

CNMI Public School System

STUDENTS FIRST

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SUMMER EDITION



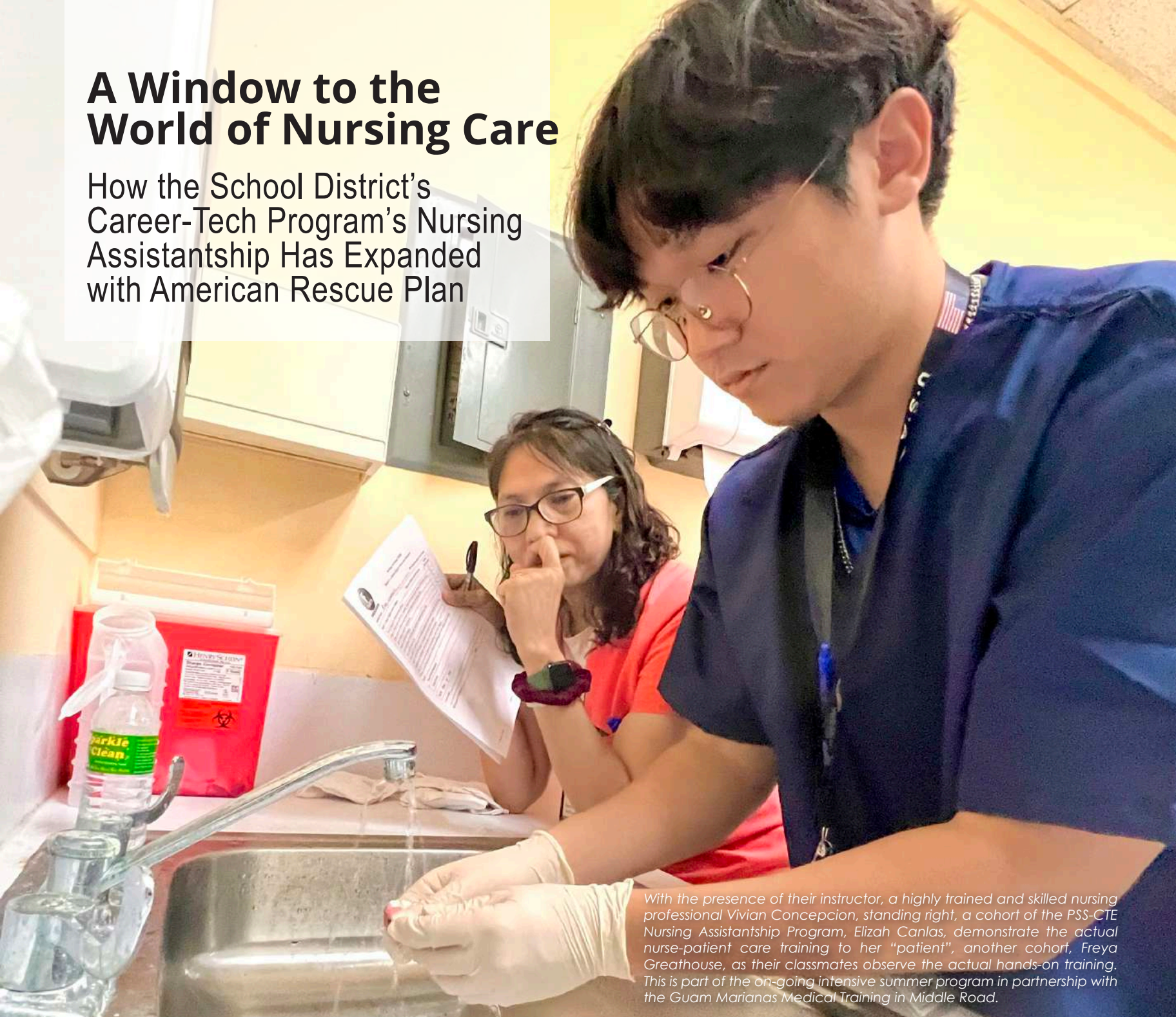
HOW AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN REENGAGES STUDENTS WITH SUMMER SCHOOL PROGRAMS IN THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS



