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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## 18 GCC students awarded APIASF scholarships

Eighteen Guam Community College students have been awarded a \$2,500 scholarship each from the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund – the largest amount, and the largest single group of scholarship recipients in the college’s history, according to Dr. Mary Okada, GCC president.

In speaking to the students at an APIASF Scholarship luncheon today in the rotunda of the GCC Learning Resource Center, Okada told the students, “I’m very excited that so many of you received this scholarship. Often, we have scholarship money that goes unrewarded because students do not apply for it. We are very grateful to APIASF for this opportunity for all of you.”

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). Since 2003, APIASF has distributed more than \$80 million in scholarships to AAPI students across the country and in the Pacific Islands. The APIASF Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI) Scholarship program is an expansion of the APIASF Community College Scholarship Program. In 2013, a new scholarship opportunity was launched by APIASF in partnership with Guam Community College through the AANAPISI Scholarship Program. The APIASF partnership with AANAPISIs helps provides important access to AAPI students in their pursuit of higher education. Eligible students must be U.S. citizens, nationals, or legal permanent residents enrolled in an accredited higher education institution, with a minimum GPA of 2.7, and who have applied for federal financial aid through the FAFSA, or the Free Application for Federal Student Aid.

Okada noted that GCC is proud to partner with APIASF for the scholarship opportunities for students. She also noted her thanks to the Walmart Foundation, which paid for the scholarships for six of the students, and sponsored today’s luncheon.

“I was so thrilled when I found out that I was one of the recipients for the APIASF Scholarship. I got to pay for my classes that I needed in order for me to graduate this semester,” said Jennifer Esteves Collins, who serves as the president of GCC’s Council on Postsecondary Student

Affairs. “I can tell that they took the time to actually congratulate us; we got to see them through Skype and they had an actual speech prepared for us and our GCC president - it was wonderful.”

Esteves Collins referred to Neil Horikoshi, APIASF President & Executive Director, and Cecilia Marshall, APIASF Director, who appeared at today’s luncheon from Washington D.C. via Skype.

The Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund includes scholarship opportunities provided by AT&T, BBCN Bank, Coca-Cola Foundation, Darden Restaurants, FedEx, Frances Sonn Nam Memorial Scholarship, Hilton, NBC Universal, Sodexo Foundation, Southern California Edison, Target, Toyota, and Wells Fargo. Most of the scholarships are \$2,500 awards, some for one year, and some for two years. For more information about APIASF opportunities, check the web site at [www.apiasf.org](http://www.apiasf.org). For scholarship opportunities at Guam Community College, log onto [www.guamcc.edu](http://www.guamcc.edu).

In addition, the AANAPISI Scholarship Program is supported by ETS, USA Funds, Walmart Foundation, and Wells Fargo.

Suggested photo caption:

Fifteen of the 18 GCC students awarded APIASF scholarships gathered at the GCC Learning Resource Center rotunda on May 2 for a scholarship award luncheon sponsored by WalMart Foundation, a supporter of the AANAPISI Scholarship Program funded by APIASF. Front row from left: Bonnie Datuin, GCC Alumni & Development Relations Office; scholarship recipients Cassandra Suva; Ann Mariel Flores; Rosanna Martinez; Jennifer Esteves Collins; Coritha Guadana; Martisha Baldonado; Camille Castro; Ageline Sahagun, and Julieana Raras. Back row: Inosencio Walter; Matthew Mendoza; Duane Danao; Mark Cosico; John Sadorra; Anthony Reyes; and Dr. Mary Okada, GCC President. Not pictured are recipients Marquisha Camacho, Maria DeGuzman, and Sherlock Madlutk.

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