUILDING PUBLIC SAFETY CAPACITY

NMC Partners with Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services

The Northern Marianas College Criminal Justice Program, in collaboration with the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, re-launched the Fire Science Technology Certificate Program in FY2016. The program graduated 38 fire cadets during the Summer 2016 semester.

The Fire Science Technology Certificate program is designed to train and instill the knowledge and tools needed for fire cadets to become effective and successful fire fighters. It consists of 38 credits and offers courses such as: Fire Operations I & II, Hazardous Materials Awareness and Operations, Report Writing, and Wildland Firefighter. The Wildland Firefighter course is new to the program and provided fire cadets with the necessary training in understanding wildland fire behavior and fire control tactics.

The benefits of partnering with the Department of Fire and Emergency Services including providing high quality pre-employment training and education to fire cadets. In addition, cadets will be receiving college credit for these courses and are able to further their education and pursue an Associate in Applied Science Degree in Criminal Justice.



TECHNOLOGY AT THE FOREFRONT

Increased Internet Speeds for Students and Other Tech Achievements

Upgrade of NMC Internet Connection. In an effort to increase and meet the bandwidth requirements of the College, the IT Department worked with IT&E to implement a fiber-optic network to the Saipan campus. The new connection now delivers 50 Mbps of synchronous Internet bandwidth. This technology allows the employees and students to stream and browse educational content from the Internet at a much faster speed. The technology also gives the institution the capability to employ reliable cloud-based services.

JKPL Library VTC Room. As part of its efforts to provide technical advice and guidance to community partners, the IT Department completed the video teleconferencing room for the Joeten Kiyu Public Library. The NMC IT department implemented the technology portion, while the NMC Administrative Services completed the room construction. Zoom cloud-based video teleconference was chosen as the communication technology.

IT Bootcamp. The IT Department, in collaboration with the Community Development Institute, created the IT Bootcamp training courses. The courses provided included the A+ and N+ certification training. These courses are designed to give students entry-level knowledge of computer hardware and networking technologies.

Screencast Video training with Student Services. The IT Department, in collaboration with the Student Services Department, conducted training and creation of screencast with student services units. The topics of the screencast video orientations included Student Life, Library Programs and Services, Moodle, ProaPortal, Registration, Financial Aid, and Student Expectation and Sexual Misconduct. The purpose of the videos was to streamline orientation and to provide a resource for students.

Pearson VUE Testing Services. The College's Testing Center, with the assistance of the IT Department, deployed the PearsonVue testing service. The service was designed to enhance and complement technology training provided by the college in support of CNMI workforce development by providing industry-standard certifications in the technology field. The Pearson VUE testing service can also provide testing services in other industries such as academia and admissions, financial and related service, government, health care, military, and global regulatory and US licensing.





