



CNMI Public School System

STUDENTS FIRST

September 2022

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A Stronger Interscholastic Sports Program

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Photos courtesy of NMIFA



Interscholastic Sports Programs Return Stronger

IMPACTED by either cancelations or suspensions of games due to the COVID-19 pandemic for more than a year, the CNMI Public School System's interscholastic sports programs came back stronger with a host of uninterrupted competitions this season.

The 2022-2023 athletic season kicked off with a series of All Schools Cross Country Races with the PSS Athletic Department teaming up with Northern Marianas Athletics in holding four preliminary events before capping the competition with the championship races. The NMA PSS All Schools Cross Country Championships conclude with more than 300 student-runners from elementary, middle, and high schools from Rota, Tinian, and Saipan braving the muddy and slippery course at the rain-soaked race held at the Saipan Country Club in Chalan Kiya.

From outdoor to indoor, student-athletes played at the Marianas High School Gymnasium for the high school girls volleyball and the middle school girls basketball leagues. The Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Association was the PSS Athletic Department's partner in holding the basketball league, which Francisco M. Sablan topped. Grace Christian Academy won the high school girls volleyball crown for the sixth time. The Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association ran the competition for the indoor volleyball event. Together, the girls high school volleyball and girls middle school basketball featured nearly 200 athletes and more than 20 school teams.

Over at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville, the PSS Athletic Department and the NMI Football Association had the Interscholastic Soccer League, offering competitions in the co-ed elementary and boys middle school. Eight schools teams joined the boys middle school contest with Tanapag Middle School taking the division title, while the co-ed elementary drew 18 teams from 12 schools. William S. Reyes Elementary School-2 prevailed in the finals against Garapan Elementary School-1.

Meanwhile, the PSS Athletic Department is now on its second-quarter programs, which include the Interscholastic Badminton League with the Northern Marianas Badminton Association, the IT&E Interscholastic Basketball League, co-ed elementary and girls high school, the Interscholastic Soccer League, boys high school division, and the girls middle school volleyball.

"It's been a fantastic season so far, with all our programs scheduled for the first and second quarter moving ahead as planned. We're truly pleased and excited that after the suspension of our program due to the pandemic, we are able to bring our students back to the court to enjoy different sports," PSS Athletic Director Nick Gross said.





NMTech Core instructor Luis Deleon Guerrero began teaching the elective construction class to the 20 select Tanapag Middle School students.

The Public School System's Career and Technical Education (CTE) Program's pioneering construction course for Tanapag Middle School began on October 26 on-site at the Northern Marianas Technical Institute (NMTech) campus.

This pilot construction course is an elective class for the twenty Tanapag Middle School grades 6, 7 and 8 students.

NMTech calls this the "CORE", an introduction to construction course that will run for eight months ending in June 2023.

The goal of this project is to ensure that public school students in the CNMI are prepared after high school and their future, said Dr. Jessica B. Taylor, PSS-CTE Program Director.

Dr. Taylor disclosed that the construction program is a career pathway that will lead to an industry certification by the not-for-profit education foundation, National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER).

NMTech Chief Executive Officer Jodina Attao expressed excitement about the program and its long-term success.

"We are glad that we are in partnership with the Public School System through the CTE Program, and that we are able to provide the necessary training and skills support

20 Public School Students Begin CTE Program on Construction at NMTech



NMTech CORE instructor Luis Deleon Guerrero gave TMS students the snapshot of the construction class.



From left, CTE Program Director Dr. Jessica Taylor, Dept. of Labor Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Director Frances Torres, TMS CTE Instructor Acelia Dela Cruz and acting Commissioner of Education Eric Magofna.

to our public school students," CEO Attao said during the NMTech orientation for the Tanapag Middle School parents and participating students.

Excited

"I am very excited (to learn the construction course)," said a seventh-grade TMS student.

Another student said that this course will help him with his plan after high school.

"This is a cool program. I (have always been) interested about construction," said another student.

The students will attend on-site construction classes at NMTech's Lower Base campus every Wednesdays and Friday.

The schedule will be from 1:20 pm to 2:20 pm.

NCCER licensed and highly trained NMTech CORE instructor Luis Deleon Guerrero will teach the class.

Throughout the duration of the eight-month program the 20 enrolled students will receive full transportation support to and from Tanapag Middle School to NMTech campus.

The students will be picked up from TMS at 1:20 pm. and will be dropped back to TMS at 2:30 pm.

During the orientation, CEO Attao also introduced NMTech faculty and staff members.

Acting Commissioner of Education Eric Magofna joined CTE Program Director Dr. Taylor and the Tanapag Middle School advisers in the formal opening of the program.

