

FRIDAY, AUGUST 29, 2025

KOROR, PALAU

PALAU COMMUNITY COLLEGE

# MESEKIU'S NEWS



**Campus Buzz: Free Weekly Newsletter**


## PCC LAUNCHES FIRST BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAM: BACHELOR OF SCIENCE IN SCIENCE



PCC PRESIDENT DR. PATRICK U. TELLEI AND 4-YEAR DEGREE PROGRAM TASK FORCE  
(FRONT ROW L-R) MARIANNE TEMAUNGIL, LIGAYA SARA, PRESIDENT TELLEI, GAMBERLYN NGIRMERIL, & VP JAY OLEGERIIL  
(BACK ROW L-R) ULAI IKESIIL, JOHVANNA YAOCH, DERBEI MEYAR, & ISUMECHRAARD NGIRAIRIKL

Koror, Palau: Palau Community College (PCC) is proud to announce the approval and launch of its first-ever baccalaureate degree program—the Bachelor of Science in Science. This landmark achievement marks a significant milestone in PCC's commitment to enhancing higher education opportunities for the people of Palau and the Micronesian region.

The Bachelor of Science in Science

program is a multidisciplinary program designed to equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary to excel in various science fields, including environmental science, research and development, healthcare, biomedical sciences, and education. This program aims to foster a new generation of professionals equipped to tackle our nation's challenges. This initiative embodies our dedication to providing quality education and addressing the

*BACHELOR CONTINUED ON PAGE 2*

Mesekiu's News welcomes stories/articles/announcements from students, faculty, and staff. Submission deadline is Wednesday at 4:30 p.m. in hard and/or electronic copies to [pccdev@palau.edu](mailto:pccdev@palau.edu). Articles from MOC/PCC Alumni are also welcome. Please call 488-2470/2471 (extensions 251 or 252) for more information.

## PRESIDENTIAL HIGHLIGHT



PCC PRESIDENT DR. PATRICK U. TELLEI AND NCCU DELEGATION

### NCCU Meets With PCC President

A delegation from National Chengchi University (NCCU) visited Palau Community College (PCC) to discuss a two-year research project with President Dr. Patrick U. Tellei. The project, funded by the Office of Fellowship for Austronesian Studies, involves three NCCU professors and two Palauans namely Dawn Rechelulk and Benaleey Benjamin. Their research topics include:

- Yayut Yi-shiuan Chen: "Mesei (taro patch), migrant labor, and cultural continuity: gender landscape in contemporary Palau."
- Rik De Busser: "Attitudes towards the Standardization of the Palauan Language."
- Wen-chi Yang: "Local Perspectives on the Cultural and Social Effects of Palau's Digital Residency Program."



MS. SAYAKO NAITO, JICA VOLUNTEER -  
PCC COOPERATIVE RESEARCH EXTENSION



(PICTURE) DR. CHRIS KITALONG, VP OF CRE  
(INSET) LYNDON MASAMAI, CRE DIRECTOR

## JICA Volunteer Showcases Her Work at PCC

On August 22, 2025, Ms. Sayako Naito, a JICA volunteer, presented her ongoing initiatives and future plans during her assignment with the PCC Cooperative Research Extension (CRE). The presentation, attended by Vice President Dr. Chris Kitalong and Director Masami, highlighted her impactful work and the support provided by CRE.

Ms. Naito has made substantial contributions to the CRE through collaboration with staff and students on significant research projects. Her efforts focus primarily on two critical areas: assessing the salt tolerance of taro and managing the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB), a major pest threatening coconut trees in Palau.

As Palau faces increased vulnerability to climate change, including challenges such as flooding and saltwater intrusion that affect taro cultivation, her research on salt tolerance is particularly vital. Utilizing DNA analysis techniques, Ms. Naito aims to identify and preserve the traits that enable taro to thrive under adverse conditions, enhancing the sustainability of traditional taro farming practices. In addition to her work on taro, Ms. Naito addresses the CRB issue, a pest that damages coconut trees by

feeding on their growing shoots. This damage can lead to reduced yields, tree mortality, and adverse effects on local livelihoods and ecosystems. Her research also explores whether CRB populations show resistance to the OrNV virus, which is used for biological control. Through this investigation, Ms. Naito seeks to develop sustainable, effective, and environmentally friendly strategies for managing CRB, thus protecting coconut trees and supporting the communities dependent on them.

