

# 23rd Assistive Technology Fair & Conference Promotes Positive Impact



Attendees ask John Guiao, GSAT staff member (right), for information on specific Assistive Technology (AT) devices during the AT Fair held on March 4 at Micronesia Mall.

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Each year, the Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT) Advisory Council forms an Assistive Technology (AT) Fair and Conference Committee to plan these annual events. What started with four members, grew to a group of 17 that included individuals with disabilities, family members, and service provider representatives. The primary focus of these two events is to increase public awareness about assistive technology and the positive impact AT can have for persons with disabilities. To many, the Fair and Conference are familiar annual events that connect with individuals who are blind, have low vision, are deaf or hard of hearing, have a mobility impairment, learning, or intellectual disability. Both events are spearheaded by GSAT and Guam CEDDERS, with Tri-Agency support from the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council and Guam Legal Services Corporation - Disability Law Center. Additional contributions are made by the Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities, Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Guam Department of Education.

From the start, the Planning Committee, facilitated by Leah Abelon, GSAT Coordinator and Mary Kidd, Guam CEDDERS event consultant, wanted to educate the public about the positive impact of assistive technology in the home, school, community, and workplace. Both events are planned not only for those born with a disability but for all others who have acquired a disability due to an accident, illness, or aging. That target audience included veterans, manâmkö (senior citizens), and any who have experienced a limitation due to an accident or illness that has affected one or more major life functions resulting in some form of disability and could benefit from AT. AT is defined as “any item, piece of equipment, or product system, whether acquired

## 23rd Assistive Technology Fair and Conference *(cont. from page 1)*

commercially off the shelf, modified, or customized, that is used to increase, maintain, or improve functional capabilities of individuals with disabilities.”

With the theme being “#Assistive Technology for All,” the AT Fair took place on Saturday, March 4, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Micronesia Mall’s Center Court. The Fair offered demonstrations, entertainment, displays, hands-on activities, and opportunities to interact with 46 vendors, organizations, and agencies offering products and services. Guam Senator Louise B. Muna graciously served as the Mistress of Ceremonies for the Fair, and introduced each vendor who then provided information on their products and services which ranged from the education of children, to higher education for adults, services for veterans, assistance for manāmkō, AT devices for employment, health services, non-profit advocates and social services, a loan program for eligible persons with disabilities, legal services, public library audio books, and an accessible voting booth. Vendors were available to share information and demonstrate AT devices. Young children were welcomed to Guam Community College’s (GCC) Face Painting booth and American Sign Language (ASL) Awareness Obstacle Course. Feedback from some of the participants included, “amazing vendor displays that were inviting, had loads of information, and had many helpful ways to help those who are different.” Others commented on the opportunity to: “see different types of organizations brought together in one place; learn more about services available in the community; view and handle AT products for various needs of individuals; network

### AT Fair and Conference Planning Committee

Rudy Ignacio, GSAT Advisory Council Chairperson

Rosanne Ada, Guam Developmental Disabilities Council

Carol Cabiles, Guam Legal Services - Disability Law Center

Josephine Cortez, Self-Advocate

Evelyn Duenas, Self-Advocate

Barbara Johnson, Self-Advocate

Jack Larimer, Guam DOE, Division of Special Education

Dawn Maka, Self-Advocate

Tom Manglona, Self-Advocate

Lou Mesa, Parent

Nichol Napoleon, Guam DOE, Division of Special Education

Leone Rohr, Parent, Parents Empowering Parents

Ray Sayas, Guam Developmental Disabilities Council (GDDC)

Ben Servino, Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities (DISID)

Jennifer Vicente, Guam Legal Services Corporation - Disability Law Center

Jeffery Warfield, Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities

Phyllis Topasna, Department of Labor

GSAT Staff: Leah Abelon, Mary Kidd, Terrie Fejarang

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(Left photo) Barbara Johnson (seated at right), GSAT Advisory Council Member, provides information to a Fair participant. (Right photo) (L-R) Senator Louise Muna interviews Lisa Ehlers before Lisa begins to perform during the Fair.



## 23rd Assistive Technology Fair and Conference *(cont. from page 2)*

for human services; and learn about more specific areas such as legal services, job information, and Medicare". The GSAT booth was voted as providing the most useful information with its hands-on display of various AT devices.

The 50-member St. Francis School Children's Choir gave their opening performance with lively cultural songs and dances under the direction of Cathy Calvo Cruz. Other entertainers included: Candy Taman, Chamorro and Carolinian vocalist; Jack Larimer, acoustics and island style vocalist; GCC's American Sign Language (ASL) "Flash Mob" demonstration; Ben "Lamlam" San Nicolas, songwriter and rhythm guitarist; Frankie Blas, a piano player who uses a wheelchair, and Lisa Ehlers, a pianist who is blind. Overall, the people commented on the Fair's environment as "relaxed, interesting, helpful, informative, organized, and encouraging". Suggestions for next year's Fair varied from the request for a display of more new technology to adding information on fitness programs, advocacy for cancer patients, finding a service industry that employs people with disabilities, involve more services, have registrations and applications on the spot, have more exhibits, functional giveaways, more activities, and more entertainment from persons with disabilities.

