



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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### **GCC student wins PREL scholarship**

Attending school just got a little easier financially for Meldie Joy Cabales. The Guam Community College Early Childhood Education major is one of five winners of the 2012-2013 Pacific Teacher Scholarship, awarded annually by the non-profit corporation Pacific Resources for Education and Learning (PREL) to accomplished students who are enrolled in a teacher preparation program at an accredited college or university and who are residents of the U.S.-affiliated Pacific islands.

Cabales had to compete for the scholarship, one of the requirements of which is the intention to teach at a school in a U.S.-affiliated Pacific island. Also, applicants must have a good academic record, a personal statement, and letters of recommendation, all of which are reviewed by the scholarship committee.

“It’s going to help me a lot. I’m a working student, paying for school, so it will be a big help financially,” said Cabales, 18, who graduated from George Washington High School in 2011. Cabales plans to use her \$1,000 scholarship to help pay for her tuition this fall. After earning her associate degree in Education from GCC next spring, Cabales plans to continue her education and earn her baccalaureate degree in Education and eventually become an elementary school teacher.

“My nephews inspired me to become a teacher – I love playing school with them, and I really like working with children,” she said.

“We are extremely proud of Meldie,” said Sarah Leon Guerrero, chair of the GCC Education Department. “Her accomplishments are indicative of the caliber of the education we provide here at GCC, and we are excited that PREL is recognizing the knowledge and motivation of our students.”

The other four PREL scholarship recipients are Rachel Duenas, also from Guam and attending the University of Guam; Omar Faustino from Palau; and Rhonda Johnny and Cory Kustin, both from Pohnpei.

PREL is an independent, nonprofit corporation headquartered in Hawai'i, with offices in American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, the Republic of

the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia: Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei, and Yap. For more information log onto the PREL web site at [www.prel.org](http://www.prel.org).

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