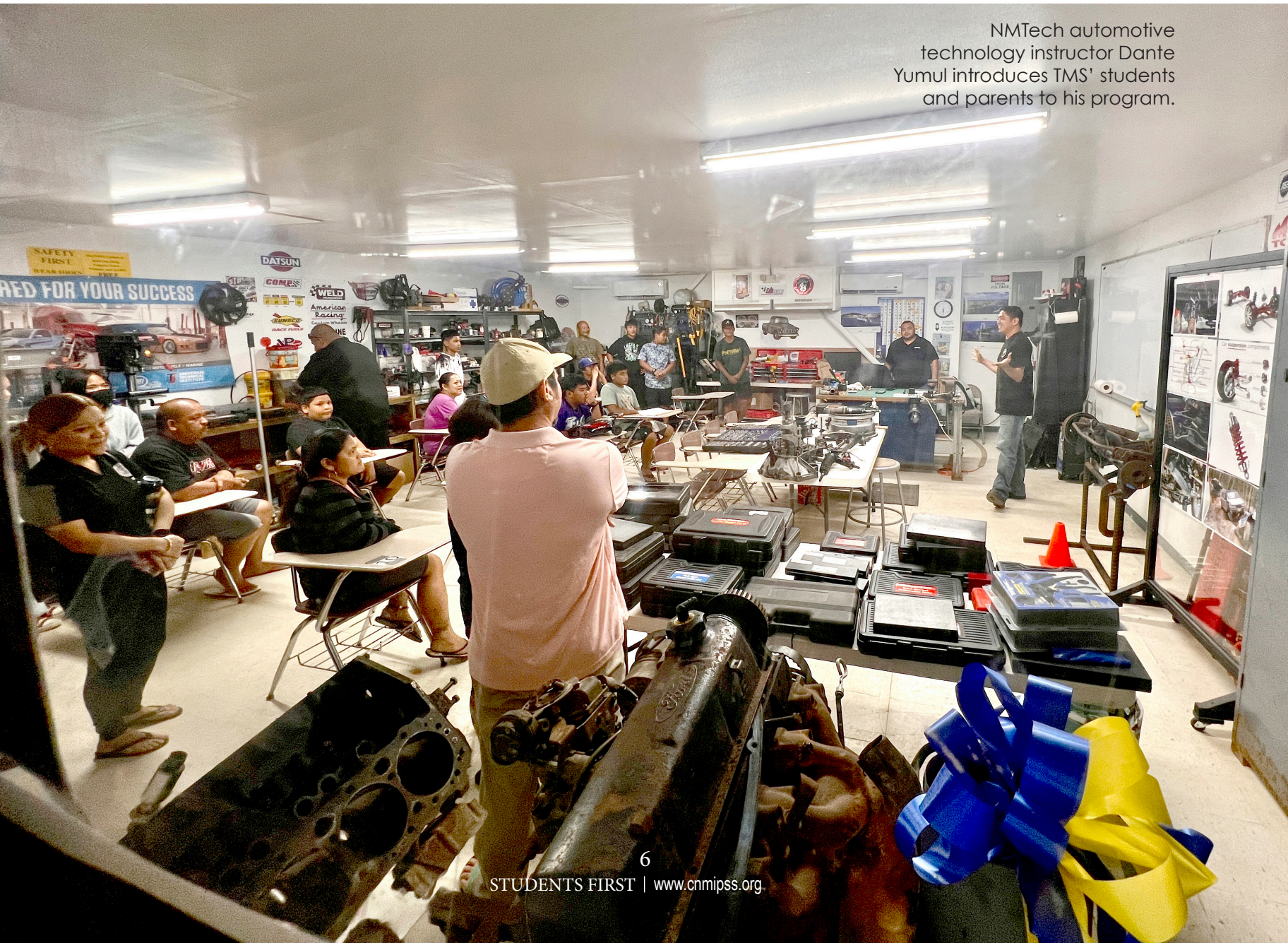
The Department of Labor's Director for Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act Frances Torres along with other partners also attended.

"They just loved it. Our students are very excited," says Dr. Taylor as she witnessed and observed the first day of the "Core" construction program.

