

GDOE's "Continuous Improvement Road Map for Improving Reading Achievement" Endures



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On August 5, SSIP core team members met to plan activities for the new school year. Top row, L-R: Nieves Flores, Consultant, Guam CEDDERS; Josephine Cruz, Associate Director, Guam CEDDERS; Darlene Castro, Principal, Chief Brodie Memorial Elementary; June Quitugua, Consultant, Guam CEDDERS, June De Leon, Interim Director, Guam CEDDERS; Bottom Row L-R: Debra Whitt, Training Associate, Guam CEDDERS; Rose Castro, Principal, J.M. Guerrero Elementary; Natasha Dela Cruz, Principal, M.U. Lujan Elementary; Elias Taisipic, Acting Principal, Price Elementary; Terese Crisostomo, Special Projects Coordinator, GDOE Special Education Division. Not pictured: Joshua Blas, SSIP Project Director, GDOE Curriculum and Instruction Division.

Despite the challenges brought forth by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Guam Department of Education's (GDOE) State Systemic Improvement Project (SSIP) in partnership with Guam CEDDERS continues to provide technical assistance and support to the target schools in the area of reading achievement and evidence-based practices. On August 5, a SSIP core team meeting was held to plan the next steps for the new school year. Activities for the new school year include assisting schools in using the district's universal screener amid a virtual context to collect baseline and progress monitoring data; using evidence-based practices such as explicit instruction; using data to drive improvement models; and scaling up to include math content. The challenge for the upcoming school year is centered on meeting the needs of students through remote learning. However, despite the unprecedented challenges the new school year brings, the SSIP core team is equipped with grit and perseverance to meet the challenges. The SSIP core team is comprised of the following four SSIP principals and an assistant principal: Rose Castro from J.M. Guerrero Elementary, Darlene Castro from Chief Brodie Memorial Elementary, Natasha Dela Cruz from M.U. Lujan Elementary, Elias Taisipic from Price Elementary and Denise Tiamanglo, assistant principal from Price Elementary. Other team members include Terese Crisostomo, from GDOE Special Education Division, Joshua Blas, GDOE SSIP Project Director, and Guam CEDDERS consultants Nieves Flores and June Quitugua, and Guam CEDDERS staff June De Leon, Josephine Cruz, and Debra Whitt.



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Developmental Disabilities

Education, Research, and Service

GDOE Provides SSIP Schools with RAZ-Plus Blended Literacy Tools



On August 4, SSIP teacher leaders attended a RAZ-Plus virtual training session. Pictured from top to bottom: Jennifer Nigh, Director for International Academics and Curriculum, Learning A-Z; Josephine Cruz, Associate Director, Guam CEDDERS. Not pictured: Debra Whitt, Training Associate, Guam CEDDERS; Kevin Behrens, Learning A-Z Representative, SmartEd Inc.; Dolores Cruz, teacher, M.U. Lujan Elementary.

On August 4, 11, and 12, the Guam Department of Education (GDOE), in a collaborative effort with Guam CEDDERS, provided support to the GDOE State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) teachers with a webinar conducted by the Learning A-Z, Director for International Academics and Curriculum, Jennifer Nigh. The first session on August 4, was for teacher coordinators and subsequent webinars were held on August 11 and 12 for all teachers. On August 11, the session was for M.U. Lujan and Juan M. Guerrero Elementary school teachers and the August 12 session was for Chief Brodie and Price Elementary school teachers. A total of more than 100 teachers attended over the scheduled three-day period.

Learning A-Z's leveled reading program, RAZ-Plus, was procured as a supplemental resource to improve reading proficiency. Research conducted by McREL on RAZ-Plus showed a strong correlation between reading achievement and motivation to read. During the hour-long webinars, Ms. Nigh presented SSIP teachers with an overview, highlighting various features, as well as, demonstrating what access to the platform by teachers, students, and families would look like. There is a need for the continuous strengthening of relationships between home and school—most especially during this time of social distancing. The RAZ-Plus home-school connection feature acts as a conduit in maintaining communication. Specifically, RAZ-Plus builds that family

(Continued on page 3)

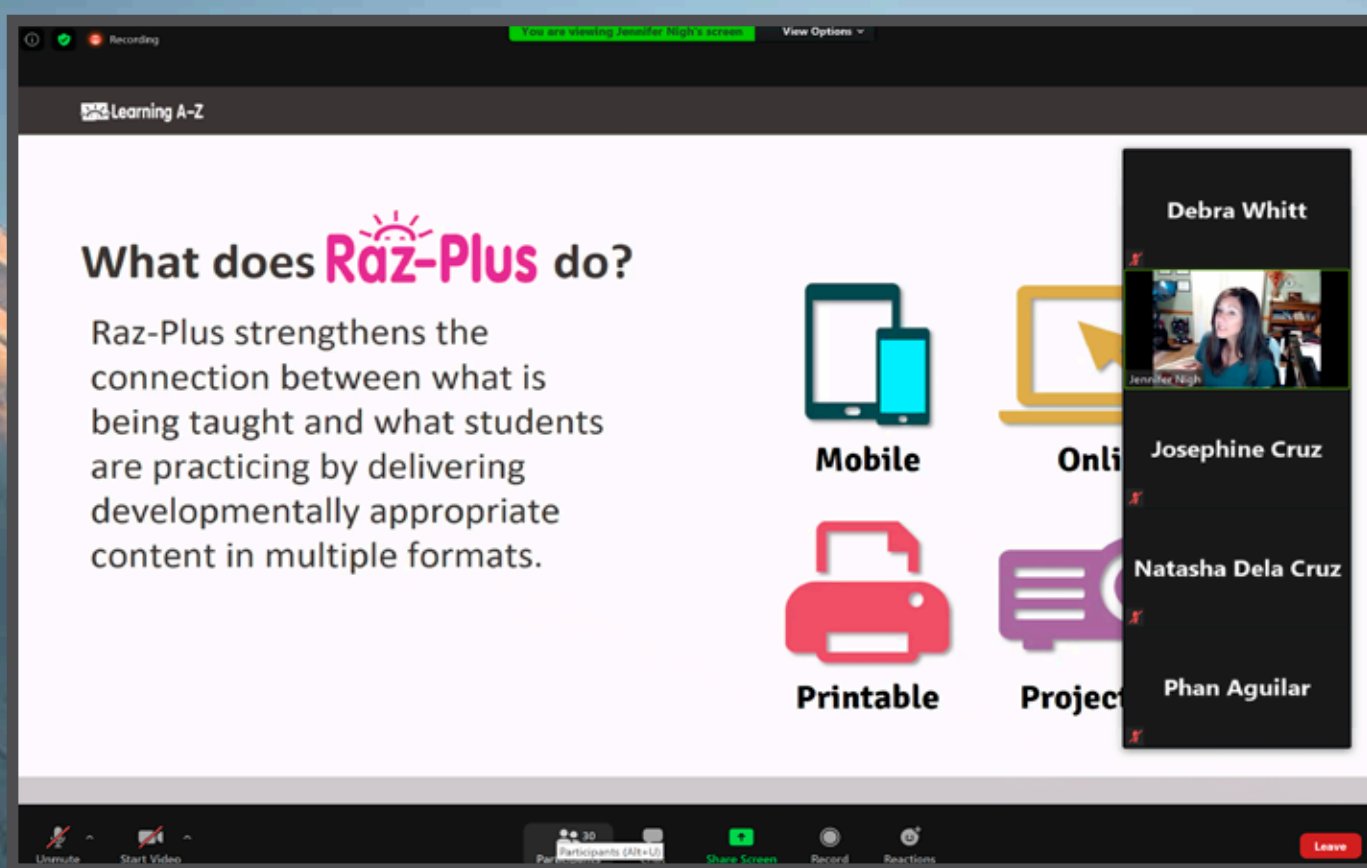
GDOE Provides SSIP Schools with RAZ-Plus Blended Literacy Tools (Cont.)