INCREASING INDIGENOUS CAPACITY

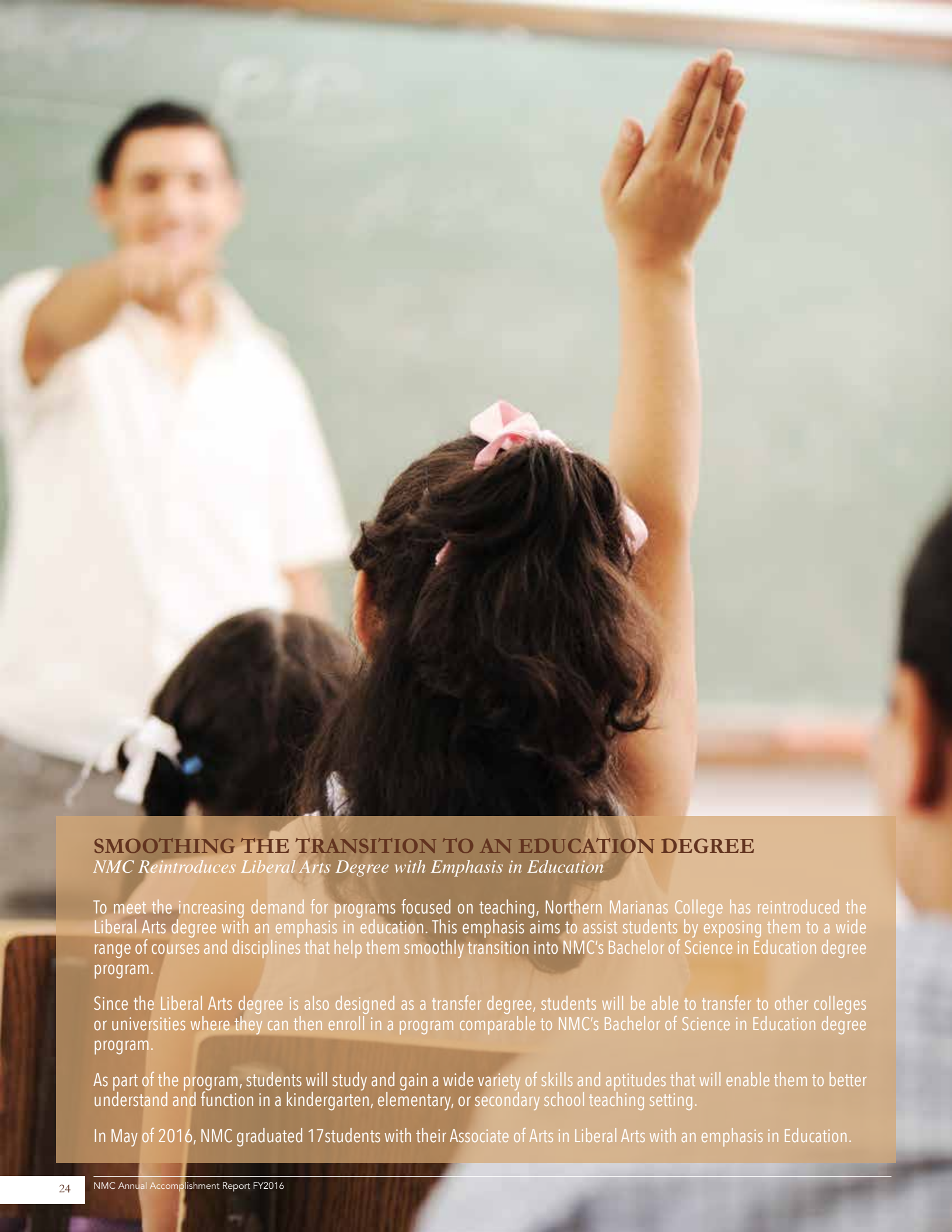
NMC Launches PROA Center

In August 2016, Northern Marianas College launched the PROA Center, which is part of the Project Proa program that aims to improve and expand the capacity of indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian (and other qualified) students in Rota, Tinian and Saipan by increasing the number and proportion of those who enroll and graduate from college.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony was held to mark the formal opening of the Proa Center, and Acting Governor Victor Hocog was on hand along with several other dignitaries to cut the ceremonial ribbon.

The Proa Center provides tutoring, mentoring, academic advising and other services to help students succeed in college. It also provides cultural learning opportunities so that students can better appreciate and understand the Chamorro and Carolinian heritage.

The program is funded by an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving Institutions (AANAPISI) Program grant through the Department of Education. The grant provides for \$269,023 for the first budget period, which began in fiscal year 2016. It is anticipated that the grant will continue for five years. The AANAPISI program provides grants and related assistance to Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-serving institutions to enable such institutions to improve and expand their capacity to serve Asian Americans and Native American Pacific Islanders and low-income individuals.



SMOOTHING THE TRANSITION TO AN EDUCATION DEGREE

NMC Reintroduces Liberal Arts Degree with Emphasis in Education

To meet the increasing demand for programs focused on teaching, Northern Marianas College has reintroduced the Liberal Arts degree with an emphasis in education. This emphasis aims to assist students by exposing them to a wide range of courses and disciplines that help them smoothly transition into NMC's Bachelor of Science in Education degree program.

Since the Liberal Arts degree is also designed as a transfer degree, students will be able to transfer to other colleges or universities where they can then enroll in a program comparable to NMC's Bachelor of Science in Education degree program.