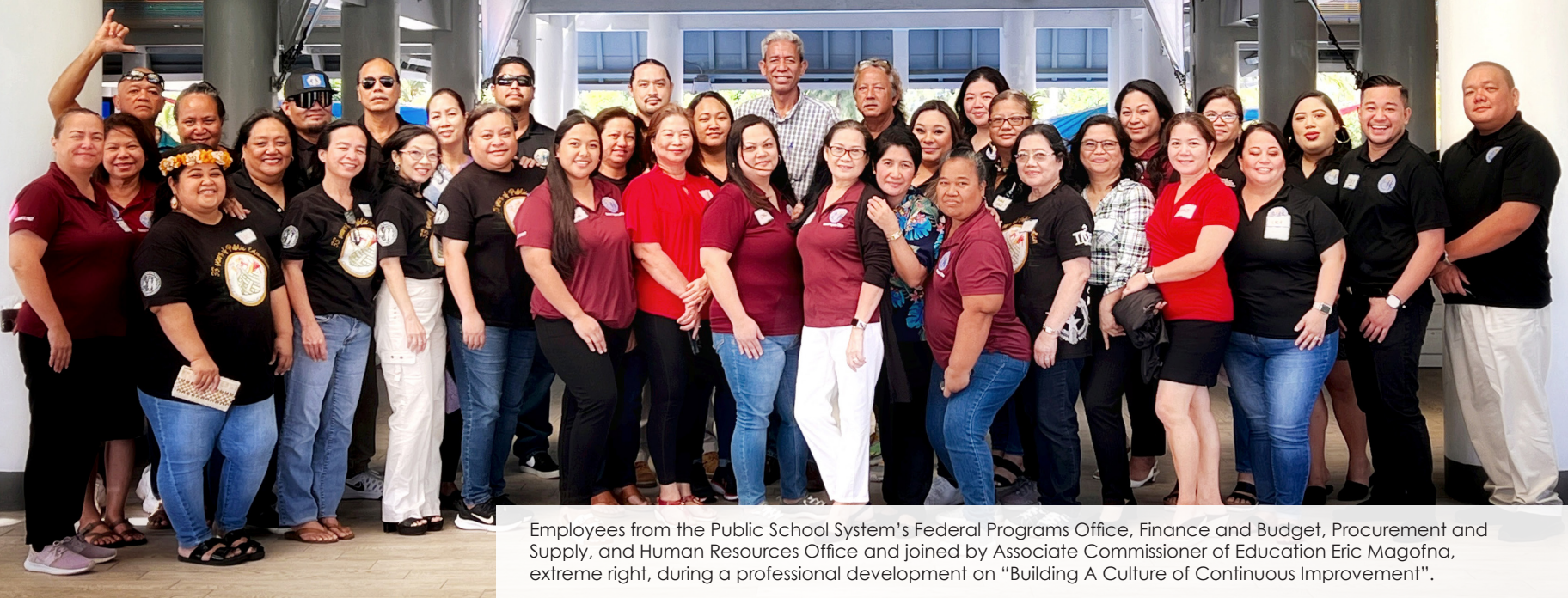
It was in the summer of 2021 when Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada and Dr. Taylor worked towards implementing several CTE Summer Schools Program. The construction program is the latest addition to the Nursing Assistantship Program, Teacher Academy Program, and Entrepreneurship Program, among others.

The Public School System said that these programs are designed to expand and reinforce core subject areas taught throughout public high schools.

NMTech automotive technology instructor Dante Yumul introduces TMS' students and parents to his program.



Public School System holds 'Building A Culture of Continuous Improvement' Professional Development



Employees from the Public School System's Federal Programs Office, Finance and Budget, Procurement and Supply, and Human Resources Office and joined by Associate Commissioner of Education Eric Magofna, extreme right, during a professional development on "Building A Culture of Continuous Improvement".

The Public School System's Federal Programs Office, Finance and Budget Division, Procurement and Supply and the Human Resources Office held a daylong professional development on October 28.

Close to 50 employees participated in the "Building A Culture of Continuous Improvement" which was designed to support the continuous improvement of the school district, in particular, the growth and learning of these critical and essential personnel.

"We will continue to support all of you and provide you with tools necessary for the seamless operation (of our school district) and for us to be able to maintain the level of service to our stakeholders of public education," Associate Commissioner of Education Eric Magofna told the training participants.

The professional development was held at the Pacific Islands Club. Speakers were the heads of all the four critical divisions – Federal Programs Office interim Director Jacqueline Che, Finance and Budget Director Arlene Lizama, and HRO Director Lucretia Borja Deleon Guerrero.

"This training is basically to bring together all these critical departments and provide the staff with

professional development to be able to sustain our 'continuous improvement culture,'" said HRO Director Deleon Guerrero.

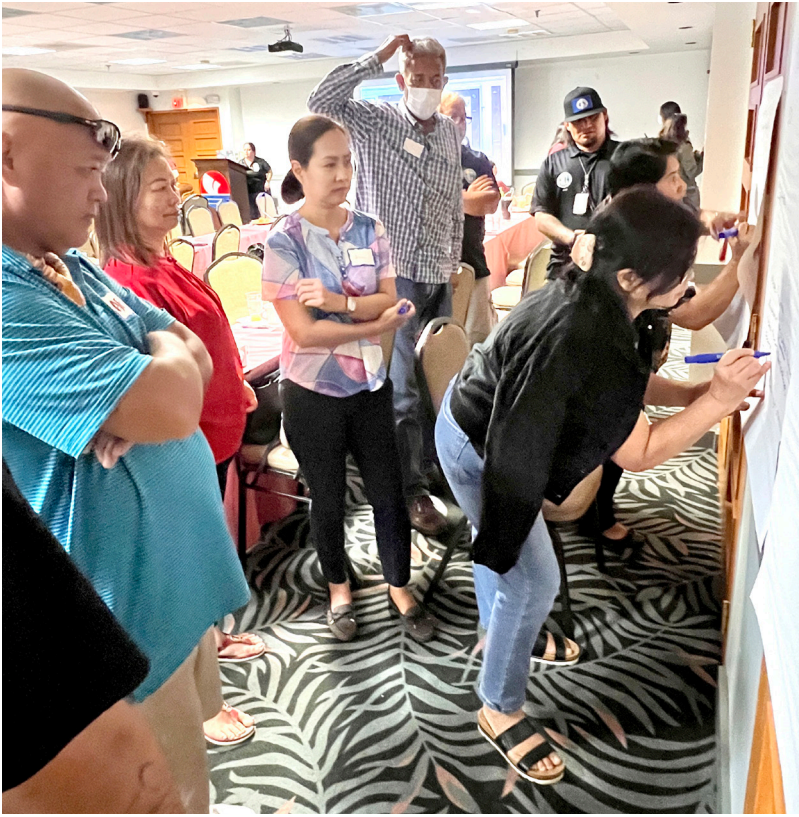
The HRO director the training was centered towards "efficiency and effectiveness" in the delivery of services to public education stakeholders. The learning and growth of PSS personnel responsible in the administration and operation work of central offices remain a priority, the HRO officer added

"This is also basically addresses the recommendations of our external auditors to continue the professional development to maintain that (level of strength) of our internal controls," she added.