The presentation underscored Ms. Naito's dedication to her work and highlighted CRE's crucial role in promoting sustainable practices to tackle the challenges of climate change and pest management in Palau. Her initiatives are essential not only for enhancing agricultural resilience and food security but also for preserving local livelihoods and ecosystems.

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### *BACHELOR CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1*

needs of our communities. With this new program, students will have greater access to advanced studies, better preparing them for careers and opportunities.

PCC has received the requisite approval from the Accrediting Commission for Community and

Junior Colleges (ACCJC) to offer this program. With full accreditation, students enrolled in the program will now be eligible to apply for Title IV financial aid, which include PELL Grants, Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG), and Federal Work Study (FWS). As this is our inaugural offering of a four-year degree, we are working with the Office of Financial Aid, Office of Admissions & Records, and our dedicated counselors to ensure everything is in place for a smooth enrollment experience. PCC will begin enrollment for the Bachelor of Science in Science program in Fall 2026.

Interested applicants can contact the PCC Office of Admissions & Records at 488-2471, ext. 248, for enrollment, program, and financial aid info. For baccalaureate degree inquiries, contact Ms. Gamberlyn Sherry Ngirmeriil, the 4-Year Degree Program Coordinator, at 775-2180.

Founded in 1927, Palau Community College is an accessible and comprehensive post-secondary public educational institution dedicated to addressing the technical, academic, cultural, social, and economic needs of students and communities. We are mandated by RPPL 4-2, aka the Higher Education Act of 1993, to be the comprehensive community College for the Republic. As such, we strive to provide educational programs needed by Palau and the Micronesian region.

### **4-Year Degree Task Force Members:**

- VP/ALO Jay Olegeriil - Chairman
- Associate Professor/AALO Derbei Meyar - Recorder
- 4-Year Degree Program Coordinator Ms. Gamberlyn Ngirmeriil
- Computer Services Director/AALO Ms. Johvanna Yaach
- Associate Dean Marianne Temaungil
- Associate Dean Ulai Ikesiil
- Institutional Research Analyst Ms. Ligaya Sara
- Financial Aid Director Ms. Isumechraad Ngirairiki

# BITS AND PIECES

## TAN SIU LIN PCC LIBRARY

### Hours of Operation

Monday to Thursday  
7:30 AM to 7:00 PM

Friday  
8:00 AM to 5:00 PM

Saturday  
9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

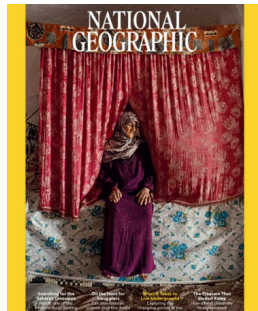
\*Closed on Sundays and National Holidays

For more information, call:  
488-3540

### Available To Interested

#### Readers:

#### NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC



The official publication of the National Geographic Society, a nonprofit dedicated to science, exploration, and understanding our world.

The latest news in science, exploration, and culture will open your eyes to the world's many wonders.

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR

**September 1 (MONDAY)**  
**Holiday: Labor Day**

### PCC: Continuing Education Concludes the 39<sup>th</sup> Cycle of Caregiver Training

Palau Community College (PCC), in collaboration with the Palau Area Health Education Center (AHEC), recently concluded the 39th cycle of its Caregiver Training Program. This cycle welcomed 22 dedicated participants and was facilitated by four experienced instructors. Held at the PCC Continuing Education Training Room, the program spanned nine modules over the course of August 11 to August 19. The instructional team included Dr. Sylvia Osarch, Mr. Philip Gepty, Dr. Louisa Santos, and Nurse Vanessa Espangel.

An awarding ceremony took place on

August 20 at the PCC Assembly Hall, where President Tellei welcomed guests, and Dr. Gregory Dever from AHEC shared a special address. Dr. Osarch summarized the training, followed by a speech from participant representative Mr. Larry Solliven.

