



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Students' community service lands GCC on President's Honor Roll for 4<sup>th</sup> straight year**

Students' community service efforts such as preparing and delivering food and supplies to homeless residents, providing free health screenings for elderly residents, and distributing educational gift bags to indigent families with young children at the Salvation Army's Thanksgiving luncheon have landed GCC on the President's Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll for the fourth consecutive year. The 2013 Honor Roll, issued by the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), recognizes higher education institutions for their support of volunteering, service-learning, and civic engagement.

"Each year, our students, led by an outstanding faculty team, go above and beyond the call when it comes to these community service projects," said Dr. Mary Okada, GCC president. "We are so proud that they embrace the service learning component of our curriculum and apply it where they see need in the community. This program definitely enhances our students' capabilities and helps prepare them for the challenges of today's workforce."

During Academic Year 2011-2012, GCC's Center for Civic Engagement logged 150 service learning activities involving 730 students (a 120-student increase over last year) who collectively logged 7,063 hours of community service. This number represents approximately 28 percent of GCC's student population (a six percent increase in the number of students who participated in service learning activities over last year).

Highlights of students' service learning/community projects include:

Criminal Justice and Social Science students again assisted with Guam's Point in Time Homeless count by preparing 450 bags of food and supplies and then helping government officials scour the island to distribute the bags and get an accurate count of the number of homeless people.

Supervision & Management students sponsored nine names from the Sugar Plum Tree Christmas gift project and raised money to sponsor four more recipients, and organized a huge campus food drive for the Salvation Army.

Practical Nursing and Medical Assisting students assisted with an island-wide bone marrow drive, and Medical Assisting students provided free health screenings for senior citizens at a Department of Public Health seniors' conference.

Education students prepared educational gift bags for 200 young children for the Salvation Army's Thanksgiving luncheon and provided make-and-take activities for 300 families of young children during outreach at a Healthy Mothers, Healthy Babies Fair.

GCC's Ecowarriors cleaned and recycled at 22 island events and constructed recycling bins for a primarily Micronesian subdivision to teach outer islanders about recycling. Their efforts at the Liberation Day Parade (the island's largest single gathering of the year) netted nearly 300 pounds of recyclables.

Higher Education Community Service Honor Roll honorees are chosen based on a series of selection factors, including the scope and innovation of service projects, the extent to which service-learning is embedded in the curriculum, the school's commitment to long-term campus-community partnerships, and measurable community outcomes as a result of the service.

For a full list of recipients, visit [www.NationalService.gov/HonorRoll](http://www.NationalService.gov/HonorRoll).

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