Building Local Capacity • A Window to The World of Nursing Care • Merchant Marine Career for High School Graduates • Teacher Training for Students

A Window to the World of Nursing Care

How the School District's Career-Tech Program's Nursing Assistantship Has Expanded with American Rescue Plan



With the presence of their instructor, a highly trained and skilled nursing professional Vivian Concepcion, standing right, a cohort of the PSS-CTE Nursing Assistantship Program, Elizah Canlas, demonstrate the actual nurse-patient care training to her "patient", another cohort, Freya Greathouse, as their classmates observe the actual hands-on training. This is part of the on-going intensive summer program in partnership with the Guam Marianas Medical Training in Middle Road.

New Locally Certified Nursing Assistants

TWENTY-ONE public and private high school students will become certified nursing assistants (CNAs), allowing them to fill the burgeoning shortage of nurses and medical professionals currently facing the local healthcare sector in the Northern Marianas.

At the same time, the training they received can also be credited if they pursue a college degree relating to the medical field, according to the Public School System's Career Technical and Education Program.

The CNA Program was piloted in 2020 by the PSS-CTE Program to create an additional career/workforce pathway for local students.

This year saw an uptick in student participation: 21 students from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. It began with 15 students three years ago.

This is a tuition-free intensive summer program that started on June 20, and the students were provided with g scrub suits and stethoscopes as well as stipends/allowances and free meals.

Student Xinwen Jin demonstrate the actual cleaning of "denture" in the presence of his nursing instructor, Vivian Concepcion, a highly trained and skilled nursing professional. This is part of the patient care training they received from the PSS-CTE Nursing Assistantship Program.





Seventeen of the 21 students-cohorts of the PSS-CTE Certified Nursing Assistantship Program.

The participants are junior high school, senior high school, incoming college freshmen, or current college students.

Federal support

The PSS-CTE career pathway programs, including the CNA Program, received funding support when President Joseph Biden signed the American Rescue Plan Act in 2021.

The ARP Act led to a historic investment to the nation's education system in response to the COVID-19 pandemic to keep schools safely open, tackle learning loss and mental health.

In March 2022, the U.S. Dept. of Education announced that the CNMI-PSS comprehensive ARP spending plan "was one of the first to be received and approved". The U.S. DOE recommended that school districts in all the other territories "model" PSS' approach.

The CNA Program is a partnership between PSS and the Guam Marianas Training Center. Instructions are conducted by trained and working nursing professionals. Classes are from Mondays to Saturdays, from 8 am to 3 pm at the GMTC Middle Road facility.

The other career pathway programs are the Teacher Academy, which is in partnership with the College of Education of the Northern Marianas College, the Northern Marianas Technical Education Summer Tech Program, and the pioneering Summer Internship Program, which is a partnership with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, among others.

College credits

The CNA Program is designed to offer college-credited courses to high school students. Saipan Southern High School student Joann Garcia, 18, said it is "a very good opportunity for a lot of students who would like to join the medical field or those who want to find their career."

"This is a great opportunity especially for me since I'm an upcoming junior and will start applying for (college), and

also start thinking what I am going to do for the rest of my life," Garcia told Students First.

Since middle school, Joshua Revillame, 17, has been interested in the nursing profession. "Once I heard of this program, it caught my interest immediately."

Incoming high school senior Elishah Mae Valdez, 17, heard about the program from her aunt, a CHCC nurse.

"This program has really engaged me with interesting topics. As a whole, this is a great experience," she added.

Incoming junior high school student Kaeli Pathil, 17, said her school supported her pre-college plan. She immediately signed up after receiving an email from her school counselor. "I am happy PSS has this program because it gives me the opportunity to know more about nursing," she said.

Incoming junior high school student Daryl Santiago, 16, said the program will help him prepare for college. "I wanted to be a nurse in the future because it is my dream, and I am starting it early," he said.

