

## COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

### ***COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE (CDI)***

The Community Development Institute (CDI) is a unique department that houses three programs that provide classes and services directly to various communities, residents, non-residents, and organizations in the CNMI. CDI is the venue for all community courses, non-traditional courses, customized training, specialized academic courses, outreach and extended program services, workforce and community based learning.

Through CDI, the following services can be tailored to meet consumer needs:

- Course Customization and/or Development;
- Creative Scheduling: courses are created with your time and date in mind;
- On-Site Instruction: We Bring NMC to You;
- Courses can be arranged and conducted on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota;
- Continuing Education Units (CEUs): Professional Course Sanctioning;
- Access NMC Courses, Services and Facilities;
- Accelerated NMC Academic and Non-Academic Courses and Certification;
- Short-term courses tailored for personal, professional, and career needs;
- Bachelor, Masters, or Doctoral Degree Program Facilitation;
- Senior Reserve Officer Training Corps (SROTC) – U.S. Army;
- Course or Service Proposals and Memoranda of Agreement/Understanding

The services listed above are conducted through CDI's three main programs: Community Service and Personal Enrichment (CSPE) Program, Extended Degrees and University Partnerships (EDUP) Program, and the Workforce Development and Certificate Training (WDCT) Program.

### ***COMMUNITY SERVICE AND PERSONAL ENRICHMENT (CSPE) PROGRAM***

The CSPE program provides an opportunity to individuals to gradually adjust to classroom setting after being away from school for a period of time. Students do not have to be officially admitted to NMC in order to enroll in these classes. The program is opened to anyone interested in life-long learning and personal enrichment. Certificates of participation or attendance are earned upon successful completion of classes.

Some personal enrichment classes include Computer Skills Development, Office Management, Writing, Math, Cultural Enrichment, and Recreational ones such as Ukulele, Lei-making, Arts, and Dancing, etc. Other classes include leadership and supervision, health and wellness, diet and nutrition, pre-vocational preparation, youth leadership development, and many other valuable, life-skills building and enhancing classes. *Developmental Language Courses* are the most marketable courses provided through CDI. Language course levels range from conversational to advanced College level English. Languages taught include Carolinian, Chamorro, Japanese, Chinese (Mandarin), Korean, Tagalog, English and Russian, etc. Individuals learn the basics of communicating in these languages through conversational, writing, reading, and listening exercises.

### ***EXTENDED DEGREES AND UNIVERSITY PARTNERSHIPS (EDUP) PROGRAM***

The EDUP program supports the college mission by providing opportunities for academic and career education and training in collaboration with secondary and postsecondary educational institutions,

professional organizations, and specific federal programs. Primary activities include the *facilitation of baccalaureate and graduate degree programs and services such as collaborative relationships and internships.*

Through the EDUP, relationships with U.S. accredited institutions of higher learning are continually being explored to provide baccalaureate degree programs through NMC. Current educational partnerships include:

*Framingham State University (FSU)* offers a Master of Education in International Teaching, which is a two-year graduate program that has graduated nine cohorts of students (totaling over 170 graduates);

*University of Guam (UOG)* offers UOG SROTC Military Science Courses in the CNMI thru CDI, thus allowing full-time students enrolled at NMC to seek an officer career in the U.S. Army during their first two years of SROTC in the CNMI; and

*University of Hawaii (UH)* services the CNMI through two subcontracted grants: The Pacific Basin University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (PBUCEDD) in the CNMI through NMC. The NMC's UCEDD is one of sixty-three UCE (University Centers for Excellence) programs throughout the U.S. The UH UCE Pacific Outreach Initiative at NMC and the American Samoa Community College UCEDD Program comprise the PBUCEDD.

The *Area Health Education Center (AHEC)* is also an extended service provided by a grant through the UH. This service focuses on developing awareness and promotes health fields and careers as well as provides health related courses available at NMC to the community.

