



GUAM COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Kulehon Kumunidát Guáhan

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

USDA to provide \$5M loan for GCC Building 100 Renovation/Expansion, Crime Lab Extension

Students will be able to gain a better understanding of police forensics and Guam Police Department criminalists will have better tools to help put criminals behind bars, thanks to a \$5 million loan from the USDA to Guam Community College unveiled this morning at GCC.

Gov. Eddie Baza Calvo, Dr. Mary Okada, GCC president, and Joe Diego, USDA Guam Area Manager, gathered with other officials this morning in the GCC Multipurpose Auditorium to announce the USDA's \$5 million loan to GCC for the renovation/expansion of Building 100 and the construction of a classroom and DNA laboratory addition to the nearby Gregorio D. Perez GPD Crime Lab. The renovated Building 100 will house the GCC Criminal Justice Program and cosmetology classes, and the crime lab extension will provide classrooms and a DNA forensic lab.

"This \$5 million loan is the result of what can happen when we collaborate, through entities like GCC, with federal agencies such as USDA to press for improvements on our island," Gov. Calvo noted. "This project will greatly benefit the students at GCC, the officers of the Guam Police Department, and the law-abiding citizens of Guam."

"These two projects will further enhance the GCC CJ program by providing a more conducive learning environment to give our graduates the necessary skills to fill the demand for law enforcement and forensic science careers on Guam and in the region," added Dr. Okada, who sought leveraged financing with USDA for the projects.

"This award illustrates the Obama Administration's continued commitment to help rural residents gain access to up-to-date education and community services necessary to improve their quality of life. We are pleased to play a role in continuing the impressive growth at Guam Community College," said Joe Diego, USDA Western Pacific Area Director.

Lt. Ron Taitano, GPD Crime Lab Director, noted, "GPD looks forward to the construction of this DNA lab as a way to provide our citizens with the closure of more cases and more accurate and quicker identification of suspects."

“We appreciate our relationship with the FBI,” said Monica Salas, Chief Criminalist, “but having our own DNA lab will allow us to move forward more quickly to gather DNA evidence at the scene, develop it and match it against our criminal database in order to provide investigative leads to our officers in a much more timely manner. Up to this point, we’ve had to send DNA evidence off island,” she said.

“The new DNA lab will also open the doors to more unsolved homicides and criminal sexual assaults,” Taitano added.

The renovated/expanded version of Building 100 will include:

- 16,800 square feet
- Two-story structure
- 1st floor: five classrooms (including two cosmetology salons), two offices, large conference room, storage rooms
- 2nd floor: six classrooms, two offices, conference room, storage room, workout room
- ADA and emergency vehicle access, shared service area with adjacent Building 200

LEED certification will include:

- Photovoltaic panels
- 15,000 gal. domestic water storage tank and 8,000 gal. rainwater catchment system from Building 200 to supply Building 100
- water-efficient plumbing fixtures
- energy efficient lighting
- photo-controlled timers
- Building 100 will be the *fourth* LEED certified building on GCC’s campus (Learning Resource Center LEED GOLD; Foundation Building LEED Silver; Building 200 LEED determination TBA)

The current Building 100 Building 100 is a single-story structure, 60-ft x 140-ft in area, originally constructed in the mid-1960’s along with “Butler” Buildings 200 (currently under renovation/expansion), 300, 400, 500 and 600 as part of the Department of Education’s former Vocational Technical High School.

The classroom and DNA laboratory expansion of the Gregorio D. Perez GPD Crime Lab is also designed for LEED certification and will include:

- Single story structure
- 1,980 sq.ft. classroom area (2 classrooms, 2 offices)
- 4,915 sq.ft. laboratory (including secure receiving room, Alternate Light Source (ALS) lab, Biology Exam lab, Post Amp lab, Bio-vestibule, Pre Amp lab, Reagent room, lab storage, refrigerator storage, evidence storage room, administrative area, 2 offices, CODIS room, library, and case room)
- 1,945 sq.ft. administration area

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