connection using their online platform, in addition to, shared printed resources, and other shared types of family communication.

In these unprecedented times, it is imperative to implement supplemental literacy resources that integrate seamlessly with GDOE's three models of instruction: face-to-face, home packet, and distance online learning. RAZ-Plus resources are fully accessible in multiple types of formats: mobile, online, printable, and projectable learning. The home packet (hard copy) and online distance models are also supported

through printable and downloadable leveled readers, as well as, uploading these resources into GDOE's online Google Classroom platform.

Throughout the interactive presentations, teachers provided continuous feedback. Attendees also noted their enthusiasm and excitement in the opportunity to utilize the RAZ-Plus literacy tools with their students. Moving forward, GDOE plans to continue to provide additional support to all teachers with webinars, small group training, and other technical assistance for all SSIP schools.



RAZ-Plus trainer, Jennifer Nigh, leading the interactive presentation.

GDOE Provides SSIP Resource Room Teachers Support

On August 6, August 21 and September 25 the Guam Department of Education's (GDOE) Division of Special Education, in a collaborative effort with Guam CEDDERS, provided support to its State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) resource room teachers.

During the virtual sessions, a discussion regarding access to the universal screening data, aimswebPlus, was addressed. Resource room teachers received support in using aimswebPlus reading and math data to drive and inform Specially Designed Instruction (SDI). Dr. Nieves Flores, consultant with Guam CEDDERS, shared with teachers how to examine aimswebPlus math data for specific skills, using the student's individual skills analysis report to give special education teachers the necessary tools and skills to set annual goals and positively impact student learning.

It was determined that special education teachers would benefit from having continual access to the data for students with IEPs, in concurrence with general education teachers. Allowing special education teachers direct access to screening data, would inform

SDI practices. SDI was further clarified as "unique" instruction and the guidance provided in the Considerations for Specially Designed Instruction from the Kansas State Department of Education document was reviewed and provided as a reference.

Due to COVID-19, some challenges continue regarding the use of GDOE's three adopted learning formats. Resource room teachers were asked which of the 3 models of instruction they felt most comfortable using. The respondents indicated the following: Face-to-Face instruction was ranked most comfortable, followed by the hard copy format, and online was indicated as the least comfortable format. Resource room teachers were asked how they can best be supported. The teachers responded by underscoring the importance of additional teaching resources to improve educational pedagogy. Also shared was the need to address and prioritize goals for students with special needs, most especially during this time, and how to provide them with support. Consideration of a child's social-emotional needs, along with learner engagement is critical. It is necessary to work through these gradually with intention and purpose.



Project Na' Mas Fitme Factsheet

**DOWNLOAD
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From EHDI Website

GDOE Enhances Parent Coaching Practices

On July 23, a training was held with GEIS service providers on parent coaching practices for ESDM. Left column, top to bottom: Dr. Laurie Vismara, Consultant; Sherry Cruz, GEIS service provider, GDOE; Grace Loyola, GEIS service provider, GDOE; Elizabeth Blas, GEIS Speech and Language Pathologist, GDOE; Right column, top to bottom: June De Leon, Interim Director, Guam CEDDERS; Josephine Cruz, Associate Director, Guam CEDDERS; Rita Rose Hualde, GEIS service provider, GDOE; Elaine Eclavea, Early Childhood Consultant, Guam CEDDERS; Bottom row, center: Gagee Parsons, GEIS service provider, GDOE.



The Guam Department of Education (GDOE) in partnership with Guam CEDDERS supported training in parent coaching practices of the Early Start Denver Model (ESDM). The training provided support to Guam Early Intervention Systems (GEIS) providers in evidence-based, family-centered planning and coaching of naturalistic, developmental interactive strategies for accelerated learning in children with or at-risk of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) for ages birth to three years old. Four virtual training workshops were held in the months of July through September. The training sessions were conducted by Dr. Laurie Vismara, a co-author of "An Early

Start for Your Child with Autism", a guide that provides doable, practical strategies for early intervention providers and families to use every day with their child with ASD. Dr. Vismara is also a researcher and licensed therapist who has spent her career working closely with families of children with ASD and contributing to the science and program development of the P-ESDM. The overarching goal of the training sessions was to provide GEIS service providers with the tools and strategies to support parents and families to help their child have enriched learning opportunities at home.

GDOE Gears Up to Pilot the Group-Based Early Start Denver Model Preschool Program

VIDEO 1:1 JAR

• B & M



On August 18, a virtual training was held on the implementation of the G-ESDM. Pictured left column, from top to bottom: Glorianna Guerrero, Preschool Teacher, GDOE; Josephine Cruz, Associate Director, Guam CEDDERS; Abby Marshall, G-ESDM Trainer, La Trobe University; Right column, from top to bottom: Nanette Magallanes, Paraprofessional, GDOE; and Nicole Duenas, Speech and Language Pathologist, GDOE.