Another high school student Elizah Canlas, 16, wants to be a travel nurse. "I am looking at the travel nurse program because I can go around places. But I really do want to be a nurse and help out with my family first and foremost," she added.

Additional knowledge

Bea Villafuerte, 19, a pre-nursing student at Northern Marianas College, said: "This is a great opportunity for me... because...I can gain more knowledge and experience while taking a nursing course. I think this is a great start to know how it's like to work at the hospital."

She heard about the CNA program from a friend who completed it the previous year.

John Lawrence Apit, 18 and a pre-nursing student at NMC, said he joined the program "because I am interested in getting a CNA license."



Bea Villafuerte



Joan Garcia



Serin Chung



Elizah Canlas



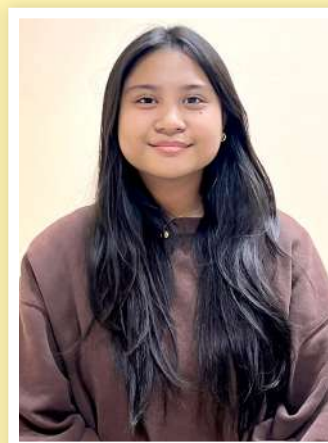
John Lawrence Apit



Saim Ali



Joshua Revillame



Elishah Mae Valdez



Xinwen Jin



Kevin Bao



Kyla Macabanti



Jamille Pangelinan



Jazreel Dylon



Kaeli Pathil



Daryl Santiago



Joana Nicole Acuña Signio

Board of Education Vice Chairman Herman Atalig, standing second right, paid a visit on Saturday the students-cohorts at the Guam Memorial Training Center.



"Several of my friends have gotten their licenses already and they have high praises for the program. They told to me that this is a great opportunity for me to start with," he said.

"I am honestly happy that PSS allows students to experience the different areas of the workforce while providing us with multiple opportunities," he added.

Tinian High School's Class of 2023 salutatorian, Saim Ali, 19, is now an associate in nursing student at NMC.

He said the CNA summer program is "a needed resource and support" for students like him.

The CNA program gave spark to my learning," he added. "Once I get certified, I can start working and at the same time gain more knowledge when I begin my college nursing course."

Ali described the summer program as "rigorous."

"We are learning a lot of information," he said. "It's challenging and difficult sometimes, but this is what we need if we want to be nursing professionals."

He noted that Tinian needs more nurses. "PSS is actually encouraging the youth to try this career because this is especially helpful for Tinian where nurses are in great demand," he said.

Jazreel Drilon, 17, signed up for the program before graduating from high school. She is now an incoming NMC freshman. "I was interested because they offer college credits and I can learn from professionals working at the hospital," she said.

A second year NMC pre-nursing student, Kayla Macabanti, 18, signed up to "get additional skills and knowledge" through the one-month program.

"I learned about it from a friend who completed the program last summer. She inspired me to join. She is already in nursing," Macabanti said. "This program is helping me a lot in my college pre-nursing course."

Another NMC student, Jamille Pangelinan, 19, said the CNA program "will enhance my skills and learning in the medical field."

Joana Nicole Acuña Signio, 18 and an incoming NMC sophomore, said the program "has provided me with opportunities, knowledge, and information that I will need in my future. This program is great, and I really love it."

She said the program was designed to "give students hands-on experience that can be applied to the real world."

Private school students

This year, several private school students also signed up for the CNA program.

Saipan International School's Serin Chung, 16, is one of them.

"I want a career in the medical field and when I saw this opportunity, I just thought it would be a great chance to gain some insight of what it's like," said Chung, who added that her friend from Marianas High School told her about the program.

"The program is interesting and kind of challenging as well. But I am enjoying it," she added.

Kevin Bao, 17, one of the two Mount Carmel School students in the program, said it will help him decide which career path to take.

"I want to try out how nursing is like and if it is the right path for me," Bao added.