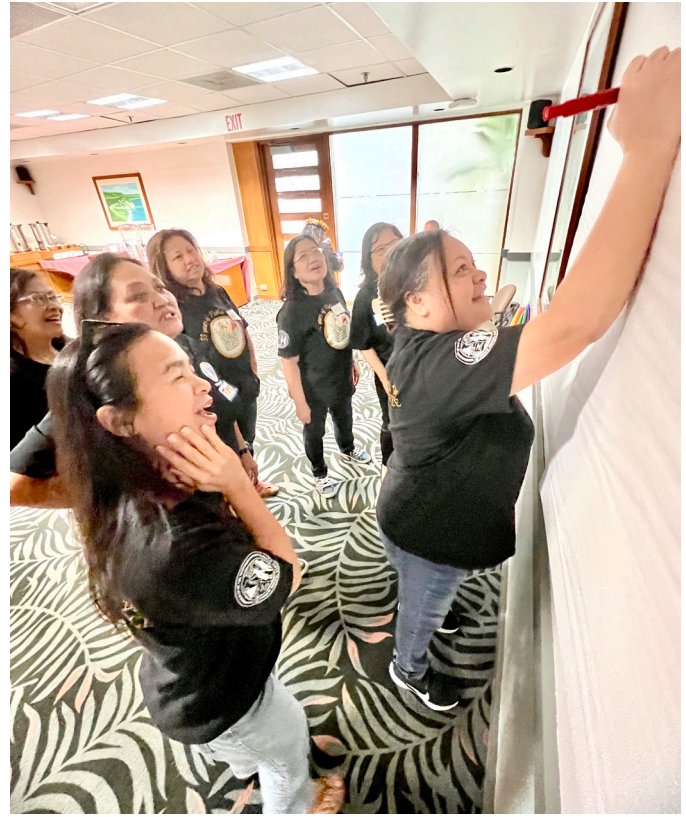
Audits conducted by the PSS external auditor in previous years cited the PSS "strong financial management" and has continued to recommend for the continuous training and learning of all staff and personnel.

During said professional development, teambuilding activities were also provided to all the 50 personnel. They were designed to address the strengths and challenges these personnel face daily.

"These activities help find solutions to improve our



The team building activities were designed to further improve the services it provides to public education stakeholders.



PSS Finance and Budget personnel participate in the team-building activities.

offices' operation," Deleon Guerrero said.

Finance and Budget Director Arlene Lizama said the PSS continues to function and render services because it invests in the growth and learning of its personnel.

"I cannot be more proud of these teams – Finance and Budget, Procurement and Supply, Federal Programs (Office) and Human Resources Office – you provide what is needed. You all work hard, and you understand the urgency of what is needed (to ensure that our PSS central office provides optimum service in the operation of our schools," Finance and Budget Director Lizama said in her talk.

The custodian of PSS' federal grants, the Federal Programs Office, also took part in the training.

Interim FPO Director Jacqueline Che said separately the training was about "cross-departmental collaboration, boost productivity of employee morale, build efficiency in several ways, including creating efficient workflow by identifying strengths and areas for improvement, which in turn help ease stress and allow for an improve and better service."

Che also said the training helps build trust and camaraderie among the critical divisions and departments.

"The (professional development) underscored how important it is to communicate and maintain an efficient flow of information so we can continue to put our students first," FPO interim Director Che added.

Since 2019, Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada has continually invested in the professional growth of all PSS personnel to support student learning.



Finance and Budget, Procurement and Supply and Human Resources personnel discuss areas they can collaborate.

PSS Head Start Program in NMI marks 38 years

The CNMI Head Start Program marked thirty-eight years of its establishment as provider of comprehensive early childhood education, health, nutrition, parent involvement programs and other services to low-income children and families in the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Head Start Program was established in the CNMI in the fall of 1984.

On October 4, Board of Education Chairman Gregory Pat Borja and Vice Chairman Antonio L. Borja led public education leaders and stakeholders in a proclamation signing declaring the month of October as Head Start Awareness Month.

It was held on Tinian.

Joining the two BOE officials were Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada, Associate Commissioner for Administrative Services Eric Magofna, Head Start/Early Head Start Program Director Lathania

DLG. Angui and Head Start Policy Council Chairman Jacob Lizama.

The Tinian proclamation was extra special with the attendance of the first Tinian Head Start Center director Magdalena Manglona Hofschneider.