The Guam Department of Education (GDOE) in collaboration with Guam CEDDERS has partnered with La Trobe University in Australia to provide training and technical assistance in the implementation of the Group-based Early Start Denver Model (G-ESDM) preschool curriculum. The G-ESDM framework is an evidence-based early intervention approach for young children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) that capitalizes on the use of group settings and on the social interactions of peers to promote learning. The premise of the G-ESDM curriculum is to empower children with ASD by following their interests and providing a “scaffold” for their communication and interactions. In this approach, the child is viewed as both the artist and the painting, creating his or her own portrait of the world.

The pilot program involved the participation of one of the district’s Special Education preschool classroom. The preschool classroom selected for the pilot project is comprised of typical students and students with ASD or a developmental disability. Participating in the pilot program are the classroom teacher, Glorianna Guerrero and her three paraprofessionals, Jonarie Cruz, Nanette Magallanes, Aurora Vitto as well as Speech and Language Pathologist, Nicole Duenas. Kristy Capes and Abby Marshall from La Trobe University are the lead trainers. Subsequent follow-up support will be provided by Josephine Cruz, Associate Director of Guam CEDDERS, Debra Whitt, Guam CEDDERS Training Associate, and Elaine Eclavea, Early Childhood consultant from Guam CEDDERS. Eight virtual training sessions were provided throughout the months of August and September.

Resource Journals for GDOE, UOG, & GCC Students



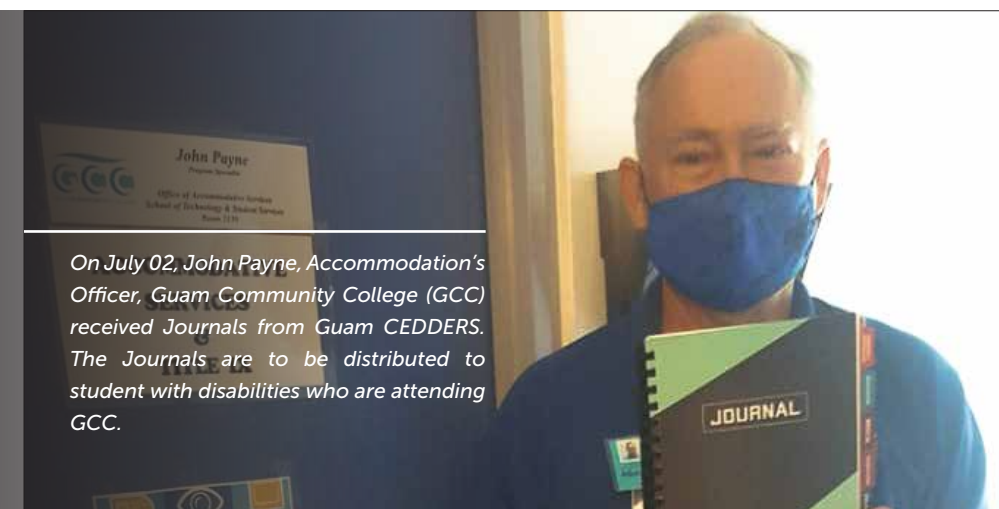
The Resource Journal was created from a need shared by Ms. Sallie Sablan, University of Guam (UOG) Senior Academic Counselor and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Specialist. According to Ms. Sablan, many UOG students shared that they are not aware of the supports and accommodation services, such as preferred seating at the front of the class or near exits, additional time not to exceed double the time by Professor for tests/exams, distraction-reduced room for testing, etc.. provided by the university for individuals with disabilities. In many instances, these students have failing grades or are on the verge of failing classes when soliciting her assistance for accommodative services.

In response to this need, the University of Guam CEDDERS developed and produced the Resource Journal for distribution to senior level students with disabilities enrolled in the Guam Department of Education (GDOE), and college students at UOG, and the Guam Community College (GCC). The journal is a resource that provides useful information in the following areas: Emergency Preparation, Accommodations in Education, Medical Needs, Medical Contact List, Transportation, Employment, & Family Support.

With collaborative efforts between GDOE Consulting Resource Teachers/Transition Teachers, UOG & GCC Counselors, and the University of Guam CEDDERS personnel, this initiative hopes to increase accommodation awareness and self-advocacy for students with disabilities to succeed academically as well as to live and work independently.

On August 12, Christopher Gombar, Consulting Resource Teacher (CRT)/Transition Teacher, from Okkodu High School received Journals from Guam CEDDERS. The Journals are to be distributed to student with disabilities who are in their senior year of high school.

On August 14, Evita Lujan-Espinosa (right), Consulting Resource Teacher (CRT)/Transition Teacher, from Tiyan High School received Journals and 2020-2021 Disabilities Directories from Michelle Aguigui (left), Associate Director, Guam CEDDERS.

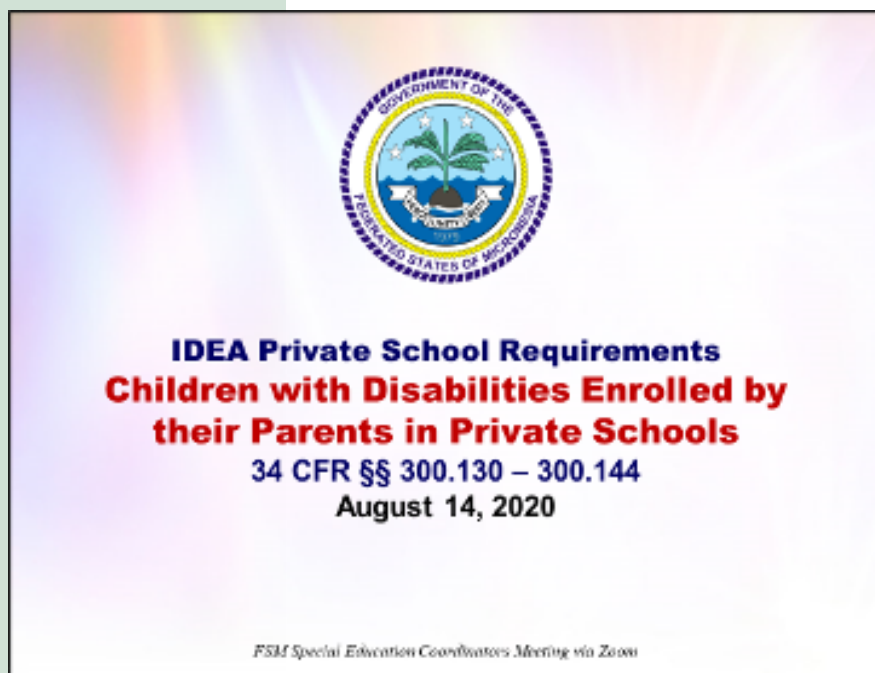


On July 02, John Payne, Accommodation's Officer, Guam Community College (GCC) received Journals from Guam CEDDERS. The Journals are to be distributed to student with disabilities who are attending GCC.