*Collaborations* with other regional and national institutions of higher education in business management, accounting, nursing, criminal justice, public administration, education, health, and other disciplines are also being explored. Any postsecondary institutions that wish to conduct certificate trainings or offer on-line or resident degree programs beyond the associate level within the CNMI are encouraged to register with NMC through CDI.

## ***WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND CERTIFICATE TRAINING (WDCT) PROGRAMS***

The WDCT program functions and services include the facilitation of *accelerated academic courses, law enforcement academies, customized training, and the Area Health Education Center (AHEC).* The WDCT program is industry based and strives to improve industries available in the CNMI, more specifically in the fields of Education, Health, Public Safety, Tourism and Hospitality, Business, and General Workforce needs. In full understanding of the continually changing educational environment and the need for non-traditional educational experiences, CDI works closely with NMC's Division of Academic Programs and Services to cater to the needs of the CNMI diversified workforce. This program provides completion of certificate (academic and non-academic) and degree programs through an accelerated program arrangement. The program is designed around the schedule and needs of interested individuals, while maintaining the academic rigor and requirements needed for successful completion of such courses or certification.

*Customized Training* is provided to meet the particular training and education needs of individuals, and public and private sector workforces. CDI stands to tailor or customize all requested training to accommodate clients. Training programs may be arranged through proposals or Memoranda of Agreement at any time of the year. Training schedules are flexible and can be provided during the day or evening hours, on weekdays or weekends, on campus or at the jobsite; the needs of the client determine the training schedule. *Preparatory courses leading to certification such as* PRAXIS, NCLEX, SAT, ASVAB, English and Math Placement, and Computer Skill Assessments, etc. can also be arranged and offered under CDI.

## **Education to Go**

In partnership with ed2go, NMC makes it convenient to take high quality, noncredit online courses no matter where students are located. Hundreds of courses are available on many topics including accounting and finance, business, computer applications, health care and medical, language and arts, law and legal, personal development, teaching and education, technology and writing. Ed2go is a division of Cengage Learning, Inc.

Programs are designed by a team of professionals from each respective field, providing effective web-based learning programs. Instructors/mentors are actively involved in the online learning experience, responding to any questions or concerns, as well as encouraging and motivating students to succeed. Well-crafted lessons, expert online instruction, and interaction with fellow classmates help students gain valuable knowledge at their convenience. They also have the flexibility to study at their own pace combined with enough structure and support to complete a course. Courses may be accessed 24/7 from any location with an internet connection.

Online career training programs are available to start anytime. The duration these programs range from three to six months. An extension period is available if necessary. Many programs include an industry certification. Although web-based, expert instructors provide office hours and quick responses to any student questions. Students may get more information and access the ed2go courses through the NMC web site at [www.marianas.edu](http://www.marianas.edu).

## **Project PROA**

“Helping students navigate their path to a college degree.” PROA is the Promotion and Retention of Opportunities for advancement (PROA). Funded by a grant from the US Department of Education, it provides tutoring, advising, mentoring, outreach activities, academic activities and cultural activities. Project PROA aims to improve and expand the capacity of indigenous Chamorro and Carolinian students. It also aims to increase the number and proportion of those who attend and graduate on time at NMC.

## ***UNIVERSITY CENTERS FOR EXCELLENCE IN DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES EDUCATION, RESEARCH, AND SERVICE (UCEDD)***

Since 1963, UCEDD has been working to accomplish a shared vision that foresees a nation in which all Americans, including Americans with disabilities, participate fully in their communities. Independence, productivity, and community inclusion are key components of this vision. The national network of UCEDDs is authorized under Public Law 106-402 (The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 or "DD Act") and their core funding is administered by the Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (AIDD).

NMC UCEDD is one of 67 University Centers for Excellence (UCE) programs throughout the U.S. The NMC and the American Samoa Community College UCEDD programs make up the Pacific Basin University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (PBUCEDD). The program is made possible through the University of Hawaii UCE Pacific Outreach Initiative.