Concurrent to the Fair event preparation was the ongoing planning of the annual GSAT AT Conference. The GSAT AT Conference was held on Friday, March 10, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Westin Resort Guam. Presenters included individuals with disabilities and service providers who shared successful use of AT in homes, workplace, community, and daily lives. A record

number of 171 people were in attendance with the following data aggregate: 54 or 31% were adults with disabilities; 22 or 12% were family members; 59 or 34% were service providers; six or 4% were personal care attendants; 11 or 6% were the general public and the remaining 19 or 11% being policy makers, counselors, educators, and students.

Rudy Cruz Ignacio, Chairperson of the GSAT Advisory Council, delivered the Welcoming Remarks with a message to find supportive advocates in different organizations and strive for independent living. Living with blindness and a neurological nerve condition affecting his mobility, he credits organizations like SiñA (Self-Advocates in Action), GSAT, the Guam Special Olympics, and the State Independent Living Council along with family, friends, and his faith, with helping him to change his previous attitude about having disabilities and now view life in positive ways.

Following next on the program agenda, was Leah Abelon, GSAT Center Coordinator who recognized the planning efforts of the GSAT AT Fair and Conference Committee and then gave a brief presentation about the importance of preparation should a person develop a disability due to an existing illness or accident in the future. Research shows that one in four of today's 20 year-olds will acquire or develop a disability before they retire; over 37 million Americans are classified disabled, and Guam has 12,087 individuals with disabilities accounting for 8% of the population. Leah emphasized the need for everyone to prepare and be aware of existing resources available.

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*A record 171 people attended this year's Assistive Technology Conference on March 10 at the Westin Resort Guam.*

## 23rd Assistive Technology Fair and Conference *(cont. from page 3)*



*(Left photo) Leah Abelon (Left), GSAT Center Coordinator, delivers welcoming remarks as the second speaker at the GSAT Conference. At right is Jeannie Hollis, sign language interpreter. (Right photo) Rudy Ignacio, GSAT Advisory Council Chairperson, provided Opening Remarks for the Conference.*

Two 60-minute panel presentations were scheduled for the morning's agenda. Panel A focused on Assistive Technology in the Workplace. Three employees with disabilities from different Government of Guam worksites each shared the obstacles they overcame and the assistive technology device or service they depended on to help them perform effectively on the job.

Andy Arceo, a Guam Fire Department Fire Captain, Chief of Staff, and Officer in Charge of Internal Affairs was active in sports until diabetic complications resulted in an "above the knee" amputation that challenged his financial and transportation resources to and from work. He gave credit to GSAT's Akudi Loan Program for the financial capability to purchase an accessible van providing the necessary transportation to his work, his medical appointments, and his daily family activities. Andy offered personal assistance to anyone with a disability who needs help accessing assistive technology or services.

Christopher Pangelinan, graduate of the Model Secondary School for the Deaf in Washington, D.C., is currently an Information Technology (IT) professional for the Management Information System of the Guam Department of Labor, Agency for Human Resource Development. Christopher is an individual who is deaf and demonstrated the use of the Z-20 Phone technology and other devices for the deaf and hard of hearing community on Guam. With the assistance of an American Sign Language (ASL) interpreter, he communicated how the devices he uses provide the necessary tools for him to work and is trained to repair the devices as well.

Shannon Seleen, a Deaf and Hard of Hearing Teacher, a Special Education Teacher, and a regular classroom teacher for

the Guam Department of Education focused on the education and advocacy of service animals. She has a severe anxiety disorder and prefers a service animal over prescribed medication in order to do her job. Her presentation discussed different types of service animals, what they are used for, and how to obtain them. She added information on places where they are and are not allowed to be and included accommodations for someone with a service animal.

Panel B featured AT in the Community. Pamela Benavente-Afleje used to be a Nurse's Aide until a car accident caused spinal cord injuries and affected her vision as well. She is a client of the GSAT Demonstration Program and shared the use of the SmartView Versa as the preferred AT device to help her shop, write, cook, complete daily tasks and even engage in arts and crafts. Richard Legaspi, an occupational therapy supervisor at the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority treats adult inpatients and outpatients with injuries and other disabilities. His presentation highlighted the evaluation process and recommendations for power wheelchair mobility for clients referred by the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation and the Department of Veteran's Affairs. A power wheelchair was made available for participants to do a test-drive during the conference. From GCC, ASL instructors, Jeanne Hollis and Kirsten Rosario, provided a hands-on presentation on the Sign Language alphabet and phrases for everyone to learn and follow simple words and messages. They encouraged the group to promote the improvement and increase the pool of local interpreters who serve the deaf and hard of hearing community from various cultural, ethnic, and language backgrounds.

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## 23rd Assistive Technology Fair and Conference *(cont. from page 4)*

Between presentations, local and nationally produced video clips were shown, covering new AT devices for school, work, recreation, and the community, as well as communicating with persons with disabilities and making accommodations in the home environment. Additionally, vendors from non-profit organizations, agencies, organizations and businesses, offered table displays, free hearing screening, and a "Playground" where low technology "make it and take it" activities were ongoing throughout the day.

The Conference's afternoon session featured "Recent Case Developments in Assistive Technology" by Eric D. Miller, staff attorney with Guam Legal Services Corporation – Disability Law Center. He reported on different cases, with one of the highlights of his presentation being his response to the audience's questions about Social Security benefits for persons with disabilities on Guam.