FSM Conducts Weekly Virtual Special Education Coordinators Meetings



On August 14, the FSM Special Education Coordinators Meeting was held via Zoom Video Conferencing. Pictured top row L-R: Miyai Keller, FSM National Assessment and Data Coordinator; June De Leon, Guam CEDDERS Interim Director; John Bugulrow, Yap State Special Education Coordinator; Juan Hagilmwaal, Yap State Special Education Supervisor/Monitor; Cindy Saimon, FSM National Early Childhood Special Education Coordinator; Febronia Dinney, Chuuk State Project Literacy Intervention for FSM Leaders of Tomorrow (LIFT) Coach; Benedict Saipwerik, Chuuk State Acting Special Education Coordinator; Bottom row L-R: Roddy Robert, Pohnpei State Special Education Coordinator; Arthur Albert, FSM National Assistant Secretary; Augustine Bungmai, FSM National Monitor and Evaluator; Anseliter Fredrick, FSM National Fiscal Management Specialist. (Not Shown: Kosrae State Team)



The Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) National Department of Education, Special Education Program facilitates weekly virtual FSM Special Education Coordinators Meeting to discuss program improvement priorities and implementation of special education and related services in the four FSM states: Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap. On August 14, Guam CEDDERS June De Leon provided technical support during their review of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Private School requirements. Meeting discussion focused on FSM's guidance on the process and timelines for meeting the IDEA requirements for parentally-placed private school children with disabilities.

Palau Continues TA Virtually



On August 21, Guam CEDDERS June De Leon facilitated a Zoom video conferencing meeting with Palau's Special Education Coordinator and Physical Therapy Assistant, with off-island Physical Therapy Consultant who have previously provided on-site consultation. The purpose for the call was to discuss Palau's technical assistance needs for providing support to children with disabilities who require physical therapy services. Pictured top row L-R: Rene Ranola, Physical Therapy Consultant, Washington State; June De Leon, Guam CEDDERS Interim Director; Bottom row L-R: Mesikt Oderiong, Physical Therapy Assistant, ROP; Nora Renguul, Special Education Coordinator, ROP.

In this new normal, the Republic of Palau (ROP) continues to report zero COVID-19 cases. This remarkable measure of success has been due to the Palauan community implementing immediate restrictions on incoming flights and increased awareness of the virus to gain community support for keeping everyone safe! This remarkable measure also meant that traditional on-site technical assistance and training activities stopped in March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The health and safety measures put in place were key to ROP's zero COVID-19 cases. Mesulang ('Thank you' in Palauan) ROP for your health and safety efforts in the interest of the well-being of your island nation.

In this new normal, the ROP Ministry of Education, Special Education Program continues to explore ways for accessing much-needed technical assistance and training in support of their efforts to improve programs and services for students with disabilities. This exploration has shifted from on-site to

off-site – virtual assistance. Guam CEDDERS June De Leon meets regularly via Skype with Nora Renguul, ROP Special Education Coordinator to prioritize the technical assistance and training activities to be delivered virtually via the Zoom videoconferencing platform. This mode of delivery is part of the new normal, and although a change from the familiar face-to-face engagement (with some delicious bangus), it is a method that can provide the needed supports to improve programs and services in these new normal days. To date, virtual technical assistance has been provided to the ROP special education program personnel in areas of supports for children with visual impairments, speech-language services, assessments for determining eligibility, and assessment accommodations and implementation of an alternate assessment based on alternate achievement standards. Additional prioritized technical assistance and training support will be scheduled soon, including consultation on providing physical therapy services.

NCSI Holds a 'Meet and Greet' with OSEP and Pacific Entities



On August 5, as part of the NCSI Pacific Collaborative meeting, Pacific entity leaders had an opportunity to meet with key OSEP MSIP and RTP staff assigned to support the Pacific entities. Pictured top row/ first row L-R: Cesar D'Agord, Pacific Liaison, NCSI; June De Leon, Interim Director, Guam CEDDERS; Terese Crisostomo, Special Projects Coordinator, Division of Special Education, Guam; Second row L-R: Mari Shikuzawa, Program Associate, NCSI; Jana Rosborough, Senior Program Associate, NCSI; Donna Flores, Interim Director, Special Education Program, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI); Third row L-R: Sara Dautre, Senior Program Associate, NCSI; Charlie Kniseley, Guam State Lead, MSIP, OSEP; Josephine Cruz, Associate Director, Guam CEDDERS; Fourth row L-R: Christine Pilgrim, Associate Division Director, MSIP, OSEP; Arthur Albert, Assistant Secretary/Special Education Director, FSM; Lucille Sleger, CNMI and Marshall Islands State Lead, MSIP, OSEP; Fifth row L-R: Nora Renguul, Special Education Coordinator, Palau; Miles Kawatachi, Marshall Islands Consultant, Hawaii; Nora Fujihira, Program Manager, Special Education Program, CNMI; Sixth row L-R: Yolanda Gabriel, Assistant Superintendent/Special Education Director, Guam; Perry Williams, NCSI Project Officer, RTP, OSEP; Frank Horiuchi (not shown), Special Education Director, Marshall Islands; Seventh row/last row L-R: Genee Norbert (not shown), American Samoa, FSM, and Palau State Lead, MSIP, OSEP; Laura Taisipic, Parent Services Coordinator, Division of Special Education, Guam; Cathy Tydingco, Early Childhood Coordinator, Division of Special Education, Guam.

As a follow-up to the October 2019 Pacific State Systemic Improvement Plan (SSIP) collaborative meeting held on Guam, the National Center for Systemic Improvement (NCSI), in collaboration with Guam CEDDERS, has been facilitating monthly Pacific SSIP Collaborative Zoom videoconferencing meetings with the six Pacific entity Special Education Directors and their teams. The purpose for the virtual meetings is to continue the technical support to further each entity's SSIP efforts. With the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on educational services, these sessions have provided an opportunity to learn from each other and the resources available through the NCSI.