The other MCS student, Xinwen Jin, 18, said he is "extremely happy that PSS has extended this program to private schools."

"My goal is to become a nurse, and this is a good opportunity to learn and get used to it and get nursing experience," said Jin, who heard about the program from his teacher. "It's a good experience because it's my first time attending classes with fellow students from Rota and Tinian," he added.

For more information about the PSS-CTE career pathways program, email the program director, Dr. Jessica B. Taylor, at jessica.taylor@cnmipss.org/.



Historic First 10 Midshipmen Graduate from Western Pacific Maritime Academy

THE Public School System made history when ten students from Kagman High School and Da'ok Academy graduated from the Western Pacific Maritime Academy. The students are the pioneer cohorts of the merchant marine program jointly initiated by the school district and the Northern Marianas Technical Institute.

At the June 17 ceremony, the students received their Merchant Marine Credential and basic certifications in various tasks on a ship, such as personal survival techniques, first aid, and designated duties among others.

Capt. Michael Bacher, who organizes training at WPMA, presented the graduates their credentials and certifications.

The 10 midshipmen are Leanalyn Reyes, Marvin Reyes, Michael Tomakane, William Priest, Landon Delos Reyes, Canfrancia Fitia, Tristan Manglona, Anita Perez, Jonathan Ringuel, and Simkap Wabol.





WSPA has partnered with PSS through the Career Technical and Education Program and NMTECH, to offer a full curriculum of U.S. Coast Guard-approved maritime courses and services.

The curriculum and program offered is the first U.S. Coast Guard-approved course in the Northern Mariana Islands.

"We made history today. NMTECH and PSS' partnership with Western Pacific Maritime Academy graduated the first cohort of our sea cadets," Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada said.

"The 10 students from KHS and Da'ok Academy are our pioneers to the program. As a result of their successful certification, we will recruit more students into the program," the education chief said as he congratulated CTE Program Director Dr. Jessica Taylor for the historic feat.

A midshipman from Kagman High School, Leanalyn Reyes described a career in the maritime industry will

allow her to explore the world and help my family.

During the course of the program, the 10 cohorts were able to earn various certifications.

Capt. Bacher said that it costs approximately \$3,600 to educate an entry level maritime industry employee, but a mariner can "double that in the first month at sea."

"Ten mariners cost \$40,000. Those mariners will bring about half a million into the CNMI economy in the first year alone," he added.

Da'ok Academy Principal Christine Tudela praised her students for their successful completion of the first ever maritime academy program.

In her remarks, Principal Tudela said: "This (is a new) kind of pathway that really gives a new life and opportunity for our students and their families."

Six of the 10 midshipmen are from Da'ok Academy.

Local Businesses Open Doors to Student Interns



SIXTY public school students are receiving hands-on job training from several local businesses and organizations as part of the Public School System-Saipan Chamber of Commerce summer internship program.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is now working with these industry partners (business partners) of possibly extending the internship throughout the new school year, praising "the invaluable experience given to young adults who will soon approach adult career responsibilities".

The school district's CTE Program launched the summer internship last June in partnership with SCC to support the need to educate, train, and prepare students for the local job sector, both entities said.

Student Khate Bernardo, 17, of Marianas High School, is being guided by Bank of Saipan teller Melanie Basa in her summer internship work. Bank of Saipan is supporting the PSS-SCC local workforce summer internship program.



Samantha Mangalinao

These businesses are AP Group, LCC, Bank of Saipan, Coca-Cola Beverage Company, Transpacific International Inc., Marianas Pacific Distributors Inc., Paradise Dental Spa, PHI Pharmacy, Plumeria Steak House, Triple J Enterprises Inc. and Pacifica Insurance.

Also participating in the program are the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp., PSS and the Chamber of Commerce itself.

These students-interns are placed at job categories and positions that are existing in various industries in the CNMI.