The late afternoon Conference presentations were delivered by personnel from Guam DOE, Division of Special Education. AT Specialists, Nichol T. Napoleon and Jack Larimer, along with Bernice Cepeda, CCC-SLP, shared various free apps and demonstrated how they work for students with different disabilities in school. Cecilia "Lee" Perez, an educator who is blind and an advocate for persons who are blind or with low vision, along with Diane Artero, and Darlene Taimanglo, Teachers of Students with Visual Impairments and Orientation and Mobility Specialists, introduced and demonstrated the potential of Alexa and Siri, two AT devices. Alexa and Siri showed how they respond well to commands given by a person who is blind or with low

vision to help in daily living tasks, study, and work, including the ability to produce music for enjoyment and celebration.

Based on the evaluations turned in at the end of the conference, several commented on the various panel presenters whose testimonials offered modern assistive devices or services to help them with their daily living, and after sharing their real-life struggles and triumphs gave inspiration to their audience. One commented that, "it was good to see how each one's AT devices and advocacy groups helped them to continue life functions in employment, family life, and activities in the community." Another commented on the variety of information for each "disability discipline". Even the videos and the "make it and take it" playground activity were categorized as highlights of the Conference. Two participants added: "I am totally impressed." "I am an aunt and sister to gain knowledge for my family with disabilities." Some changes recommended by participants for the Conference included a request to have presenters positioned in the middle of the room or projected on a large screen for better visibility and including professional presenters who can address medical and psychological treatment and challenges of people with disabilities. Overall for many, the Conference was very informative, well organized, and with good participation from vendors whose materials are helpful in knowing the different agencies that provide programs and services for people with disabilities. From one commentator: "It is possible for individuals with disabilities to live as much normal lives as they possibly can with help of modern assistive devices."

To view more Fair and Conference photos, visit the Guam CEDDERS website at [www.guamcedders.org](http://www.guamcedders.org).

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*(Left photo) Andy Arceo, a Guam Fire Department Fire Captain, Chief of Staff, and Officer in Charge of Internal Affairs, shares how the Akudi Loan Program helped him purchase an accessible van, which allowed him to return to work. (Right photo) Leah Abelon (standing), GSAT Center Coordinator, holds the microphone for Tom Manglona while he shares his thoughts during the AT Conference.*



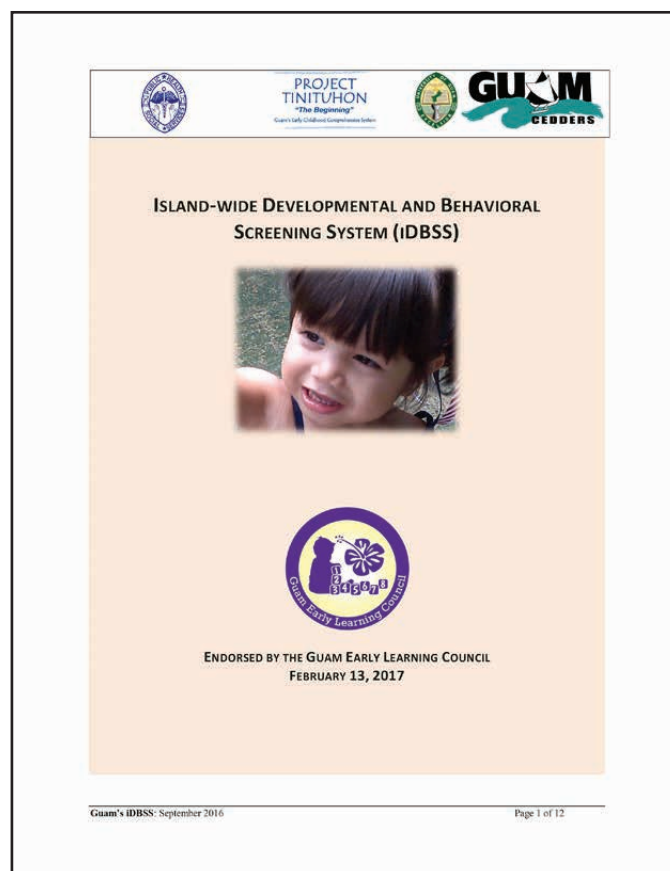
## 23rd Assistive Technology Fair and Conference *(cont. from page 5)*



Members of the GSAT Fair and Conference Planning Committee received Certificates of Appreciation for their time and effort in planning these two major annual Assistive Technology events. (L-R) Josie Cortez, Rudy Ignacio, Barbara Johnson, Leah Abelon (with microphone), and Lou Mesa. Jeannie Hollis is interpreting (far right).

## Guam Early Learning Council Endorses islandwide Developmental and Behavioral Screening System (iDBSS)

The islandwide Developmental and Behavioral Screening System (iDBSS), originally a pilot program under Project Tinituhon, administered by Guam CEDDERS, was endorsed by the Guam Early Learning Council during their quarterly meeting held on February 13 at the Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex Conference Room. The protocol for screening was developed collaboratively with Guam's early childhood programs using the collective impact process. The iDBSS uses the Ages and Stages Questionnaires Third Edition (ASQ-3) and the Ages and Stages: Social Emotional (ASQ: SE) as its developmental and behavioral screening tools. These questionnaires help parents understand what their child knows and is able to do as well as screen for possible delays or disabilities. Screening is free and is available through all early childhood programs, 37 of the 40 licensed child care centers, and select medical clinics.





