



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

May 18, 2015 1:00 P.M.

## **353 to graduate from GCC May 19th**

Guam Community College will confer 430\* degrees, certificates, and/or diplomas upon 353 graduates at the University of Guam Calvo Field House at 6 pm on Tuesday, May 19, 2015.

This year's graduating class includes a record number of postsecondary credentials and journey worker certificates conferred, as well as many individual stories of perseverance and triumph.

"We are very proud to be presenting these graduates to our island community," said Dr. Mary Okada, GCC president. "This year's awarding of a record number of postsecondary credentials and journey worker certificates means more of our students are completing their programs," Okada added. "These graduates are not only improving their own economic sustainability, but also, they are improving the sustainability of our island's workforce as well."

GCC's Most Distinguished Graduate for 2015 is Gerome R. Sangalang, who is graduating with an Associate of Science degree in Pre-Architectural Drafting. Sangalang currently works full-time for IMCO Construction as a GPS technician, and plans to pursue a degree in architecture.

Graduating with an Associate of Science in Medical Assisting, Michele Phillips is GCC's 2015 Distinguished Graduate. Married to a Guam native who is currently stationed on island in the U.S. Navy, Phillips plans to eventually pursue her bachelor's degree in nursing.

Mr. Neil Horikoshi, who for the past seven years has served as the President and Executive Director of the Asian & Pacific Islander American Scholarship Fund, will deliver the Commencement Address. Over the past two years, APIASF has awarded 32 GCC students with scholarships.

During the Commencement ceremony, GCC will award local filmmaker Don Muna with the Distinguished Alumni Award for 2015. Mr. Muna earned his GED® from Guam Community College in 1999, and has since established himself as a successful, internationally acclaimed filmmaker. Muna and his brother, Kel, wrote, produced, and directed the film "Shiro's Head" on Guam. The film was crowned Winner of the Silver Ace Award at the Las Vegas International Film Festival, Best of Festival and Best Feature Film at the Sandhills Film Festival, and was a Grand Jury Award Finalist at the Los Angeles Asian Pacific Film Festival. The Muna Bros. also established the critically acclaimed Guam International Film Festival.

The number of graduates in each degree category is as follows:

Postsecondary associate degrees or certificates)	208 (number of graduates; graduates are earning a total of 285**
Apprenticeship Completers	87**
Adult High School Diploma	43
GED®	15
Total number of graduates	353

Total number of degrees earned: 430 \*

\*Please note that some graduates have earned more than one degree or certificate, which is why the total number of degrees awarded exceeds the total number of actual graduates.

\*\*Record number

GCC is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

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

For more information, 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).