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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## 14 GCC students awarded APIASF scholarships

*Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund awards \$42,500 in scholarships to students at Guam Community College*

The Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF) awarded 14 full-time, degree-seeking Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) students at Guam Community College with scholarships totaling \$42,500 today during a brief ceremony in the GCC Student Center Training Room. Eleven of the students were each awarded a \$2,500 scholarship, and three students were each awarded \$5,000 scholarships.

“I feel very blessed, especially since it was at the last minute that I applied,” said scholarship recipient Kaolanie Claros of Yigo. “It is the first time I’ve ever applied for a scholarship,” said Claros, who will use the money to finish her Associate of Science degree in Human Services at GCC. She then plans to attend the University of Guam to earn her bachelor’s degree in either social work or counseling. “It’s a great opportunity,” she added.

Dr. Mary Okada, GCC president, encouraged the students to keep applying for these scholarships. “A lot of our scholarships are not awarded because students don’t apply,” she said. “You have a great opportunity here, and there is even an opportunity to go to Washington D.C. over the summer with APIASF, so take advantage of these opportunities,” she encouraged the students.

Dr. Robert Underwood, University of Guam president and member of the APIASF Scholarship board, encouraged the students to move over to UOG upon finishing their associate degrees at GCC. Many of the recipients plan to do just that.

“It’s my first time to apply for a scholarship,” said Gracia Flor Rebujio of Yigo, who is earning her associate’s degree in Hotel Management at GCC and then plans to earn her bachelor’s degree in business from UOG. “It’s a great help for my future,” Rebujio said of her scholarship.

“APIASF is excited to partner with Guam Community College for the second year through the APIASF AANAPISI Scholarship program. With more than 40 percent of Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders enrolled in higher education attending an AANAPISI campus, this partnership provides an opportunity to support AAPI students in Guam and allow them to gain access to financial and support services – ultimately helping them to earn a quality education and degree,” said APIASF President & Executive Director Neil Horikoshi.

The APIASF AANAPISI Scholarship Program is a collaboration of AANAPISIs, a federal designation of minority-serving institutions that enroll large populations of AAPI students, and the communities they serve to provide scholarships, expand institutional capacity and mobilize local resources to help foster economic development. AANAPISIs serve disproportionately high concentrations of low-income AAPI students – this collaboration reaches some of the highest concentrations of underserved students.

The AANAPISI Scholarship Program is supported by The Coca-Cola Foundation, Educational Testing Service, General Mills Foundation, Hilton Worldwide, Honda, USA Funds, Walmart Foundation and Wells Fargo.

To learn more about the scholarship recipients or for more information about the APIASF AANAPISI Scholarship Program, visit APIASF's website at [www.apiasf.org](http://www.apiasf.org). Also, follow APIASF on Facebook and Twitter.

### **About Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund**

Based in Washington, D.C., the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund (APIASF) is the nation's largest non-profit provider of college scholarships for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders (AAPI). APIASF works to create opportunities for students to access, complete, and succeed after post-secondary education; thereby developing future leaders who will excel in their career, serve as role models in their communities, and will ultimately contribute to a vibrant America. Since 2003, APIASF has distributed nearly \$90 million in scholarships to AAPI students across the country and in the Pacific Islands. APIASF manages three scholarship programs: APIASF's general scholarship, the APIASF Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISI) scholarship program, and the Gates Millennium Scholars/Asian Pacific Islander Americans funded by a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

Suggested photo caption:

The Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund awarded 14 GCC students with APIASF scholarships totaling \$42,500 today at the Student Center. Seated: Raekel Santos, Rosanna Martinez, Jaricel Roman, Kaolanie Claros, and Gracia Rebujo. Standing: Danilo Bilong, GCC Development & Alumni Relations; GCC President Dr. Mary Okada; Dian Xu; Johnny Worswick; Anthony Martinez; Shadanice James; Pia Joy Hocog; Kevin Banico; Kehani Mendiola; Anthony Reyes; Adrian Davis; Bonnie Datuin, GCC Development & Alumni Relations; and UOG President and APIASF board member Dr. Robert Underwood.

Individuals requiring special accommodations, auxiliary aids, or services please contact 735-5597.

For more information, please contact Jayne Flores, GCC Asst. Director of Communications & Promotions, at 735-5638 (office), 483-6409 (cell), or via email at [jayne.flores@guamcc.edu](mailto:jayne.flores@guamcc.edu).