# Akudi Program Helps Long Term Dream Become A Reality

Jason Lee Cruz was diagnosed with a visual impairment and slight paralysis from Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (SLE) in the early 1990s when he was in his early 20's. A star athlete during his high school years, this development required an adjustment period, to say the least. However, it did not stop him from pursuing his dreams and achieving various goals he set for himself.

He began body building in 1998 and entered his first body building competition in 2001 and since then has participated annually, 16 years and counting to be exact! He is widely known within our island community as being an inspirational figure and was recognized as Guam's Most Inspirational Athlete of the Year.

It has always been Jason's dream to start his own gym and someday be a motivational speaker. He achieved the later goal through several speaking engagements to various groups over the years. And his dream of gym ownership was achieved just earlier this month with the help of the Akudi Loan Program.

The Akudi Loan Program, is a collaborative project administered by the Guam CEDDERS' Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT) in collaboration with the Pacific Microcredit Institute (PIMI) and Bank of Guam. Akudi offers low interest loans to qualified Guam residents with disabilities to purchase assistive technology devices. It also provides loans to individuals on Guam with disabilities who want to start their own business

or expand on existing business and need funding for equipment, supplies, inventory, and other related services. This specialized type of funding provides individuals with disabilities alternative options and empowerment to promoting independence and starting up their own businesses.

After completing the application process with guidance support from Denise Mendiola Hertslet, Executive Director of PIMI, and Leah Abelon, GSAT Project Coordinator, and undergoing a review by the Akudi Loan Review SubBoard, Jason's loan application was approved and he received his check on March 2nd to purchase an already established gym, previously known as iFit Guam located in Tamuning.

Now called Universal Fitness, the new owner Jason, hopes to open a facility that is "user friendly for every person who would like to improve their quality of physical, mental and emotional as well as social health" to contribute to our island. He believes that this space will allow people to "live life in a more positive manner and feel better about who they are as a member of our island, society, community, family, youth, athlete, and member of Universal Fitness." With his history of overcoming barriers, he would also like to offer people with disabilities on Guam a space to "stimulate their minds and bodies for great health."

Congratulations, Mr. Jason Lee Cruz!



On March 2nd, Jason Lee Cruz, Akudi Loan client, received a check from Bank of Guam and Akudi Loan Program of Guam System for Assistive Technology (GSAT) representatives after signing all closing documents to purchase an established Gym from current owner, Shivrani Daryanani. The meeting was held at the GSAT office located in the University of Guam, Dean's Circle House 19. (L-R) Shivrani Daryanani, iFit Guam Owner; Jason Lee Cruz, Akudi Loan client; Christopher Cruz, Bank of Guam Relationship Banking Manager; Christina Jung, Guam CEDDERS Research Associate/Akudi Loan Representative; Leah Abelon, GSAT Center Coordinator/Akudi Program Manager. Also present during the signing, but not pictured was Denise Mendiola Hertslet, Pacific Island Microcredit Institute (PIMI), Senior Business Advisor.

# Guam and CNMI-based EPICS Scholars Meet with Project Co-Director

The first quarter of 2017 was a very busy one for the Educating Pacific Island Clinicians in Speech Pathology (EPICS) Project. As planned late last year, Wendy Quach, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, Assistant Professor in the Speech Language Department at San Jose State University and Co-Project Director of the EPICS Project made her first on-site visit to Guam from January 16-20, with a one day trip to Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) on January 19. With local support from Terrie Fejarang, Guam CEDDERS EPICS liaison, first on the agenda was her first face-to-face group meeting on January 16 with the Guam scholars during which updates on course offerings, class schedules, and deadlines for various requirements were discussed. Scholars also had an opportunity to meet for individual transcript review and advisement given specific issues and concerns.

January 17th started out with a meeting with Erika Cruz, Acting Deputy Superintendent, Educational Support and Community Learning, to discuss strategies to support the scholars such as opportunities to obtain observation hours with current credentialed speech language pathologists (SLPs) in the public school system by the end of the summer and practicum placement later in the program. Next, Dr. Quach met with ten Department of Education SLPs to discuss EPICS program updates and facilitation of scholar observation hours. She then conducted a two-hour presentation on Alternative Augmentative Communication (AAC), one of her areas of specialty, with the Division of Special Education personnel. The 59 attendees included SLPs, Speech Clinicians, Physical Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Adaptive PE and Transition Specialists, and other related personnel. The day ended with a meeting with Yolanda Gabriel, Assistant Superintendent of Special Education. January 18th included developing documents and meeting with the last of the Guam-based scholars.

A day trip to Saipan on January 19th was filled with individual meetings with the three CNMI scholars, similar to what occurred with the Guam scholars. EPICS scholars Tricia Taitano and Ignacio Dela Cruz were met at their schools, while scholar Cathy Roszala's meeting was off site. An added bonus during the CNMI visit was a meeting with Suzanne Lizama, Special Education Director for the CNMI Public School.