In signing the proclamation, the Public School System and the Board of Education also joined the rest of the commonwealth in celebrating 58 years of Head Start Program's establishment in the nation.

President Lyndon B. Johnson launched the federal Head Start Program in 1965.

President Ronald Reagan signed the first Head Start Awareness Month Proclamation on October 22, 1982. Since then, the Commonwealth has dedicated October as the month to celebrate the early childhood program's impact in the community.

It was in the fall of 1984 when the CNMI-PSS Head



From left to right, BOE Vice Chairman Antonio L. Borja, Head Start and Early Head Start Program Director Lathania DLG. Angui, BOE Chairman Gregory Pat Borja, Head Start Policy Council Chairman Jacob Lizama, Tinian's first Head Start Center Director Magdalena Manglona Hofschneider, Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada and Associate Commissioner for Administrative Services Eric Magofna.



SPECIAL GUEST READERS

Every October, the Office of the Head Start celebrates Head Start Awareness. This year, it is back to basics and promoting what Head Start Program does, who it serve, and how the communities support children and families to succeed in school and life. On October 6, Board of Education Chairman Gregory Pat Borja (A photo) was guest reader for Tanapag Head Star Center students, while Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada, (B photo)) was guest reader for the students of Joaquina Mareham Rabauliman Head Start Center in Garapan. Both education leaders read the book, "The Way I Feel" and acted out the emotions in a positive manner, which is critical to their social-emotional learning.

Start/Early Head Start Program received the first Head Start grant award. It was awarded to the then-CNMI Dept. of Education.

For 38 years, it has served more than 17,000 children, according to Program Director Angui.

In 2015, the CNMI was awarded the Early Head Start Child Care Partnership Grant—and seven years later, the CNMI-PSS Head Start/Early Head Start Program remains the lone grantee in the outer Pacific to receive the multi-year grant award.

The program serves children ages 6 weeks to 3 years old.

Public School System, Pacific Education Leaders Meet on Guam



U.S. Dept. of Education-Office of Special Education officials Charlie Kniseley and Valerie Williams, third and fourth from left, respectively, poses with the CNMI Team: Data & Compliance Program Manager Nora Fujihira, Finance and Budget Director Arlene Lizama, Special Education Program Director Donna Flores, Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada, and Federal Programs Office's interim for Internal Control & Evaluation Marian Tudela.

The top education leaders from the Pacific, including the CNMI Public School System met for the National Center for System Improvement (NCSI) 2022 In-Person Pacific Collaborative Convening.

The U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) funds the NCSI.

The visit of these ranking education leaders was historic in nature.

Ranking officials from U.S. Department of Education-Office of Special Programs officials led by CNMI State Leader Charlie Kniseley and USDOE-OSEP Director Valerie Williams attended the five-day conference. This was held during the week of October 3-7.

It was first time for US DOE's Director for the Office of Special Education Williams to visit and meet leaders from the Pacific entities. Director Williams had the opportunity to dialogue and hear the different entities' accomplishments and concerns, said PSS Special Education Director Donna Flores.

Rorie Fitzpatrick, Sara Doutre, Mari Shikuzawa, Michele Rovins and Cesar D'Agord represented NCSI.

Tessie Bailey represented OSEP's partner from the American

Institutes for Research.

Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada, PSS Special Education Program Director Donna Flores, Budget and Finance Director Arlene Lizama, PSS-SPED Data and Compliance Program Manager Nora Fujihira, and Federal Program Office interim for Internal Control & Evaluation Marian Tudela attended the convening.

They joined their counterparts from Guam, Republic of Marshall Islands, Palau, American Samoa, and Federated States of Micronesia for the five-day in-person convening from October 3 to 7.

According to PSS Special Education Director Flores, several key critical topics were discussed. These include exploring OSEP's protocols for examining state special education programs as part of the Differentiated Monitoring System (DMS), the use of the OSEP protocols and NCSI tools to assess their entity's strengths and needs related to administering special education programs, ensuring compliance with Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, improving student outcomes, deepen collaborative relationships within the Pacific community and with OSEP, NCSI, and other technical assistances providers to help address common and unique challenges, and cultural practices and updated Discipline policy related to special education.



The National Center for System Improvement 2022 In-Person Pacific Collaborative Convening was held in Guam. Facilitated by U.S. Department of Education's Special, participants were from the CNMI, Guam, Republic of Marshall Islands, Palau, American Samoa and Federated States of Micronesia. In this photo, the CNMI team – standing back – from left, Special Education Director Donna Flores, PSS Finance and Budget Director Arlene Lizama, Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada, Special Education's Data & Compliance Program Manager Nora Fujihira, and Federal Program's Office's Marian Tudela were joined by, front row, left to right: Charlie Kniseley, USDOE-OSEP; Tessie Bailey, American Institute for Research/PROGRESS Center; Sara Doutre, NCSI; Mari Shikuzawa, NCSI; Michelle Rovins, NCSI; Cesar D'Agord, NCSI.



Redefining Parental Involvement

School District Successfully Host Largest Parents Summit

PARENTS and community involvement that is linked to improved student learning has a greater effect on achievement than more general forms of involvement.