For information on upcoming caregiver training programs, please contact the Continuing Education office at 488-6223 or 488-2470/2471, Ext. 243, or email [wxavier@palau.edu](mailto:wxavier@palau.edu).



39TH CYCLE OF CAREGIVER TRAINING COHORT

## 2025-2026 PCC BASED SCHOLARSHIP APPLY NOW!

**DAVID W. SHIPPER MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**  
**DEBBIE O. NGIRAIBAI BUSINESS ACCOUNTING SCHOLARSHIP**  
**DR. JOEL E. MILES MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**  
**JAN STANISLAW KUBARY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**  
**MATSON NAVIGATION COMPANY INC. SCHOLARSHIP**  
**MOYLAN'S INSURANCE SCHOLARSHIP**  
**NGISELACHEOS RENGIL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**  
**PNCC SCHOLARSHIP**  
**PIERANTOZZI SCHOLARSHIP**  
**PRINCE LEBUU SCHOLARSHIP**  
**IP&E SCHOLARSHIP**  
**TERRY T. NGIRMANG NURSING SCHOLARSHIP**  
**WILHELM R. RENGIL SCHOLARSHIP**  
**YAMAZAKI RENGIL MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP**

**APPLICATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE PCC  
DEVELOPMENT OFFICE. FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT  
THE PCC-BASED SCHOLARSHIPS:  
CONTACT: DEVELOPMENT OFFICE @  
488-2470/2471 EXT 251 OR 252  
SUBMIT COMPLETE APPLICATION TO DEVELOPMENT  
OFFICE BY SEPTEMBER 30, 2025**



## Vacancy Announcement

(1) *Instructor, Construction Technology*  
Academic Affairs Division  
Salary Range: \$16,010 - \$28,280 per annum

(2) *Instructor, Small Engine & Outboard Marine Technology*  
Academic Affairs Division  
Salary Range: \$12,653 - \$28,280 per annum

(3) *Extension Agent (EFNEP Program)*  
PCC Cooperative Research & Extension  
Salary Range: \$11,010 - \$19,552 per annum

(4) *Instructor, Community & Public Health*  
Academic Affairs Division  
Salary Range: \$16,010 - \$28,280 per annum

(5) *Federal Work Study Coordinator*  
Student Services Division - Office of Financial Aid  
Salary Range: \$16,010 - \$28,280 per annum

(6) *Administrative Assistant, Upward Bound Program*  
Salary Range: \$12,001 - \$21,312 per annum

(7) *Accounting Technician (Payroll), Administration Department (Business Office)*  
Salary Range: \$13,081 - \$23,230 per annum

## Vacancy Announcement

(8) *Library Assistant, Tan Siu Lin PCC Library*  
Salary Range: \$7,800 - \$13,852 per annum

"PCC is an Equal Opportunity Employer."

## Celebrating Birthday August 25 - August 31, 2025



**Kaylence  
Igeral**



**Chelsea  
Pedro**



**Weiling  
Sked**

## ALUMNI NOTES Westin Andrew



Mr. Westin Andrew graduated from PCC with an AAS in Construction Technology in Spring 2024. He has been an active athlete representing Team Palau to Micro Games 2024 and Pacific Mini Games 2025.

## PCC ENDOWMENT

**INVEST IN THE FUTURE  
TO SUPPORT,  
CONTACT US TODAY!**

P.O.BOX 9  
KOROR, PALAU 96940  
Phone: 488-2470/2471  
(Ext. 251/252)  
e-mail: [tellei@palau.edu](mailto:tellei@palau.edu)

*If you want to join the Bi-Weekly Allotment Program, **Contact Us Now!***

Interested in learning transferrable media and marketing skills? Volunteer with the PCC Development Office. Stop by at the Dort building to sign-up.



## Please Hire PCC Graduates!

**Basic Conversational  
Palauan & Sewing Classes  
available through  
PCC Continuing Education  
Office!**

**For more information,  
please contact us at:  
Phone: 488-2470 Ext 243 or  
488-6223  
Email: [wxavier@palau.edu](mailto:wxavier@palau.edu)**