While online communications via email, WebEx and Skype provide for cost-effective discussions and interactions, there is nothing like actually coming to Guam and Saipan to get a direct sense of on-site specific situations and challenges. EPICS

scholars are currently completing on-line coursework in Aural Rehabilitation and Articulation and Language Disorders. On-site classes on Research Methods and Assessment and Evaluation are scheduled to be taught by Carol Zepecki, Ph.D., CCC-SLP, from June 5 through July 14 on the University of Guam campus. Stay tuned for further updates as they develop!

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## EPICS Students as of October 2016

### Cohort 1

1. Advani, Jasmi- Guam
2. Dela Cruz, Ignacio- CNMI
3. Dimla, Cassandra- Guam
4. Duenas, Gabrielle- Guam
5. Eclavea, Lisa- Guam
6. Payne, John- Guam
7. Reyes, Lillian - Guam
8. Ruszala, Catherine- CNMI
9. Supida, Diane- Guam
10. Taitano, Tricia - CNMI

### Cohort 2

1. Cole, Christina- Guam
2. Cruz, Liahanni- Guam
3. Gonzales, Camille- Guam
4. Mendiola, Joseph - Guam
5. Merfalen, Megan- Guam
6. Obillo, Bobbie- Guam
7. Perez, Tatiana- Guam
8. Terlaje, Mary Megan- Guam
9. Serrano, Aileen- Guam



## EPICS Scholars *(cont. from page 8)*



Guam-based EPICS scholars met for the first time face to face with Dr. Wendy Quach, CCC-SLP, Co-Director (standing fourth from left), on January 16 at the GSAT Center. The EPICS Project provides scholarships and access to San Jose State University's Graduate Program in Speech Language Pathology. Attending the meeting were (L-R) Front Row: Megan Merfalen, Tatiana Perez, John Payne, Lisa Eclavea, Gabrielle Duenas, and Meagan Terlaje. Back Row: Joseph Mendiola, Christina Coles, Camille Gonzales, Dr. Quach, Bobbie Obillo, Lillian Reyes, Dianne Sapida, Cassandra Dimla, Jasmin Avani, Lanni Cruz, and Aileen Serrano.



(Left photo) Dr. Quach met with the Guam Department of Education, Division of Special Education, Speech Language Pathologists on January 17 to discuss scholar observations and practica supervision. (Right photo) Dr. Quach met with Yolanda Gabriel, Assistant Superintendent for Special Education, Guam Department of Education, on January 17, to discuss Project EPICS activities and timelines, and facilitating supports for the Guam-based EPICS Scholars.



Fifty-nine Special Education faculty, related services personnel, and other staff attended Dr. Quach's three-hour presentation on "Augmentative Alternative Communication Devices," on January 17 at Chief Brodie Memorial School.



## EPICS Scholars *(cont. from page 9)*



*(Left photo) Dr. Quach also travelled to Saipan on January 19 and met with CNMI EPICS Scholars. Pictured above are Dr. Quach and Tricia Taitano, EPICS Scholar, meeting at Oleai Elementary School. (Right photo) Dr. Quach met with Ignacio Dela Cruz, EPICS Scholar, at William Reyes Elementary School.*



*(Left photo) Dr. Quach also met with Cathy Ruszala, EPICS Scholar. (Right photo) Dr. Quach met with Suzanne Lizama, CNMI Special Education Director, on January 19, to discuss Project EPICS activities and timelines, and facilitating supports for the CNMI EPICS Scholars. Also attending this meeting was Terrie Fejarang, Guam CEDDERS Liaison for Project EPICS.*

## Marianas Alliance of Speech-Language-Hearing Professionals Meet with EPICS Scholars



*On February 20, Marianas Alliance of Speech/Hearing Professional (MASHP) met with Educating Pacific Island Clinicians in Speech Language Pathology (EPICS) Scholars to provide the opportunity to network and discuss the arrangements to earn clock observation hours.*



## Project Tinituhon Activities



On January 21, Vera Blaz, Guam CEDDERS and Project Tinituhon Training Associate, facilitated training for 18 caregivers at Infant of Prague Nursery and Kindergarten School on the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3), a developmental screening tool used to celebrate milestones and identify delays. Also attending the training session was Joe Montague (standing right back row), Program Coordinator for the Child Care Development Fund (CCDF) Program at the Department of Public Health and Social Services.



(Left photo) Guam CEDDERS is facilitating the translation of the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) into the Chuukese language with support from Project Tinituhon, Guam's Early Childhood Comprehensive Systems grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Health Services Resource Administration. The focus of Project Tinituhon is the promotion of developmental screening at child care centers and medical clinics. Jenika Ballesta (left), Guam CEDDERS Research Associate is pictured with R-Leen Mario (right), Guam Early Intervention System (GEIS) Child Find/Public Awareness Manager, who verified the current draft Chuukese translation of the ASQ, a developmental screening tool. (Right photo) Vera Blaz (left), Guam CEDDERS and Project Tinituhon Training Associate, is pictured with Virginia Quioc a staff from Dominican Catholic School. Ms. Blaz provided follow up technical assistance on January 27th on implementing the use of the Ages and Stages Questionnaire (ASQ-3), a developmental screening tool, as a standard procedure at the school.



## Outreach: Head Start Fitness Fair



John Guiao (left), GSAT Grant Support Assistant, provided information on GSAT and Akudi Loan Program to a visitor during the Head Start Fitness Fair at the Guam Sports Complex on February 11.



