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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## NSF advisor holds PPEC grant-writing workshop

Faculty and administrators from Pacific Post Secondary Education Council (PPEC) member institutions in Micronesia are now better equipped to be more competitive in obtaining grant money from the National Science Foundation, thanks to a grant-writing workshop conducted January 21st by John Cruikshank. Cruikshank holds the dual title of NSF Senior Policy Advisor for the Division of Research on Learning, and NSF Asian-American Pacific Islands Officer.

“I’m here to help people strengthen their proposals, so that they stand a higher chance of getting funded by NSF,” he said.

Cruikshank conducted the workshop at Guam Community College Thursday for 15 officials from GCC, Northern Marianas College, American Samoa, and the College of Micronesia, to “help increase PPEC institutions’ success rate in obtaining NSF competitive research and education awards for capacity building, and to broaden participation by the underserved community of Pacific islanders.”

“He offered insight as to what the grant reviewers look for, and gave us great tips on how to make our applications successful, such as making connections with NSF program officers, and collaborating with government or community agencies that can help with a project or research application,” said Bonnie Datuin, a grant writer at GCC.

The PPEC sponsored the workshop, during which Cruikshank stressed collaboration and partnerships when seeking NSF grants.

In June 2011, Cruikshank was awarded the NSF Director’s Award for Superior Accomplishment for his innovative outreach model to the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands region. In May 2012, he gave the commencement address at GCC, and spoke about the “tyranny of distance” affecting Micronesia. As the NSF AAPI Officer, his job, he says, is to help the region close that distance gap with science and technology.

Suggested photo caption:

John Cruikshank, NSF Senior Policy Advisor for the Division of Research on Learning / Asian-American Pacific Islands Officer, gives tips to faculty and administrators from colleges in Micronesia on how to successfully obtain NSF grants during a grant-writing workshop on Jan. 21 at GCC.

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