As part of the program, students will study and gain a wide variety of skills and aptitudes that will enable them to better understand and function in a kindergarten, elementary, or secondary school teaching setting.

In May of 2016, NMC graduated 17 students with their Associate of Arts in Liberal Arts with an emphasis in Education.



ENHANCING MIND AND BODY

Liberal Arts Degree with Emphasis Health and Physical Education Introduced

The Liberal Arts program created the Associate of Arts Degree in Liberal Arts with an emphasis in Health and Physical Education effective Spring 2015 to help highlight the importance of healthy living among students and to stress its importance in the local community. Moreover, doing so would align with the part of the college's mission that deals with "improving the quality of life for the individual and for the Commonwealth as a whole."

Students interested in health and fitness can now enroll in this new emphasis and may pursue careers in teaching, coaching, or other related health and fitness fields. The Health and Physical Education emphasis provides transferable courses, which will eventually result in a major, or minor in the health and fitness field of study.



PREVENTING SEXUAL ASSAULT AND VIOLENCE

NMC Moves to Create a Culture of Safety on Campus

An interim Title IX Coordinator was appointed on January 5, 2016 to help address reports of sexual misconduct on campus in an appropriate and timely manner. The Sexual Assault and Response Team (SART) and Counseling Programs & Services facilitated several events including, *A Culture of Safety: Creating a Violence Free Campus*; *Consent and; Healthy Sexuality* to promote awareness of sexual misconduct, the complaint / reporting process, and prevention.

The SART established an informational webpage and compiled responses on a 44-item campus climate survey filled-out by 68 employees. On April 1, 2016 the College signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Guam Coalition Against Sexual Assault & Family Violence to participate in the Pacific Partners Project to further strengthen NMC's sexual harassment and assault policies and prevention efforts with support from a grant from the Office of Women's Health.

These activities represent some of the ongoing efforts at NMC to address and prevent sexual misconduct, including incidents related to domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking.

EXPANDING FINANCIAL AID RESOURCES FOR STUDENTS

New Programs Offered, Cash for College Event Continues to Draw Hundreds

Pell Grant. Approximately 70% or a total of 965 out of 1378 students enrolled at NMC during the 2015-2016 school year received the Pell Grant to help defray their cost of attendance. Of the 965 students, 766 students or approximately 79% of those who qualify received the maximum Pell Grant amount. The maximum amount a student received during the 2015-2016 school year was \$5775.

BWOY Scholarship. The purpose of the Business Woman of the Year Scholarship is to promote higher education by providing financial assistance for college students in their pursuit of professional careers. On Nov. 18, 2015, representatives from First Hawaiian Bank and Guam Business joined the NMC team in awarding six (6) deserving students. Each recipient received a scholarship based on the number of credits taken and the availability of funds raised from the Annual Business Woman of the Year Gala. This was the eighth year that the BWOY Scholarship was offered.

NMIA Scholarship. The purpose of the Northern Marianas Insurance Association Scholarship is threefold: 1) To promote higher education by providing financial assistance for college students in their pursuit of professional careers; 2) to help alleviate the critical current and future shortage of skilled and trained workforce for the CNMI; and, 3) to provide current public and private sector employees with opportunities to improve their knowledge and skills, and enhance their career and professional development. On Aug. 25, 2016, the Northern Marianas Insurance Association members came together to join the NMC team in awarding two (2) deserving students. Each recipient received a \$500 scholarship towards their college education. This was the first time the NMIA offered a scholarship and they look forward to making scholarships available every year to many more deserving students.

APIASF. On June 12, 2015, NMC entered a Memorandum of Understanding with the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF) to provide financial support to eligible low-income AAPI students through scholarships from APIASF and to document the impact of that grant aid on recipients' academic outcomes. In SY 2015-2016, 12 students each received a \$2,500 award under this partnership. Other financial aid opportunities were also offered to student throughout the year.

CASH FOR COLLEGE. In addition to these financial aid programs, a total of 775 people attended the Cash for College events scheduled on Saipan. Cash for College promotes awareness and access to financial aid information and assistance with completing application forms, including the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA). Among the attendees (68%) that submitted a survey to evaluate the event, 99% indicated that financial aid was very important and 67% reported having an increased awareness of financial aid opportunities.