Vera Blaz (left), Guam CEDDERS and Project Tinituhon Training Associate, and John Guiao (right), GSAT Grant Support Assistant, passed out project information during the Head Start Fitness Fair held at the Guam Sports Complex on February 11.



## Outreach: Healthy Moms, Healthy Babies Fair



On January 7, Leah Abelon, GSAT Center Coordinator (standing in black), and John Guiao, Grant Support Assistant (sitting), provide information on GSAT and Akudi Loan Program to visitors during the Department of Public Health & Social Services, Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Fair at the Micronesia Mall.



Christina Jung (seated), Guam CEDDERS Training Associate, shares information with parents on the Guam Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) program during the DPHSS Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Fair, at the Micronesia Mall on January 7.



Vera Blaz (right), Guam CEDDERS Training Associate, shares information about Project Tinituhon and the Ages & Stages Questionnaire (ASQ) at Department of Public Health & Social Services (DPHSS) Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Fair held at the Micronesia Mall on January 7. ASQ is a developmental screening tool used to learn more about a child's development.



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## Guam ChildLink-EHDI Training



Joseph Mendiola, Guam CEDDERS Interoperability Data Manager, conducted training on accessing the Guam ChildLink – EHDI database for service coordinators from the Guam Early Intervention System (GEIS), Guam Department of Education, Division of Special Education. Shown here, right to left are Mr. Mendiola, and GEIS service coordinators Mike Cepeda, Therese Sanchez, R-Leen Mario, Fran Camacho, and Evangeline Ojeda (back to camera).

## Orientation to Guam EHDI Shared During DPHSS Prenatal Class



Marie Wusstig, Guam CEDDERS Training Associate and Guam EHDI Hearing Screening Facilitator (standing), talked about the Guam Early Hearing Detection and Intervention (EHDI) project and the services provided during the Prenatal Presentation held at the Mangilao Public Health Center on February 10.



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## CNMI Early Intervention Team Visits Guam



*Elaine Eclavea, Guam CEDDERS Early Childhood Consultant, provided technical assistance to the CNMI Early Intervention Team related to their State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) on February 8 & 9, 2017. Pictured (L-R): Doris Itibus, Janelle Cepeda, Jonisa Sanchez, Clare Summers, Robin Palacios, Elaine Eclavea, and Peter Mendiola.*

## GEIS State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Input Session



*On February 10, Elaine Eclavea (standing to left), Guam CEDDERS Early Childhood Consultant, facilitated the GEIS Stakeholder and Progress Update to Guam's State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Phase III Input Session held at the Jesus and Eugenia School of Business and Public Administration Building Multi-purpose room 129.*



# FSM Convenes Stakeholders for SSIP Phase III Development

Guam CEDDERS, with University of Oregon and Sigma Associates partners, supported the facilitation of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) National Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) Stakeholder Meeting on March 6-10, 2017 in Yap State, FSM. The purpose of the meeting was to convene key National and State-level stakeholders to contribute to FSM's IDEA SSIP Phase III development and Project Literacy Intervention for FSM Leaders of Tomorrow (Project LIFT) implementation.

FSM's IDEA SSIP focus is on improving early English literacy development from early childhood to fifth grade, which has been the emphasis of FSM's Project LIFT. This emphasis reinforces a "unified education system" bringing together all stakeholders to focus on FSM's SSIP/Project LIFT, which is reflective of the island way – "It takes a village to raise a child."

The Response to Intervention (RtI) framework, also known as a multi-tiered system of supports, provides the systemic approach to providing educational opportunities for all students. This framework is the basis for Project LIFT to ensure that the focus on early English literacy development is sustainable beyond the SSIP period.

The FSM National IDEA SSIP Stakeholder meeting included 32 key FSM National and State-level representatives, including FSM State Special Education Advisory Council members. Meeting engagement included Project LIFT pilot school updates identified in the priorities of each FSM State Local Systemic Improvement Plan (LSIP), a review of the SSIP Phase III requirements, agreement on how FSM will incorporate the progress of the Project LIFT pilot schools into its SSIP Phase III reporting, and next steps for ensuring continuation of Project LIFT implementation and quarterly LSIP progress reporting.

*Continued on page 17*



*FSM SSIP stakeholders, with Guam CEDDERS, University of Oregon, and Sigma Associates partners, convene in Yap State, FSM, March 6-10, 2017*



*Kosrae State Project LIFT Team discusses their LSIP updates as part of next steps for Project LIFT implementation. Members L-R: Darlinda Salik, Project LIFT Coach; McNald Jonah, Tafunsak Elementary Vice-Principal; and Wilson Kephah, Department Liaison. Not shown: Marbe Martin, Special Education Coordinator.*



*Pohnpei State Project LIFT Team completes the Report of Progress Self-Assessment tool as part of the Project LIFT updates. Members L-R: JoeAnn Mathias, Consulting Resource Teacher; Karlina Henry, Special Education Coordinator; Reynold Albert, Curriculum & Instruction Chief/Department Liaison; and Jesse Solomon, Project LIFT Coach.*



## FSM SSIP Phase III Development *(cont. from page 16)*



Guam CEDDERS' June De Leon (standing) confers with the Yap State Project LIFT Team during their discussion on next steps for Project LIFT implementation. Team members shown L-R: Miyai Keller, FSM National Assessment/Data Coordinator; Francis Gilmoon, Data Manager; John Bugulrow, Special Education Coordinator; Cindy Lawichyang (partially hidden), ECE Education Manager/Coach; Evangeline Ilawegiyango, Data Clerk; and Vicenta Untaman, Curriculum & Instruction Specialist. Standing in the background: L-R: Lorenzo Sautilus, Yap State Department Liaison; and Arthur Albert, FSM National Special Services Division Chief.