This is a critical concept for PSS' interest in improving school-family-community connections to improve students learning.

When the Public School System hosted this month its 2022 Parent Summit – Parent, Teacher and Student Association (PTSA) leaders – from all of 20 elementary, middle and high school campuses and that from the Head Start/Early Head Start and Special Education Programs – it was to provide guidance through a professional development that engages these parent-leaders in conversations that are important to continually improve PSS' programs and initiatives for the 10,000 students throughout Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

In his address, Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada praised parents as public education's number one partner.

"You are our greatest partner in the success of what we do as primary the provider of public education in the CNM. Thank You for working with us in ensuring we provide optimum learning opportunities to your children," Dr. Ada, the chief state school superintendent said.

He encouraged parents to start thinking about the future: future-focused, Dr. Ada puts it succinctly.

"PSS is a family, and as part of this family and as we move forward, let's start thinking future focus. What would family look like? What would our role be in the education of our children in the future?" notes Dr. Ada.

The education chief has also praised Family and Community Engagement Program Coordinator Liela Yumul for her leadership and dedication in the successful staging of the summit.

"I would like to congratulate Liela Yumul and her team for putting this great summit. Your leadership means to us and to our parents," Commissioner Ada said.

Learning Opportunity

The Family and Community Engagement Program of the school district has been at the forefront in initiating initiatives that brings about increase parental engagement and participation in student learning. The goal, according to the program's director, Liela Yumul, is for parents to continue to get involved in the

learning process of their child.

Parents agree. The activities such as the PSS Parent Summit are actually learning opportunities for them.

"I learned a lot. Actually, this is very helpful for me," says a Garapan parent with children attending Garapan Elementary School and Head Start.

For a parent leader from Tanapag Middle School, she said PSS never fails to ensure that parents are involved. Through the Family and Community Engagement Program and PAC, she said PSS has provided parents with workshop and training designed to arm parents with information and techniques to encourage engagement.

"I have (participated) many times in the past and I truly love the activity," said the parent.

The parent summit was a forum for parents to share ideas or recommendations to the school district's policymakers on how to better provide opportunities of partnership and collaboration.

'Parents Empowers School Community'

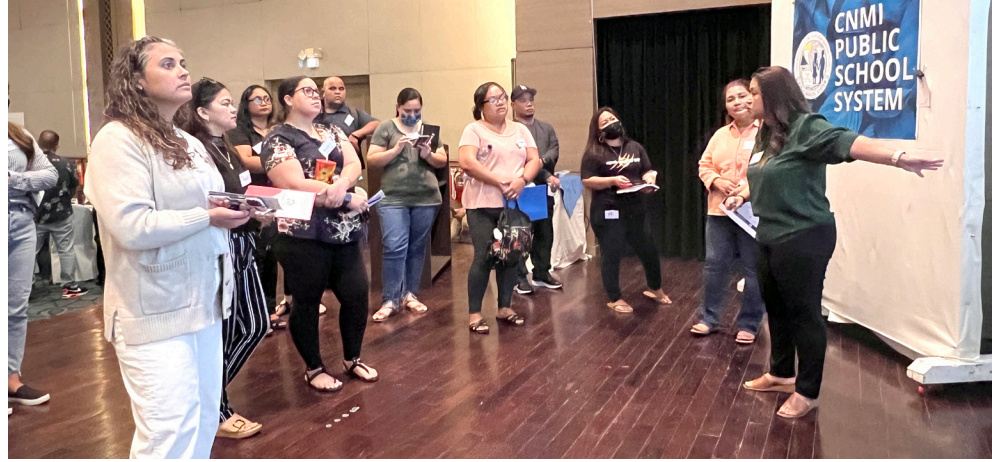
In his talk, Rota Board of Education member Herman Atalig said parents empowers the school community.

"To parents, you are the frontline in our children's education. I commend you. I salute you," said Board Member Atalig, the most senior member of the policymaking body of PSS.

He noted how challenging it is for parents to gather given the competing priorities they have to face with everyday.

"I want to express how deeply thankful I am because of what you all do: You are part of the equation that would accomplish our mission."





He said the parent summit is a perfect forum that allows parents to continue to make a difference in the lives of public school students.

State Parents Advisory Council President John Oliver Gonzales also praised parents for their "timeless responsibility".

"We have our timeless responsibility, our fiduciary responsibilities at home. The sacrifices that you've done today will make you (enjoy) tomorrow," PAC President Gonzales said.

"You have better sons and daughters because of your love and hard work," he added.



Annrita Benavente, Behavioral Health Specialist, with the SOS Training Team working alongside Hopwood Middle School Peer Leaders and Adult Advisors, Femie Rey and Ma. Jyn Binghit visualize their sources of strength for an illustration activity.

PSS Mental Health Introduces Sources of Strength Wellness Model to Adult Advisors, Pilot Schools

DURING the last two weeks of September, the Public School System Project HALIGI AWARE conducted the district's first Sources of Strength Adult Advisor and Peer Leader Training. The training sessions were facilitated in partnership with SOS National Trainers Mish Moore and Dan Adams.