The job positions are administrative assistant, administrative support, teller assistant, ancillary intern for physical therapy, ancillary intern for respiratory therapy, ancillary intern for radiology, ancillary intern for pharmacy, ancillary intern for laboratory, front desk clerk, sales representative, assistant, merchandiser assistant, pharmacy assistant, waiter/waitress, kitchen helper, general helper/maintenance, barista, cook helper, marketing assistant, administrative/customer service, graphic assistant, accounting assistant, and dental assistant.

Local capacity

The Chamber of Commerce and PSS, through its Career and Technical Education or CTE program, merged and expanded their existing workforce initiatives to give students a “real-world work experience” during an extended period of time.

The main goal of their partnership is to build local capacity, and its slogan is “Building Local Capacity One Student at a Time.”

“We really want to take this to the next level and provide [students] a longer job experience,” SCC Executive Director Kimberly C. Camacho said.

“We created this internship program with PSS for our students to learn and experience working with our industry partners for the whole summer,” she added.

She said SCC reached out to PSS-CTE Program Director Dr. Jessica Taylor, who has managed several career-oriented programs. PSS-CTE and Taylor’s guidance is invaluable, Camacho added.

Two years ago, the CTE program received funding support under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 when it was enacted to keep schools safely open, tackle learning loss and mental health, as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic

Happy

Khate Bernardo, 17, is an intern at Bank of Saipan. She said she signed up “for experience and to [build] my résumé.”

“I am happy that PSS and the Chamber of Commerce has this kind of program,” she added.



Enoch Pamintuan



The lead organizing entity, Saipan Chamber of Commerce, with interns Malina Rose B. Tenorio, Xinyi (Rain) Ni, and Elialyn Castro. They are joined by SCC Executive Director Kimberly C. Camacho.



Jenny Lin and Fei Fei

Aldrich Velasco



Aaron Velasco Jr.



Another Bank of Saipan intern, Huiyun Park, wants to "experience and explore different things.... I find [the job] interesting. A lot of work to do but I think it's fun."

Kagman High School student Lyticia Sanchez, 17, is an intern at the art department of Marianas Pacific Distributors Inc. or Marpac.

"Before I was really unsure if I wanted to pursue something in art, but now, I am pretty sure that I want to," she said.

"This is a great experience, and I will recommend it to my friends and classmates. This is a great way to gain memories and experience what you will pursue in the future."

Samantha Mangalinao, 16, an incoming junior at MHS, is an administrative assistant intern at Marpac's office of the general manager.

"I didn't want to stay at home the whole time this summer and do nothing," she said. When she learned about the internship program, and the job experiences it offers, she signed up because "it gives us the needed support for our future career."

Good workplace

At PHI Pharmacy, Nicole Sundiam, 15, of Kagman High School receives prescriptions from customers and helps keep records.

"I am really happy because this is a good workplace," she said.

"I will recommend [the program] to anyone who wants to experience possible career choices. It's different for everyone. No matter where you get placed at, you can get enough work experience so you will end up working somewhere you enjoy."

Aaron Velasco Jr., a 16-year-old student of Marianas High School, is a pharmacy assistant at PHI Dandan.

"I am happy that I am part of this program because I do need to experience the job of being a pharmacist," Velasco said.

His brother Aldrich, 18, also from MHS, is working with him at PHI Dandan.



One of the interns at Pacific Insurance Underwriters, Inc. Jhaylin Cruz, 16, is proud of the guidance he receives from the company employees: Jessica Sablan, Tess Gella, Dionne Camacho, Jane Madarang, and Tyler Yoshimoto.

"This program is great — it gives me an opportunity to learn and get the experience I need for my future," Aldrich Velasco said.

At Paradise Dental Clinic, four student interns work at the front desk or as dental assistants.

Jenny Lin, 18, of MHS, is one of them. "I joined the internship program because I want to gain more experience that can help me build more self-confidence," she said. "Now I know how it goes. I feel really confident about this job now."

Fei Fei Lei, 18, also of MHS, works with Lin. She said she's happy that she "has gained a lot of experience by working as an intern."