ELEVATING STUDENT SUCCESS

NMC Partners with McRel to Address Remedial Education

Northern Marianas College continued its collaborative partnership with McRel in 2016 as part of ongoing efforts to heighten efforts that prepare students for college and success. One of the key outcomes that has come from this partnership is the Language & Humanities Department's work toward redesigning the developmental English curriculum which involved the integration of reading and writing courses. Traditionally, developmental English courses at NMC were divided into Reading and Writing tracks. After extensive research conducted by the Languages and Humanities faculty, it was determined that best practices in developmental education point toward integrated skills courses. To that end, the previous four courses across two tracks were condensed to two courses in one track. The Fall 2016 data produced by these courses regarding students achieving outcomes are still being compiled and analyzed. That analysis will feed into the assessment cycle to determine how best to adjust and improve the courses.

The College played a major role in shaping the purpose of these studies as well as providing institutional data to REL Pacific researchers. REL Pacific invested heavily in building capacity for both NMC and PSS by sponsoring training and professional development activities throughout the year. REL Pacific sponsored travel expenses for the dean of Student Services to present information at the REL Pacific Governing Board, October 20-21, 2015, in Kolonia, Pohnpei as well as at the REL Pacific Convening in Honolulu, Hawaii from July 26-27, 2016 on College and Career Readiness initiatives and partnerships in the CNMI. REL Pacific also sponsored a team of four from the CNMI comprised of NMC and PSS representatives to participate at the Carnegie Summit in San Francisco from March 22-24, 2016.

Academic Outcomes of Students in Developmental Versus Credit-Bearing Courses at Northern Marianas College, a paper co-authored by NMC, PSS, and McRel researchers and practitioners, was accepted at the 2017 American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting. This is quite an accomplishment as AERA received over 13,000 submissions for this meeting and this acceptance significantly enhances the value of our collective work in the CNMI.



EXPANDING STUDENTS' OPTIONS

NMC Partners with Maricopa Community College System

Northern Marianas College was engaged in talks with Rio Salado College (RSC) as far back as October 2013 with regard to a potential articulation agreement to expand course and program offerings to residents of the CNMI. Representatives from the Maricopa Community College system entered the fold to help each party work through a process for developing a Memorandum of Understanding and Course Equivalency Guide. The Financial Aid Office collaborated to produce a Financial Aid Consortium Agreement to facilitate the awarding of federal financial aid to students who were concurrently enrolled between RSC and NMC. The MOU between Maricopa Community Colleges and NMC was signed in July 2016. As of this writing, 30 NMC students plan to enroll concurrently in RSC's online courses during the spring 2017 term for a combined 178 credits. NMC's partnership with RSC expands course offerings for NMC students to help ensure that students meet the minimum full-time course load for scholarship programs and make timely progress toward completion of degrees.

MEETING THE DEMAND FOR INFORMATION RESOURCES

Students Look to Library for Information Needs

In 2016, the College's Library Programs & Services saw a significant increase in nearly all of its critical services, including circulation, use of digital resources, instruction, and printing. This can be attributed in part to the implementation of a new print management system and station as well as extended hours of operation to accommodate the shortage of study space across campus due to the destruction left by Typhoon Soudelor.

Furthermore, new digital learning resources purchased through EBSCO and Britannica provided expanded access to high-quality, comprehensive reference sources online, complete with numerous features and tools to facilitate research. A record-breaking 466 students participated in library instructional sessions in September 2016 alone, leading to the all-time high of 1,003 students served through the Library's information literacy program over the course of the fiscal year.

SOUND FISCAL MANAGEMENT

NMC Receives Clean Audit Report for 9th Consecutive Year, and For the First Time, No Audit Findings for FY 2015

For the ninth consecutive year, the Northern Marianas College received a favorable audit opinion – an unqualified opinion – on its financial statements for the period ending September 30, 2015.