Sources of Strength (SOS) is a strength-based suicide prevention program with evidence-based practices in preventative upstream and intervention outcomes. The program provides a framework to empower students through outlets of connection, hope, help, and strength. The SOS model focuses on eight protective factors: family support, positive friends, mentors, healthy activities, generosity, spirituality, physical health, and mental health.

The implementation of SOS will begin with identified pilot schools across all three islands: Hopwood Middle School, Marianas High School, Tinian Junior/Senior High School, and Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior/Senior High School.

There will be a total of 70 participating students.

During the training, Tinian Junior Senior High School student, J. Futon shared his observation.



Marianas High School Counselor Kelly Demapan with the SOS Training Team and leading an illustration activity with MHS' peer leaders and adult advisors.



Frank Lee Borja, Community Project Manager- LEA Tinian, taking the lead in the SOS wellness model and group activities with Tinian Jr.&Sr. and Dr. Rita Hocog Inos High School peer leaders.



Sources of Strength Training Team Leads Adult Advisor Training



Hopwood Middle School Peer Leaders & Adult Advisors



Marianas High School Peer Leaders & Adult Advisors



Tinian Jr/Sr High School & Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr/Sr High School Peer Leaders & Adult Advisors

"It is a great opportunity especially for the teens to help spread awareness and I strongly believe that it is something we need to focus on. Some people may not carry their weight well but Sources of Strength helps young individuals when times get hard. I definitely look forward to more future activities with this program," he said.

The program offers students an opportunity to seek empowerment through setting positive goals, values, and virtues. The program aims to target a diverse group of youth to leverage their personal and collective leadership qualities to positively impact their community.

Participating adult advisor, Jonathan Cabrera, said: "As a newly trained adult advisor, I am ready to support and work with our student leaders as they draw on Sources of Strength to effect positive change at Marianas High School."

PSS Mental Health expresses their sincerest gratitude to the collaborative efforts of our PSS Sources Strength Training Team, the supporting pilot schools and their participating students, and National Trainers Mish Moore and Dan Adams for a very successful introduction to Sources of Strength in the district's mental health program! For more information on Sources of Strength, you may visit the website: <http://sourcesofstrength.org>.

To stay updated on more mental health help, tips, and the PSS Project HALIGI AWARE Program, you may follow the program on social media at Project HALIGI AWARE on Facebook and YouTube and @haligi.aware on Instagram.

Education Experts Working with School District on Early Reading Interventions

Guella yan Guello kao siña maloffan guini gi tano
Guella yan Guello ná'i ham ánimu ni' taotao-mu
I taotao táno' guini gi tano'-mu
I manchamoru
O Sainan-mámi Si Yu'os Ma'áse'
O Sainan-mámi Si Yu'os Ma'áse'
Ná'i ham ánimu ni' hinanao-mámi
Giha mo'na i kareran-mámi
Ta na'fanlá'la' i lina'la yan i taotao-ta
O Sainan-mámi Si Yu'os Ma'áse'
O Sainan-mámi Si Yu'os Ma'áse'
got ham pá'go na inetnon
Belpá'go pá'go na inetnon
Ta na'fanlá'la' i lina'la yan i taotao-ta
O Sainan-mámi Si Yu'os Ma'áse'
O Sainan-mámi Si Yu'os Ma'áse'
Ginen hágu este siha

THE Public School Systems has successfully worked with education experts from the Regional Education Laboratory Pacific (REL Pacific) for an intensive early reading intervention training session.

The early reading intervention training was initiated to support and assist the school district with its ongoing work to improve the reading levels of public school students.

Facilitated by four of REL Pacific's experts and researchers, the training on the "Understanding Current and Desired Early Reading Intervention Practices (Coaching)" was directly tailored and focused on the earliest grades – from Kindergarten to third grade public school students in the CNMI. Education experts consider these grade levels as the most critical learning stage wherein students begin to develop their literacy foundation.



Experts from Regional Education Laboratory Pacific (REL Pacific), seated front row, from left to right, Natasha Saelua, Dr. Christina Tydeman, and Erin D'Amelio, extreme right, and REL-Pacific adviser for the CNMI Leo Pangelinan, third left, standing, are joined by public education leaders: Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada, Senior Director for Curriculum and Instructions Jackie Quitugua, Senior Director for Accountability, Research and Evaluation Dr. Rizalina Liwag, Project Director for State Longitudinal Data System Annette Pladevega-Sablan, Chamorro and Carolinian Heritage Studies Program Director Jonas Barcinas, English Language Arts Coordinator Amy Blanco, Research and Evaluation Program Manager Trini MacDuff, Principal Representative for elementary schools Paulette Tomokane, and Middle School Principals Representative James Sablan.

"We are working closely with the (PSS) in figuring out ways to build the culture of data use among the schools," said Erin D'Amelio, one of the principal researchers of REL-Pacific.

"What we have (observed from the two days that we were here) is (that existing research and practices) are aligned very well with the priorities of the system and the goals the Commissioner of Education (Dr. Alfred B Ada) had set out for public schools to improve both academically and behavioral outcomes," D'Amelio told Students First in an interview.