Another intern, Enoch Pamintuan, 15, said: "It's a pretty good job here. I wanted to work for the hospital, but I feel like it's way better here."

Exploring opportunities

Malina Rose Tenorio, 16, of Mount Carmel School is one of the three students working as interns at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce office.

She said she wants to explore opportunities and gain experience.

"I want to build up my résumé and really learn before I start college," she added. The internship, she said, is "very enriching and very insightful."

Another intern, Elialyn Castro, 16, of MHS, said: "This is a good opportunity. I never would have thought I would enjoy office work. I love making calls, and experiencing what the chamber does in reaching out to businesses and the community."

Castro also participated in a PSS customer service training. "I realized now how important customer service is and how much customer service is involved in everyday work," Castro said.

Great experience

Keaulei Deleon Guerrero, 16, of MHS is an intern at Pacifica Insurance Underwriters Inc.

"Honestly, it's really been a great experience working here," Deleon Guerrero said. "I learned a lot about health insurance, customer service and essential administrative work. This internship program is very organized. I would definitely recommend this as a great way to experience the workforce because you are able to understand certain real-life experiences that you can incorporate in your future career."

Another intern, MHS student, Jhaylin Cruz, 16, said "the work is very competitive, but the working environment is pretty cool — very professional."

As for his coworkers, they are "fun and they make the work environment a lot more motivating," Cruz added.

The most

A popular dining spot, Plumeria Steakhouse has the most number of SCC-PSS interns: 13.

Incoming MHS junior Paul Sam Palis, 17, is one of them. "I am motivated to start my own journey by getting a job experience. I want to be different. I don't want to be the lazy, easy-going person every summer," he said.

Palis expressed his appreciation to restaurant owner and proprietor Steve Jang "for being professional in teaching us professional manners and customer service. I've been learning a lot from Mr. Steve."

Jenno Aque, 16, said his experience as an intern at Plumeria Steakhouse has taught him "how to be an effective worker."

"Mr. Steve is really pretty amazing. He shows us how a business is run in a successful way with effective workers," Aque said. "I really like the internship because I get to experience a professional work environment."

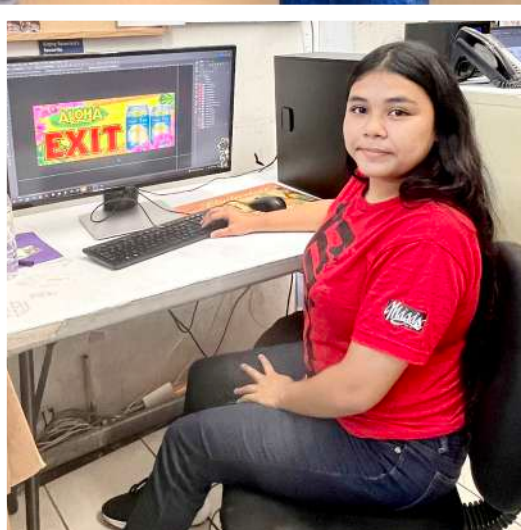


The student summer interns at the Office of the Commissioner of Education: Rayanalynn Cabrera and Morshodur Anan, both from Tinian High School, are joined by Commissioner of Education Dr. Alfred B. Ada, Associate Commissioner for Administrative Services Eric Magofna, Executive Secretary Kimberly Camacho, Communications and Media Program Manager Randee-Jo Barcinas-Manglona, Administrative Officer Frankie Camacho, and Administrative Assistant Lizann Deleon Guerrero.



Huiyun Park

STUDENTS



Lyticia Sanchez



Governor Arnold I. Palacios joins businessman and Plumeria Steakhouse proprietor Steve Jang with some of the interns. Plumeria Steakhouse has the biggest pool of summer interns that are divided into the morning and afternoon shift.



