



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Nikko renews commitment to GCC with 10K donation

Twenty years ago, when Guam Community College opened its first Foundation Building, Hotel Nikko Guam donated \$50,000 to the GCC Foundation to support the College's education and training efforts for the tourism industry. During the Nikko's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary dinner on November 15, Nikko officials, including General Manager Masaaki Kawanabe and Assistant General Manager Joe Blas, renewed their commitment to GCC's tourism industry workforce training efforts with an additional \$10,000 donation to the GCC Foundation.

"We are extremely grateful to the Hotel Nikko Guam for their generous donation, and for their valuable partnership with GCC over the past two decades," said Dr. Mary Okada, GCC President. "The mentorship provided by Nikko to our students enables them to graduate with the exemplary skills and professionalism needed to provide five-star service to our tourists, and Nikko has validated that training by hiring many of our graduates," she added.

"Hotel Nikko Guam is whole-heartedly committed to continuing the promise of supporting the Guam Community College that was initiated 20 years ago. We believe that our community can only grow stronger by the support it gains from private institutions contributing to the success of our future. We have complete faith in the talents that our island possesses and want nothing more than to give these individuals the opportunity to pursue their passions right here at home. We are more than convinced that Guam has the ability to educate and mold our leaders of tomorrow and are grateful to be a part of that," said Blas.

The Nikko donation was honored with a classroom dedication in the newly renovated Foundation Building, which opened on campus on November 5.

Suggested captions:

1991

Hotel Nikko Guam's first general manager, Seitaro Tsuneki, presents a check for \$50,000 to Tom Flores, GCC Board Chairman (center), and John Salas, GCC Board member, in May 1991, to signal Nikko's investment in the GCC tourism training program.

2012:

From left, Lolita Reyes, GCC Asst. Director of Development and Alumni Relations and Dr. Mary Okada, GCC President, accept a check for \$10,000 from Masaaki Kawanabe, Hotel Nikko

Guam General Manager, on Nov. 15, 2012, to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nikko and its investment in GCC's Tourism training program.

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