During the August 5 virtual session, NCSI hosted a "meet and greet" with personnel from the Monitoring and State Improvement Planning (MSIP) Division and the NCSI Project Officer from the Research to Practice (RTP) Division of the

USDOE Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP). Not new to OSEP but new to the MSIP team that support the Pacific entities is Christine Pilgrim, Associate Division Director, MSIP. Ms. Pilgrim assumed the team lead role from our Pacific friend, Judy Gregorian, who retired earlier this year. Welcome to the Pacific region Christine!!

The virtual "meet and greet" allowed regional special education leaders to share and receive feedback from OSEP regarding systems that are working well in their entity and areas in need of improvement. This virtual connection was a great opportunity for both regional and national leaders to collaborate and share ideas related to meeting the needs of students with disabilities and their families in these most unprecedented and extraordinary times.

Eight Scholars Receive Master's Degree in Speech Pathology

Externships for Group 2 Scholars Re-Scheduled

Navigating through the challenges and uncertainties presented by the COVID-19 pandemic has required unlimited patience, a positive attitude, and resiliency. These traits have definitely been required by the students who are part of the Educating Pacific Island Clinicians in Speech Pathology Project, better known as "EPICS." EPICS is a personnel preparation project supported through funding from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP), awarded to San José State University (SJSU) in collaboration with Guam CEDDERS.

Given all the challenges, the exciting news is that eight students in the program, referred to as "EPICS scholars," have successfully met all the requirements for a Master of Arts Degree in Speech Language Pathology and earned their diplomas in mid-August. Receiving their degrees marks the culmination of five years of hard work and grit that for some started in June 2015. These eight scholars (see box to right) were members of the first group that went to San Jose, California in the summer of 2019 for their planned seven-week Externship. Once they receive their official final transcripts, they will be eligible for employment as a Speech Language Pathologist and can begin their Clinical Fellowship (CF). The Clinical Fellowship experience consists of a minimum of 1,260 hours of work experience and a minimum of 36 weeks of full-time or its part-time equivalent under a mentor who is certified by the American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA), the national professional organization. They then become eligible to apply for their Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) under ASHA and are eligible to apply for their local licensure to practice through the Guam Board of Allied Health Professionals (see related article on pages 12-13).

Equally as exciting is that as of press time, five of the scholars have taken and passed the PRAXIS, the examination required for national certification by ASHA. The remaining scholars are scheduling their test dates for later in the year.

EPICS GROUP 1 GRADUATES

Asha Advani
Christina Cole
Cassandra Dimla Bala-an
Lisa Eclavea
Bobbie Obillo
Dianne Sapido
Aileen Serrano
Meagan Terlaje

Meanwhile, the nine scholars who were originally in the second group that was scheduled to complete their San Jose Externship this summer have had their targeted degree completion date derailed by COVID 19. In May they were given a choice to be scheduled for their Externship in San Jose during Summer 2021, a postponement of one full year or doing it in Guam Department of Education schools during the Fall 2020 semester. Six scholars, including the two from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, chose next summer while the remaining three scholars chose the Fall 2020 option.

Then in mid-June, a new opportunity developed: a private clinic in Los Angeles, that was temporarily closed due to a surge in COVID 19 numbers, was set to re-open its door for services in July and the owner extended an invitation to Group 2. Given

the timeframe, the scholars only had one week to make their decision. Dr. Pam Wiley, owner of the LA Speech and Language Therapy Center, is a former student of Dr. Gloria Wedington, SJSJ Professor Emerita, and a Program Coordinator for EPICS. Initially, all Group 2 scholars declined, but then later, one took up the offer. After hurriedly making arrangements including getting a leave of absence approved by GDOE and coordinating a multitude of details, Meagan Terlaje arrived in California after a 16-hour journey on July 19 and started her placement the very next day (see related article on page 12).

As of the printing of this article, the start of Fall 2020 semester Externship placements has been postponed due to an uptick of coronavirus numbers and the resulting re-institution of lockdown measures in Guam. It is anticipated that the Externship will formally begin once implementation of teletherapy starts by the Guam DOE in September.

With the approval of a "no cost extension" year by the funding agency due to the pandemic, EPICS is formally set to continue until mid-August 2021 with end of project activities scheduled for that time. Stay tuned for more updates as they develop.

EPICS Scholar Completes Los Angeles Externship



Meagan Terlaje, EPICS Project Scholar, (foreground), is shown here with Dr. Pam Wiley, CCC-SLP, owner of the Los Angeles Speech and Language Therapy Center in Culver City, California. Meagan completed an seven-week Summer externship at the clinic as one of the requirements for her Master of Arts Degree in Speech and Language Pathology from San Jose State University.

When the coronavirus pandemic hit the United States and Guam, so many planned events, sometimes events planned years in advance, had to be cancelled or postponed and sometimes re-configured. This was the case with the postponement of the much-anticipated seven-week Externship that was supposed to happen beginning in early June for the nine scholars in Group 2 of the Educating Pacific Island Clinicians in Speech Pathology (EPICS) Project. Closure of placement sites due to upticks in people testing positive for the virus was a harsh and frustrating reality, but a necessary one for the health and safety of all involved. For the EPICS scholars, some of whom had persevered for up to five years taking graduate courses while managing work and family obligations, the externship and program completion setback was a big, major disappointment.