Mentoring About Startups: Da'ok Academy's Entrepreneurship Program

Students successfully markets exclusively designed shirt

From Left to Right: Instructor Alex Hu, student Devin Aldan, CTE Teacher Taj Vanbuuren, Principal Christine Tudela, student Serafin Ameriz, student Victor Rosoko, student Jeen Daniel Sablan, student Frank Baza, mentor & Tribes Owner Rob Travilla, student Luis Litulumar, and student Alfonso Camacho.

There is a growing interest among high school students about entrepreneurship, and the Public School System's Entrepreneurship Program at Da'ok Academy provide business training and mentoring that will be useful when these students decide to have their own startups.

On June 2, these students successfully sold their first product: T-Shirt they exclusively designed. The students received guidance and mentoring from Rob Travilla, owner of Tribes Marianas, a local apparel company in the CNMI.

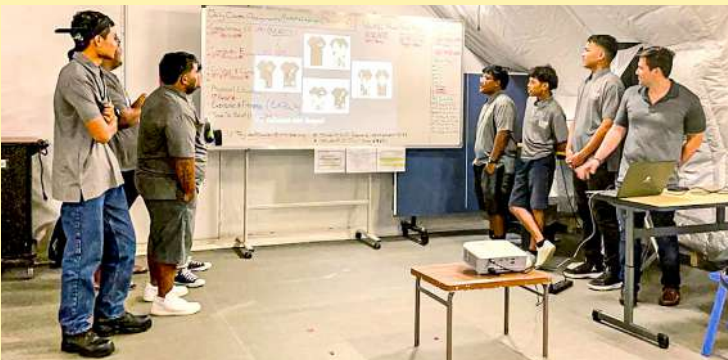
"Successfully, the group's business met above their expected outcome and the audience enjoyed their prepared presentation in their CTE Entrepreneurship Course," Principal Tudela told **Students First**.

The Entrepreneurship Program is a partnership with Island Training Solutions and the school district's Career Technical and Education Program.

The course requires students to meet between three to five times weekly, with different mentors and speakers who are industry/business leaders through the Problem Based Learning initiative in the form of The Business Venture Project group experience.

Each student applied their roles in the business and took the lead in executing their target goals that were identified in the business plan. The student team shared their presentation and strategies in the successful production of the well-designed apparel.

The Business Venture Project allows students to explore and learn real life business opportunities and challenges, by learning business concepts that include such as Business Basics (Types, licenses, corporate structure, staff); Industry Concept/Idea; Design; Operations/logistics/duties; Vendor inquiry, negotiation, and selection, and Final Product Presentation and review with learning points and challenges.



Training Students To Be Educators

THE school district continues to capitalize on its partnership with the Northern Marianas College, through its College of Education, in training the next generation of educators.

The PSS Teacher Academy Program for 2023 is currently being held at NMC throughout the summer with the aim of providing high school students, both from public and private schools, the career opportunity of becoming classroom teachers.

The PSS Teacher Academy Program was revived a decade ago by the PSS Career Technical Education Program to ease the burgeoning shortage of classroom teachers in the Northern Marianas.

The summer program is first part of the academy, in which students will continue into the fall semester.



Teacher Academy students
at the Northern Marianas
College. (NMC Photo)



The PSS-NMC partnership has led to the growth in the numbers of high school graduates pursuing teaching/education degrees in college.

With the increased number of would-be classroom teachers, PSS and NMC are optimistic that this will reverse the challenge of teacher shortage in the CNMI.

The students are provided fundamental and foundational preparatory support in the teaching career. While at NMC's College of Education, the students are taking Special education, Early Childhood, and elementary education courses, among others.

Upon completion of the Teacher Academy Summer Program, the successful cohort will be recognized for their learning hours. This will be credited NMC's practicum hours if the students decide to pursue education degree/course at NMC at the start of the new school year.

"Because of our strong teamwork and support from NMC, we hope to help our students reach their goals as future educators," CTE Director Dr. Barcinas-Taylor said.

In the past, internship for the Teacher Academy Program was held at various public elementary, middle, and high schools for their internship.

With this summer program, the students will actually intern at NMC's School of Education.