Many issues, such as early intervention, health care, community-based services, inclusive and meaningful education, transition from school to work, employment, housing, assistive technology, and transportation have been directly benefited by the services, research, and training provided by UCEDDs. The NMC UCEDD Program is committed to the development of culturally complimentary outcomes while promoting equal opportunity, independence, productivity, self-advocacy and self-determination. NMC UCEDD supports an improved quality of life for people with developmental disabilities in their homes, their villages, the Commonwealth, and the world around us.

### **WANT TO SHARE YOUR KNOWLEDGE?**

CDI is constantly searching for outstanding local and national community members that are highly trained and/or experienced individuals to share their knowledge, skills, and expertise with the community in a non-traditional classroom setting. Contact us today and continue your lifelong learning experience.

To enroll in a course or request the development of a customized training program for you, your department, agency, or company, please visit Community Development Institute (CDI) at NMC's Saipan campus, Building P (next to the Human Resources Office), or call (670) 234-5498, extensions 1005, 1030, 1010, 1019, or 1014.

### ***ADULT BASIC EDUCATION (ABE)***

The mission of the Adult Education Program is to ensure that educationally disadvantaged adults of the community have the opportunities to acquire basic skills necessary to function more effectively and productively in order to gain upward mobility by providing opportunities that will enable them to pursue further education in support of the Northern Marianas College mission.

The Northern Marianas College Adult Basic Education Program receives an annual grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The statutory authority for this program is the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, Title II, Adult Education and Family Literacy.

### Goals (Program Learning Outcomes)

- To improve competency levels in language arts and mathematics to empower adult learners to participate more fully in community life.
- To prepare adults, who are parents, to become effective teachers of their children.
- Prepare adult learners who did not complete their high school education to pass the GED examination or the Adult School Mastery Tests.
- For non-native speakers of English to improve their literacy and overall competency in English usage.
- To prepare adults for successful job placement or career performance.

### Components of ABE

1. Adult Basic Education (ABE) for individual adults seeking literacy according to basic levels.
2. English as a Second Language (ESL) Program for those with limited English proficiency according to six (6) levels.
3. Adult Secondary Education (ASE) for individuals seeking to earn a high school diploma either through: The General Educational Development Diploma (GED), or the Adult School (AS) program

### ELIGIBILITY FOR ABE PROGRAM ENROLLMENT

The Workforce Investment Act (WIA), Title II, the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act, defines Adult Education as services or instruction below the postsecondary level for individuals:

- AT least 16 years of age
- NOT enrolled or REQUIRED to be enrolled in high school under State law
- AND who:
  - lack sufficient basic educational skills to enable them to function effectively in society
  - who do not have a high school diploma, GED, or other equivalent, and have not attained an equivalent level of education
  - OR are unable to speak, read, or write the English

#### *\*Eligibility of 16 to 18 Year Olds\**

According to state policy, 16 to 18 year olds may only enroll in the ABE program if they have:

- withdrawn officially from the public or private school system **AND**
- to provide an official letter from their school principal or counselor verifying the exact date on which they withdrew from school. This verification must be maintained in the ABE permanent program file.

*For more information, visit the ABE State Office in Building T or call 234- 5498, extension 1722.*

## ***COOPERATIVE RESEARCH, EXTENSION AND EDUCATION SERVICE (CREES)***

The Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service (NMC-CREES) provides free assistance and appropriate technical information in the fields of animal, plant, family, and consumer sciences that is locally sustainable, environmentally safe, and economically feasible, in order to enhance the well-being and improve the quality of life of the people living in the CNMI. The two major components in CREES are the Agriculture Research and Extension Services (ARE) and Consumer and Family Sciences (CFS). These programs are supported by federal funds received from the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). To obtain federal funding, CREES is required to submit a five-year State Plan that must be approved by USDA. CREES also applies for competitive grants to support primarily research projects.

## Agriculture Research and Extension Services

The *Livestock Improvement Program* provides technical assistance and training to improve the competitiveness of the CNMI cattle, goat, swine and poultry produced by reducing the cost of production, increasing productivity and profits while protecting our natural resources and the environment.

The *Plant Protection Program* provides technical assistance and training in insect, weed, and other pest identification and control. In addition, the program helps farmers and gardeners identify the types of diseases their plants may have.