The October 13-14 session was the first of six in-person intensive training that REL Pacific will be initiating. For nearly three years, trainings and sessions were held virtually due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Joining D'Amelio were REL Pacific experts Dr. Christina Tydeman, Natasha Saelua, and adviser for the CNMI, Leo Pangelinan, the current executive director of the NMI Humanities Council.

Participants were education leaders that included Commissioner of Education Dr. Ada, Senior Director for Curriculum and Instruction Jackie Quitugua, Senior Director for Accountability, Research and Evaluation Dr. Rizalina Liwag, Project Director for State Longitudinal Data System Annette Pladevega-Sablan, Chamorro and Carolinian Heritage Studies Program Director Jonas Barcinas, English Language Arts Coordinator Amy Blanco, Elementary Schools Principal Representative Paulette Tomokane, and Middle School Principal Representative James Sablan.

The PSS Offices of Curriculum and Instruction, Accountability, Research and Evaluation and Student Support Services initiated the training.

Technical Support, Research

In the coming month, REL Pacific will be conducting five more intensive sessions, according to D'Amelio.

She explained that the sessions are "really focused on early literacy and how we use data to support decision making related to intervention and instruction."

"All of our sessions are to be crowded around figuring how do we make sustainable change as it aligns to PSS' goal of receiving technical support (from us) and for PSS to provide intensive support training to (all of its stakeholders involved to) help improve student learning," adds D'Amelio.

These are "aimed to build up on one another and focused both on technical assistance support and research".

During the session, D'Amelio and her team were able to "make sure that the school district's direction for growth and Commissioner of Education (Dr. Ada's) goals on student learning and student success continue to be "workable and achievable."

"The commissioner of education (Dr. Ada) has a larger goal which is to support early literacy, focusing on earliest grades because it is when (a child begins to develop) the foundation of learning and understanding."

Another REL Pacific researcher, Natasha Saelua, said the training is for PSS to "provide support for students who may need to increase reading literacy".

SGM Herman Manglona Atalig JROTC Building



Education and Rota community leaders including Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada, acting Board of Education Chairman Antonio L. Borja of Tinian, Saipan Board Member Andrew L. Orsini, Teacher Rep. Phyllis Ain, Non-Public School Rep. Dr. Ronald Snyder, Associate Commissioner Eric Magofna, Dr. Rita H. Inos Jr. Sr. High School Principal D. Tanya King, Senior Directors Jackie Quitugua, Dr. Rizalina Liwag and Dr. Yvonne R. Pangelinan, Mayor Efraim Atalig, House Ways and Means Chairman Donald Manglona, Rota municipal officials gather to celebrate with retired Sgt. Major Herman M. Atalig in the renaming of the Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Jr. Sr. High School JROTC annex building in his honor.

RHI's JROTC Building is Now SGM Herman Manglona Atalig Building

BEFORE a proud community, retired Sgt. Maj. Herman Manglona Atalig witnessed the formal renaming of the Dr. Rita Hocog Inos Junior Senior High School in his honor.

This was held on October 21.

Atalig is the current Board of Education member representing Rota. He is the most-senior member of the policymaking and governing body of the Public School System.

Education leaders including Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada, acting Board of Education Chairman Antonio L. Borja of Tinian, Saipan Board Member Andrew L. Orsini, Teacher Rep. Phyllis Ain, Non-Public School Rep. Dr. Ronald Snyder joined family members, stakeholders and the Rota community in renaming the RHI JROTC annex building.

The renaming was to recognize retired Sgt. Maj. Atalig for his "untiring and outstanding contributions to the Public School System and to the people of the Commonwealth", according to Rota Local Law 22-10 that was signed by Governor Ralph DLG. Torres last July 25, 2022.

Senator Teresita A. Santos introduced it, as Senate Local Bill 22-13.

Atalig began serving the nation at the age of 20 when he was drafted and serve as infantry point man during the Vietnam War.

He also served during the Panama invasion.

Rota education stakeholders and community members gather to unveil the name building name.





Ret. Sgt. Major Atalig's family.



Rota's JROTC cadets gave the honoree, ret. Sgt. Major Herman M. Atalig a full honor during Friday's renaming ceremony

With nearly 30 years of active duty, he also served in various capacities that included as Republic of Korea Marine Ranger and Recondo School instructor; senior drill sergeant instructor and Rutgers University ROTC instructor; sergeant major inspector general; operation sergeant major for forces command; and senior army enlisted advisor for the reserve component on Guam.

When he returned to Rota, he became the senior army instructor at RHI and served for 16 years.



Education leaders including Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada, members of the Board of Education, in particular, acting Chairman Antonio L. Borja of Tinian, Saipan Board Member Andrew L. Orsini, Teacher Rep. Phyllis Ain, Non-Public School Rep. Dr. Ronald Snyder, Dr. Rita H. Inos Junior Senior High School Principal D. Tanya King and BOE staff Valerie Malwelbug, Nikita Robert, and Robert Coldeen gather around ret. Sgt. Maj. Herman M. Atalig, the current BOE member of Rota.



The new SGM Herman Manglona Atalig JROTC Building.