The College also received for the third consecutive time an unqualified auditor's opinion on its internal control and compliance report. An unqualified opinion means that the financial statements present fairly, in all material aspects, the financial position of the Northern Marianas College as of September 30, 2015, and conform with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The College's independently-prepared audit identified no material weaknesses, significant deficiencies, or material noncompliance with the College's financial statements.

Also, for the first time in the College's history, the internal control and compliance report that was prepared by the auditing firm contained zero findings, and the single audit findings identified in the prior year's audit have been fully resolved. In addition, all prior questioned costs have been fully resolved.

COMMITMENT TO STRONG FINANCIAL CONTROLS

NMC is Now a Low-Risk Auditee

For the first time in the College's history, the College has been designated by its external auditors as a low risk auditee, according to the criteria under the U.S. Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Uniform Administrative Requirements, Cost Principles, and Audit Requirements for Federal Awards, commonly called "Uniform Guidance," (2 CFR 200.520).

Because NMC has met all these criteria for the past two audited fiscal years (2014 and 2015), the College's auditor, Burger Comer Magliari, has determined that NMC is now a low risk auditee. This means less administrative burden for the institution in applying for and administering grants, higher confidence in the institution by federal agencies and the community, and fewer audit requirements.

The College continues to maintain its leadership role in strong financial and audit performance among CNMI government entities.



STAKEHOLDER-FOCUSED, MISSION-ORIENTED
NMC CREES 5-Year Work Plan in Four Program Areas Commended

Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service (NMC CREES) was commended for the work it has done in preparing a 5-year work plan that addresses community needs in the CNMI.

“NMC-CREES is to be commended for a well-written and stakeholder-focused Plan of Work. CREES Continues to make progress in spite of several challenges,” stated Edwin Lewis, who is a National Program Lead Reviewer for the USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, in his review of NMC CREES’s 5-year work plan.

In preparing the 5-year work plan, CREES used input gained from an external evaluation as well as numerous listening sessions held with stakeholders on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian. The plan responds to the result of the comprehensive external department review, the community needs assessment, and speaks to the knowledge of expert personnel and subject area specialist on addressing emerging issues in the CNMI.

The 5-year Work Plan addresses the following key areas that NMC-CREES has chosen to prioritize based on extensive external review as well as input with stakeholders on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian: Livestock Improvement Program; Childhood Obesity Prevention; Aquaculture and Fisheries Development Program; Agriculture Production; and Family, Community and Youth Development.

One of the outcomes identified in NMC CREES’s work plan include helping clients gain knowledge and skills in animal science, production, health and management, and sustainable agriculture.



RESEARCH AND EXTENSION

NMC CREES Highlights Accomplishments

Agriculture In 2016, Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Service (CREES) program re-established the Tinian and Saipan agricultural research center to continue trials on a variety of crops. Crop research in Rota was also conducted in 2016.

The As Perdido Center on Saipan conducted crop research trials on 14 vegetable species: sweetcorn, popcorn, bean, cucumber, melon, lettuce, cabbage, onions, okra, tomatoes, pepper, pumpkin, radish and zucchini, which equated to more than 125 varieties. The Tinian Agriculture Research Center conducted crop trials on 10 vegetable species: corn, popcorn, bean, pepper, cucumber, tomato, eggplant, onion, zucchini and pumpkin, which totaled over 100 varieties. The Rota Agriculture Research Center conducted vegetable crop trials on 8 species: corn, popcorn, bean, zucchini, pumpkin, pepper, radish and tomato, resulting in 38 varieties.

Aquaculture Additionally, NMC CREES's Aquaculture Development Center had also successfully established its broodstock facility, developing a spawning program for egg production, working on egg fertilization and hatching issues, and now developing a feeding system for larva.

Social Science The NMC CREES Health/Nutrition program is currently conducting EFNEP programming, developing measurement standards for childhood obesity. The Family, Community, and Youth Development Program developed embryology, school gardens, community gardens, money management, and entrepreneurship activities.



MISSION

Northern Marianas College, through its commitment to student learning, provides high quality, affordable and accessible educational programs and services for the individual and people of the Commonwealth.

VISION

Northern Marianas College will serve as the engine to drive the economic growth and the social and cultural vitality of the Commonwealth.