The *Crop Production Improvement Program* helps improve the quality, quantity, and timing of the production of fresh fruits and vegetables in the CNMI. The program provides information on farm trials and backyard gardening.

The *Soil and Water Management Program* conducts research and provides technical assistance focused on protecting or enhancing our environment and at the same time, maximizing the profitability and sustainability of agriculture in the CNMI.

The *Aquaculture and Fishery Development Programs* is established to fulfill the mandate of CNMI Public Law 15-43 that designated NMC CREES as the lead agency responsible for aquaculture and fisheries development in the CNMI. This program conducts research and extension activities on aquaponics, marine and freshwater finfish and crustacean production, and provides free consultations and workshops.

## Consumer and Family Education Services

The *Community Resource Development Program* works with the community's diverse ethnic and cultural groups to help improve access to and utilization of services for various communities. This program offers workshops and training in family financial management, sewing classes for families with limited resources, promotes recycling of materials into new forms of arts and crafts, and conducts activities for youth development.

The *Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program* (EFNEP) helps the CNMI's youth and limited-resource families develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes, and behavior needed to improve their diet. In addition, families learn to make informed choices about low-cost, nutritious foods, better manage family finances, and become more self-sufficient.

The *Diet, Physical Activity, and Health Program* uses scientific evidence and best practices recommendations/models to bring about changes that are conducive to improved health at the population level. Policy and environmental approaches and interventions in relation to diet, physical activity, and health promotion are the main focus of the program. The program seeks to bring about population-wide interventions that will result in an increase of positive behaviors relating to diet and physical activity, thereby reducing the burden of lifestyle diseases.

The *Food Safety Program and Quality Program* provides formal/informal training and technical information on safe food handling to help reduce or prevent food borne illnesses. The program conducts basic and applied research on alternative food processing technologies, and offers demonstrations and workshops on value-added products using local post-harvest or seasonal agricultural commodities that may increase profits for the local farmers and producers.

The *4-H Youth Development Program* aims to develop the local youth by lining them with caring adults in order to foster relationships that encourage the youth population to envision potential and acquire positive attitudes towards themselves and others. The program teaches youth that by incorporating the use of their health, hands, head, and heart, they can grow up to become self-directing, responsible, and contributing members of the CNMI. The underlying themes in all CNMI 4-H programs are personal, physical and mental health.

For more information, visit the CREES website at <http://www.crees.org> or call 234-5498, extension 1728.

## ARTICULATION AGREEMENTS

NMC also maintains and has articulation agreements with the following institutions:

- Ashford University
- Chaminade University of Honolulu
- DeSales University
- Framingham State College & International Education
- Hawaii Pacific University
- Palau Community College
- Pohnpei Accord
- Rio Salado College (Maricopa Community College)
- University of Alaska - Fairbanks
- University of Guam
- University of Guam-SROTC
- University of Hawaii at Hilo

## WESTERN INTERSTATE COMMISSION FOR HIGHER EDUCATION (WICHE)

In an effort to help residents of the CNMI have access to affordable college tuition. WICHE provides CNMI residents with the opportunity to go abroad to complete their studies and be able to avail of a discounted tuition rate. We recently became a member of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, also known as WICHE. WICHE also helps to promote innovation, cooperation, and resource sharing among member states. WICHE has a total of 16 members, 15 of which are U.S. states and the CNMI being the only U.S. territory and also the newest member in 25 years. CNMI membership became effective on April 1, 2013. The fifteen member states are as listed: Alaska, Arizona, California, Colorado, Hawai'i, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, north Dakota, Oregon, South Dakota, Utah, Washington, and Wyoming.

Every member state has three WICHE Commissioners. For the CNMI, they are Dr. Sharon Hart, former Lt. Governor Jude Hofschneider, and Mr. Joshua Sasamoto.

The CNMI is currently participating in 2 of the many programs under WICHE. These are the Western Undergraduate Exchange program (WUE) and the Western Regional Graduate Program (WRGP).