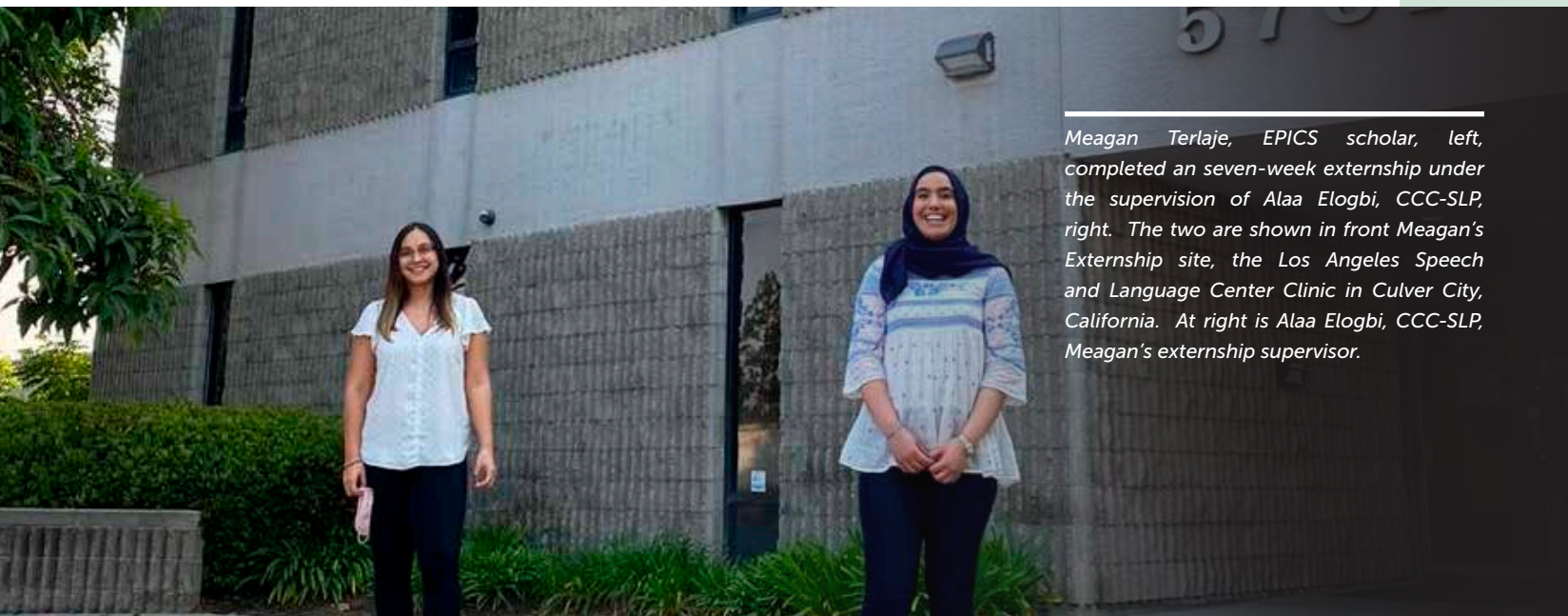
After considering as many options as possible to address the situation, Group 2 scholars were given two choices: complete externship in Guam during Fall 2020 or wait till Summer 2021. The scholars decided on what worked best for them and so new plans were set in May.

But then a third opportunity developed in mid-June: placement at the Los Angeles Speech and Language Center, Inc. (LASLC, Inc.), in Culver City, California starting in July. For a range of reasons, this option was initially declined by all nine eligible scholars. But then one scholar decided to take the leap and opted to pursue this exciting opportunity.



Meagan Terlaje, EPICS Project Scholar, (front row, fifth from left), is shown here with the staff of the Los Angeles Speech and Language Therapy Center in Culver City, California. Meagan completed an seven-week externship on September 4th at the clinic as one of the requirements for her Master of Arts Degree in Speech and Language Pathology from San Jose State University.

EPICS Scholar Completes Externship (Cont.)



Meagan Terlaje, EPICS scholar, left, completed a seven-week externship under the supervision of Alaa Elogbi, CCC-SLP, right. The two are shown in front Meagan's Externship site, the Los Angeles Speech and Language Center Clinic in Culver City, California. At right is Alaa Elogbi, CCC-SLP, Meagan's externship supervisor.

Meagan Terlaje figured she could make it work for her. Long story short, it took much coordination and legwork (and yes, luck!) to pull this all together in a very short period of time. Through the efforts of the EPICS Leadership team, Dr. Wendy Quach, SJSU EPICS Co-Principal Investigator, Dr. Gloria Weddington, SJSU Professor Emerita and EPICS Program Coordinator and Catherine Yuen Ying Lam, SJSU Grant Assistant, along with the extreme generosity of Dr. Pam Wiley, Owner of LASLC, Inc., and support from Jon Fernandez, Superintendent of the Guam Department of Education, where Meagan works as a fifth grade teacher, the placement was secured.

And so after traveling for about 16 hours including a layover in Honolulu, Meagan arrived in Los Angeles at about 5am, July 19 and started her externship the very next day.

Meagan's last day at the clinic was on September 4th, and she couldn't be happier with how the experience worked out for her. She shared that, "this wasn't an easy decision for me to make, but it was definitely worth it. Everyone was so kind and welcoming despite this unique and stressful situation. I've learned so much! I'm thankful for Dr. Wiley and for the opportunity she's given me with this experience."



Meagan Terlaje, EPICS scholar, left, is shown with Alaa Elogbi, CCC-SLP, her externship supervisor, practicing social distancing, one of the requirements under the COVID-19 safety protocol.

Tri-Agency Collaboration on Awareness & Advocacy

Collaboration amongst the Tri-Agency partners – University of Guam Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UOG CEDDERS), Guam Developmental Disabilities Council (GDDC), and Guam Legal Services Corporation (GLSC) – Disability Law Center – is in full steam ahead with the various awareness and advocacy projects to celebrate the 30th Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The #GuamADA30 was the anniversary kickoff project that was launched on July 26, 2020. It encourages everyone in the community to post on social media stories of how the ADA has impacted the life of an individual with a disability, as well as tag photos of a person, business, event, or organization helping to carry out the goals of the ADA. Other projects planned by the Tri-Agency are awareness and advocacy posters, videos that focus on the importance of voting and voting accommodations for individuals with disabilities, broadcasting of the film, “Lives Worth Living,” and other activities planned for the year-long celebration.

The Tri-Agency is also collaboratively working to review the Tri-Agency workplan to ensure that the activities that were developed and agreed upon are still relevant to the community we serve in light of the current pandemic situation. Workplan activities encompass topics in the areas of public awareness, education/health, self-advocacy, assistive technology, and cross cutting areas. Joining forces is imperative as we strive to continue to fulfill the mission and serve individuals with disabilities and their families.



A Tri-Agency meeting was held on July 31 at the GSAT Conference Room to discuss ADA 30th Anniversary activities and the Tri-Agency workplan. Meeting attendees were Carol Cabiles, Program Coordinator, Guam Legal Services Corporation – Disability Law Center; Jermaine Alerta, Executive Director, Guam Developmental Disabilities Council; Michelle Aguigui, Associate Director, Guam CEDDERS.