Chuuk State Project LIFT Team updates their LSIP as part of next steps for Project LIFT implementation. Members left side of table from front: Aileen Otok, Planning & Development Chief; Alvios William, Acting Director of Education; and Kirisos Victus, Chuuk Advisory Council Vice-Chairman. Members right side of table from front: Rose Elias, Special Education Teacher; Riokaly Chiwi, Project LIFT Coach; and Ethel James, FSM National Special Education Monitor.



# Spring 2017 MSAA Sessions Conducted on Saipan and Guam

In preparation for the Spring 2017 Multi-State Alternate Assessment (MSAA) on-line assessment system test window of March 27-May 12, Guam CEDDERS' June De Leon, Associate Director, supported the facilitation of the MSAA orientation sessions on Saipan, CNMI, February 22, and Guam, February 23 and 24, designed for teachers who will serve as the MSAA Test Administrators. The three-hour session included a review of the MSAA Test Administration Manual and User's Guide and the requirements for all test administrators to pass the on-line training modules. In addition, the session included a review of additional on-line resources for improving academic instruction for students with significant cognitive disabilities.

The MSAA is a comprehensive assessment system designed to promote increasing higher academic outcomes for students with significant cognitive disabilities in preparation for a broader array of post-secondary outcomes. The MSAA is designed to assess students with a significant cognitive disability and measures academic content that is aligned to and derived from the state content standards. The MSAA is administered in the areas of English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics in grades 3-8 and 11.

The MSAA was developed through the research and development done by the National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC) and now carried forward by the MSAA State Partners. The MSAA is currently being administered by eleven participating states: Arizona, Arkansas, Maine, Maryland, Montana, the Pacific Assessment Consortium (PAC-6: CNMI and Guam), Rhode Island, South Dakota, Tennessee, US Virgin Islands, and Washington, DC.



*Helene Cruz (left), Adacao Elementary Special Education Teacher, and Terese Crisostomo (Right), Guam MSAA State Coordinator, share a smile during the break on February 23. Helene Cruz has been one of several CNMI and Guam teachers who have served as MSAA item reviewers for the continued refinement of the MSAA on-line system.*



*Guam CEDDERS' June De Leon (standing) facilitates discussion on the on-line resources with special education teachers from LBJ/Tamuning Elementary School during the February 23 MSAA Orientation session held with Guam elementary teachers. Seated at table pictured L-R: Philip Gilbert and Lolita Siguenza.*



*Two teachers from Tamuning Elementary (L-R) Courtney Rosario and Gabrielle Duenas, review MSAA resources.*



# Guam CEDDERS Welcomes New Advisory Council Members



New members Joyce Flores Terejasas, Parent, Barbara Johnson, Self-Advocate, and Joseph Gumataotao, University of Guam Director, EEO and Title IX/ADA Coordinator, joined the Guam CEDDERS Advisory Council during its March 10 quarterly meeting. (Front row, L-R) Leone Rohr, Chairperson; Josephine Guerrero, Vice-Chairperson; Joyce Flores Terejasas; and Barbara Johnson. (Back row, L-R) Linda Rodriguez, representing the Department of Public Health & Social Services; Carol Cabiles, Guam Legal Services Corporation - Disability Law Center; Maria Bontogon, Self-Advocate; Ben Servino, Director, Department of Integrated Services for Individuals with Disabilities (DISID); Marcellene Santos, Public Guardian; and Joseph Gumataotao.

## GCC Student Completes Practicum



Sylvia Duenas began her practicum with Guam CEDDERS under the Guam System for Assistive Technology Program in February 2017. Sylvia's arrival at Guam CEDDERS came at a time where GSAT was in the planning phase for the Annual Assistive Technology Fair and Conference. Sylvia was able to participate in the planning meetings, as well as attend the AT Fair on March 4. During the Fair, she interacted with individuals with disabilities, and provided information to visitors at the GSAT table. As a young adult, Sylvia was inspired by her mother's passion for helping people in the Community. This lead her to pursue an Associate of Science degree in Human Services from the Guam Community College (GCC). With graduation just around the corner, Sylvia has her sights set on a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work from the University of Guam (UOG). Congratulations Sylvia and good luck from Guam CEDDERS!



University of Guam  
Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities  
Education, Research, & Service  
(Guam CEDDERS) Newsletter

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*I Tellai* is a quarterly publication of Guam CEDDERS.  
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This issue of *I Tellai* was made possible by contributions from the following Guam CEDDERS staff members/consultant: Leah Abelon, Jenika Ballesta, Mariles Benavente, Vera Blaz, Bonnie Brandt, June De Leon, Terrie Fejarang, Sherry Guerrero, Christina Jung, Joseph Mendiola, Keith Villaluna, and Marie Wusstig.

Alternative formats (e.g. Braille, large print, or audio tapes) of *I Tellai* will be made available upon request.