Remember to use #ADA30guam

On social media, share a story that shows how the ADA has impacted your life. Tag photos of a person, business, event, or organization helping to carry out the goals of the ADA such as:

- accessible spaces open to the public
- the use of sign language interpreters
- Braille signage
- places employing individuals with disabilities



ADA 30th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION



"LIVES WORTH LIVING" SHOWTIMES

Sponsored by: The Tri-Agency Partners

Guam Legal Services Corporation – Disability Law Center

Guam Developmental Disabilities Council

UOG CEDDERS

SEPTEMBER 25, 2020 – OCTOBER 25, 2020

	CHANNEL	DAY	TIME
KUAM TV	Channel 11	Fri	3:00 PM – 4:00 PM
	Channel 8	Sat	4:00 PM – 5:00 PM
GTA GNN	Channel 17	Mon-Sun	11:00 AM – 12:00 PM
	Channel 17	Mon-Sun	3:00 PM – 4:00 PM
	Channel 17	Mon-Sun	6:00 PM – 7:00 PM
DOCOMO	Channel 1	Mon-Sun	12:00 PM – 1:00 PM
	Channel 1	Mon-Sun	4:00 PM – 5:00 PM
	Channel 1	Mon-Sun	7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Lives Worth Living is a historical documentary that focuses on the Disability Movement and how individuals with disabilities advocated to secure equal opportunities and equal rights through the passing of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. The film also highlights the life of Fred Fay, who despite his paralysis due to a spinal cord injury when he was 17 years old, lived his life to its fullest. Through his determination, he advocated for individuals with disabilities to have equal rights, access, and opportunities.



Guam Developmental
Disabilities Council



GUAM LEGAL SERVICES CORPORATION
DISABILITY LAW CENTER

Guam EHDl Partners Continue Services



On August 7, a virtual meeting was facilitated by Candace Lindow-Daves, Hands & Voices, Minnesota, Director of Outreach (First column, first person pictured) and Vicki Hunting, Hands & Voices, Guest Facilitator (First column, third person pictured). The topic of discussion "Family Support Program Essentials" led by Vicki Hunting focused on ways to track the number of families enrolled in the family to family support by six months of age. Meeting attendees were from the Saipan EHDl, American Samoa EHDl, Marshall Islands EHDl, and Guam EHDl.

Guam EHDl would like to thank our hearing screening partners at the birthing centers, Guam Memorial Hospital Authority and the Sagua Mañagu Birthing Center for their continued efforts in screening babies for hearing loss prior to discharge from their respective birthing sites! Despite all the challenges presented by the COVID 19 pandemic, on July 22, GMHA Nursing Supervisors, Avelina "Bing" Opena and Maria Victoria "Marivic" Guiao met via Zoom, with the Guam EHDl coordinator to discuss the results of the Hearing Screening Compliance Survey conducted by EHDl staff. The discussion focused on the strengths and weaknesses of screeners and the training needs for hearing screening staff. The Guam EHDl staff will coordinate the scheduling of training activities with GMHA supervisors as new hearing screeners come on board.

Although many island services slowly reopened in June with the decline in COVID-19 positive cases, the opportunity to provide outpatient rescreens for infants needing this follow-up service continued to be suspended. Guam EHDl and its partners have kept communication lines open for discussions on how to provide the much-needed follow-ups while ensuring infants and families are safe! Plans and protocols are in place to provide 6-month follow-up hearing rescreens for High-Risk infants at Dean's Circle, House 21, once all Personal Protective equipment (PPE) are received, and the University of Guam resumes face to face services.

Guam's Positive Parents Together (GPPT) continues to provide

Family to Family Support to parents of children identified with a hearing loss. They connect and provide resources to the families and the Deaf Adult community on Guam using WhatsApp and Email. GPPT, in collaboration with Guam EHDl, is discussing options for providing a virtual platform for families to connect, meet, and attend workshops.

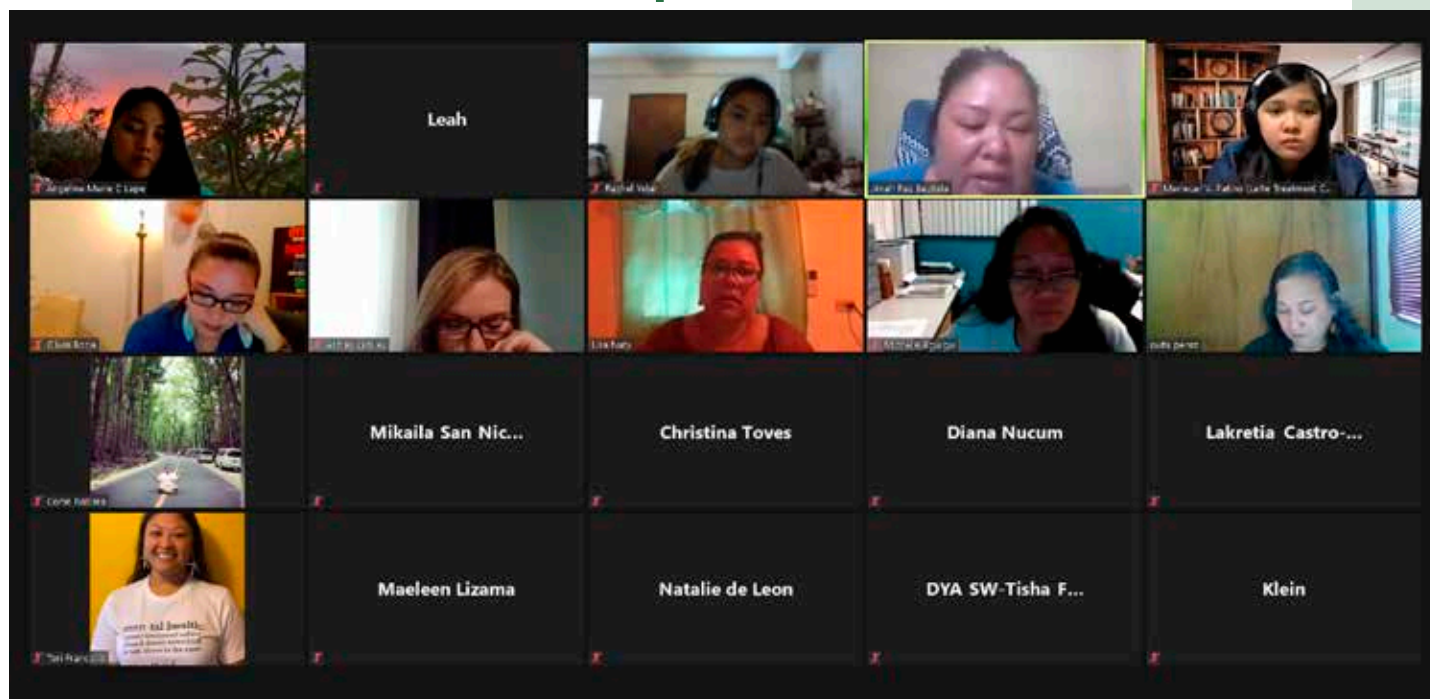
A virtual meeting, held on August 7, was facilitated by Hands & Voices (H & V) Director of Outreach, Candace Lindow-Davies and guest facilitator, Vicki Hunting, a parent of a DHH young adult as well as a Quality Improvement Advisor and Data and Evaluation expert with H & V, Iowa, for the Pacific Islands EHDl Programs and DHH Families from Guam, Saipan, American Samoa, and the Marshall Islands to discuss "Family Support Program Essentials." The discussion led by Vicki Hunting highlighted how family-based organizations would collect data to report to the EHDl Program. The EHDl Program requires family-based organizations to report an increase of 20% the number of families enrolled in the family to family support by six months of age. As a result of this discussion, four states came together to pull data on babies born in August and September to see how to track them and use this first year to create a baseline. She shared that a sophisticated tracking for enrollment is not necessary. Guam EHDl partners are dedicated to developing an effective process to connect families of newly identified infants with a hearing loss to GPPT's DHH Parent Support Group!