Please contact Coleen Dela Cruz at (671) 735-2477 (v), (671) 735-6531 (TTY), or (671) 734-5709 (fax) for more information.

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# CALENDAR OF UPCOMING EVENTS

**MAR**  
**17**

**Mar 2** Webinar for Part B with Donna McNear: Accessing Math Resources, 9:00am

**Mar 4** GSAT Assistive Technology Fair, 10:00am-3:00pm, Micronesia Mall Center Court

**Mar 8** Guam Developmental Disabilities Council (GDDC) General Membership Meeting, 11:00am-2:00pm, Hilton Guam Resort & Spa

**Mar 9** Parents' Rights and Responsibilities In Special Education (PRISE) IEP Training, 5:00pm-8:00pm, iCan Training Center New Orlean Pacific Plaza across Tamuning Infusion

**Mar 10** GSAT Assistive Technology Conference, 8:00am-4:00pm, The Westin Resort Guam Somnak Ballroom

**Mar 10** Social Emotional/Mental Health SMT Meeting, 3:00pm-5:00pm, Kariñu Conference Room

**Mar 10** Guam CEDDERS Advisory Council Meeting, 4:00pm-5:00pm, The Westin Resort Guam

**Mar 12** Educating Pacific Island Clinicians in Speech-Language Pathology (EPICS) Meeting, 1:30pm-3:30pm, GSAT, House 19, Dean Circle, UOG

**Mar 13-24** Rene Ranola, Guam On-Site Visit

**Mar 14** Guam EHDI Advisory Committee Meeting, 11:30am-1:30pm, Outrigger Guam Resort

**Mar 16** Parents' Rights and Responsibilities In Special Education (PRISE) IEP Training, 5:00pm-8:00pm, iCan Training Center New Orlean Pacific Plaza across Tamuning Infusion

**Mar 17** Department of Public Health & Social Services (DPHSS) Prenatal Presentation, 9:00am, DPHSS, Mangilao

**Mar 21** Down Syndrome Association of Guam – Trisomy 21 Day

**Mar 23** Webinar for Part B with Donna McNear, 9:00am, Guam CEDDERS, House 17 Dean Circle, UOG

**Mar 23** Parents' Rights and Responsibilities In Special Education (PRISE) IEP Training, 5:00pm-8:00pm, iCan Training Center New Orlean Pacific Plaza across Tamuning Infusion

**Mar 24** EHDI Outpatient Hearing Clinic, 8:30am-4:00pm, Guam CEDDERS, House 21 Dean Circle

**Mar 27-29** Rene Ranola, Palau On-Site Visit

**Mar 28** GEIS/Chief Brodie Outpatient Hearing Re-Screen Clinic, 8:30am-4:00pm, Chief Brodie Elementary School, Tamuning

**Mar 30** Parents' Rights and Responsibilities In Special Education (PRISE) IEP Training, 5:00pm-8:00pm, iCan Training Center New Orlean Pacific Plaza across Tamuning Infusion

**Mar 30-31** June De Leon, Palau On-Site Visit

**APR-MAY**  
**17**

**Apr 5** Webinar by Donna McNear: Focus on Orientation and Mobility, 8:00am-9:30am, GSAT, House 19, Dean Circle, UOG

**Apr 7** Webinar for Part B with Donna McNear, 9:00am

**Apr 8** 10th Annual Autism Awareness Fair, 10:00am-2:00pm, Agana Shopping Center

**Apr 9** EPICS- WEB Ex Meeting, 1:30pm-3:30pm, GSAT, House 19, Dean Circle, UOG

**Apr 12** GEIS/Chief Brodie Outpatient Hearing Re-Screen Clinic, 8:30am-4:00pm, Chief Brodie Elementary School, Tamuning

**Apr 14** Department of Public Health & Social Services (DPHSS) Prenatal Presentation, 9:00am, DPHSS, Mangilao

**Apr 24-28** Irina Zamora, Guam On-Site Visit

**Apr 28** Department of Public Health & Social Services (DPHSS) Prenatal Presentation, 9:00am, DPHSS, Mangilao

**May 1-5** Site Visit by Donna McNear, Vision Instruction Consultant

**May 14** EPICS- WEB Ex Meeting, 1:30pm-3:30pm, GSAT, House 19, Dean Circle, UOG

**May 17** GEIS/Chief Brodie Outpatient Hearing Re-Screen Clinic, 8:30am-4:00pm, Chief Brodie Elementary School, Tamuning

**May 31** Webinar for Part B with Donna McNear, 9:00am

**For more information on any of these events, please call 735-2479 or visit [www.guamcedders.org](http://www.guamcedders.org)**

## Tell us what you think about our website.

Please fill out the online survey at:

[www.guamcedders.org](http://www.guamcedders.org)

The screenshot shows the Guam CEDDERS website with a banner for 'I TELLAI' (December 2016) and a survey announcement. The survey text reads: 'Tell us what you think about our website. Click here for survey.' Below the survey text, it says 'HAFA ADA!' and 'Marihita Humat'sa I Tella - Building Bridges Together'. At the bottom, it states: 'The University of Guam Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (Guam CEDDERS) serves as a training and technical assistance provider in the field of developmental disabilities education, research, and service to the people of Guam and the Pacific region.'