Webinars Offered to the Community



On August 13, Leah Abelon, GSAT Center Coordinator conducted a Virtual Webinar, "Creating Accessible Documents," where 80 individuals from various agencies and the general public registered. As information is now being delivered electronically, it is essential that individuals with disabilities have access to digital information. The webinar offered tips and guides to assist service providers in creating documents that are readable for individuals with disabilities. It covered topics such as the importance of including a document title, filename, headings, lists, accessible tables and links, alternative text, and distinguishing appropriate color contrast and running the accessibility checker.

UOG Social Work Professors Orientate Agency Field Instructors in Preparation for Student Interns



On August 24, Dr. Lisa Natividad (2nd row, 3rd person pictured) and Dr. Tressa Diaz (not shown), University of Guam (UOG) professors from the College of Social Work, facilitated an orientation with field instructors from various government, private, and non-profit agencies in preparation for Social Work intern students to begin a year-long practicum internship with their placement agencies. Topics discussed were learning contracts, schedules, and project accommodations due to the current pandemic situation.

Project Bisita I Familia Holds A Large Group Stakeholder Meeting



On August 14, Project Bisita I Familia held a large group stakeholder input meeting with various agencies, programs, and parents to review data collected for the updated Needs Assessment.

Since July 2019, the Guam CEDDERS Project Bisita I Familia Team has worked with Department of Public Health and Social Services (DPHSS), Bureau of Family Health and Nursing Services to collect and analyze data for the 2020 Updated Needs Assessment for Project Bisita I Familia, Guam's Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) Program. A Needs Assessment Core Team was developed with representatives from Guam CEDDERS and DPHSS to create a plan of action for completing the requirements for the Needs Assessment.

Two large group stakeholder meetings were held on November 28, 2019 and August 14, 2020. Separate parent workgroup and Early Childhood System of Services workgroup meetings were also scheduled. The Core Team collected five – six years of data on nine risk indicators – low

birth weight, premature birth, infant mortality, poverty, school dropout, crime, unemployment, substance use, and child maltreatment. Surveys were also conducted with early childhood service providers, Project Bisita home visiting staff, parents receiving services from Project Bisita, and parents receiving services from Birth to Kindergarten Entry programs. Stakeholders were given the opportunity to review data, correlate increases in one risk indicator to factors in other risk indicators, and provide input on the services and supports of their respective programs.

The Needs Assessment Core Team compiled the feedback from the stakeholders and data analyses into a report that will be submitted to the Health Resources and Services Administration on October 1, 2020.

Features: GSAT Assistive Technology Equipment



EXPLORE 8

The Explorē 8 is a Touchscreen HD handheld magnifier for active people who prefer a large screen but still want maximum portability. It is smaller, lighter and more affordable than most 7-inch magnifiers on the market while providing a screen more than 30% larger, designed to make life easier—and a whole lot clearer.

JULIET 120

The Juliet 120 is a powerful and portable Braille printer. When loaded with fan-folded paper, the Juliet 120 produces interpoint braille. It is capable of printing 120 characters per second.



FOCUS 14

The Focus 14 Blue 5th Generation is a compact and robust 14-cell Braille Display drop tested to MIL-STD-810G and ready to go with you anywhere. It features a comfortable user-friendly 8-dot keyboard and Bluetooth 4.1 and USB-C connectivity so that you can switch between five connected devices. Use it with your smartphone, tablet, or laptop, or use the built-in Scratchpad to take notes on the fly...perfect for your active lifestyle.

GUAM CEDDERS WELCOMES NEW STAFF

We are pleased to introduce Mrs. Debra Whitt who has recently joined University of Guam CEDDERS as a Training Associate.

Mrs. Whitt graduated from the University of Guam with a Bachelor's degree in Special Education and received a Masters degree in Education from the University of Portland. Prior to joining UOG CEDDERS, Mrs. Whitt worked with the Guam Department of Education as a Special Education and General Education teacher. Mrs. Whitt brings with her more than 28 years of education experience and expertise.

Welcome aboard, Mrs. Whitt!



26TH ANNUAL GUAM SYSTEM FOR ASSISTIVE TECHNOLOGY VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES IN A CHANGING WORLD

NOVEMBER 6 AND NOVEMBER 13, 2020

10 A.M. – 12 P.M.

VIA ZOOM



Please register here: <http://bit.ly/gsatvirtualconference>



Open your camera app and
point here to REGISTER

For more information or to request for reasonable accommodations, please contact the Guam System for Assistive Technology at 735-2490 or email gsat@guamcedders.org, or visit the GSAT website at <https://www.gsatcedders.org>



These events are funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Administration on Community Living, grant # GUATSC-02, through support to the Guam Tri-Agency: Guam Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (Guam CEDDERS); Guam Developmental Disabilities Council; and Guam Legal Services Corporation- Disability Law Center. The University of Guam is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



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

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This issue of *I Tellai* was made possible by contributions from the following Guam CEDDERS staff members/consultant: Leah Abelon, Michelle Aguigui, Jenika Ballesta, Terrie Fejarang, Josephine Cruz, June De Leon, Keith Villaluna, and Debra Whitt.

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

Please contact Zachary Hecita at (671) 735-2455 (v), (671) 735-6531 (TTY), or (671) 734-5709 (fax) for more information.

The University of Guam is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

**For more information on any of these events,
please call 735-2479 or visit www.guamcedders.org**

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