

CTE SUMMIT 2024

*Career and Technical Education Across the Sea:
Celebrating CTE in the Western Pacific*

Panel Discussion on Workforce Development and the Future of Career and Technical Education

University of Guam Lecture Hall

February 16, 2024, Friday,

5:00pm - 7:00pm



William Castillo is a proud graduate of Father Duenas Memorial School and the current Director of Workforce Development at Leeward Community College located in Pearl City, Hawaii. He has over 17 years of experience in education and non-profit organizations with an emphasis on adult learners. William is currently the President of the Hawaii Association for Career and Technical Education and a former fellow of the ACTE NextLevel Postsecondary CTE Leadership Program.



Charlie Hermosa is the CEO and Co-Founder of Bella Wings Aviation a full drone service company Headquartered in Guam. He is a graduate of the US Merchant Marine Academy with a BS in Marine Transportation and holds an MA from George Mason University in Transportation Policy, Operations and Logistics. He is a former US Marine Corps Officer serving with 3rdBN 6thMarines during combat operations in Afghanistan. He is a recipient of the Navy-Marine Corp Commendation medal and Combat Action Ribbon with bronze star. He currently serves as an Adjunct Professor at the University of Guam School of Business.



Dr. Roseann Jones is a tenured Professor of Economics and Dean of the School of Business and Public Administration at the University of Guam. She received her PhD in economics and regional planning from the University of Pennsylvania. She is an institutional economist specializing in development economics, with subspecialty research in health care and environmental policy. Dr. Jones holds a Master of Arts degree in City and Regional Planning and a

Master of Government Administration from the Samuel Fels Center of Government at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Jones's research focuses on regional economic development, initially with national studies of the US health system and implications for its workforce. She has more recently conducted economic impact studies of Guam's economy, its labor force, and productivity.



Dr. Mary Okada is the longest serving president and chief executive officer of Guam Community College, beginning her tenure in June 2007.

Under Dr. Okada's leadership, Guam Community College has been recognized for its 22 consecutive years as a low-risk auditee, and the continued expansion of workforce education in Guam. She has overseen the addition of several new programs to GCC, including the introduction of new associate degree programs and GCC's first baccalaureate program launched in Fall 2020.

Dr. Okada is a member of several national and regional organizations: American Association of Community Colleges (AACC), Asian Pacific Association for Fiduciary Studies (APAFS), Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT), Pacific Postsecondary Education Council (PPEC) and Pacific Resource for Education and Learning (PREL).



Yolanda Muña Padrones is the Director of HR for Triple J Enterprises with over 13 years of experience. Yolanda also teaches HR at UOG as an adjunct faculty. Yolanda earned a Bachelor of Business Administration and Public Administration, with a concentration in Human Resources from the University of Guam and a Masters in Business Administration from the University of Phoenix. She also holds senior level certifications from the Society for Human Resource Management and the Human Resources Certification Institute.

Yolanda is passionate about giving back to her community through volunteerism. She has served on the Board of SHRM for over 9 years and is currently the President of the Guam Chapter, was also appointed to the Workers Compensation Commission and the Board of Trustees of the Guam Community College. Yolanda also volunteers as a member of the cake crew for Bake Their Day, a local non-profit.



CDR Rivas is a native of Bryan, Ohio. She graduated in 2006 from Wright State University with a Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering before commissioning from Officer Candidate School in Pensacola, Florida in 2007. She holds a Master of Technology Management from the University of California Santa Barbara.

Her operational tours include Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Forty as the Headquarters Company Commander/Timor-Leste OIC with tours in Deh Dadi II, Afghanistan and Timor-Leste. She then reported to Naval Construction Group One as the Theater Security Cooperation Officer, and Oceania Operations Officer developing and maintaining expeditionary missions within INDOPACOM. She also served as the training officer to Amphibious Construction Battalion One and Defense Unit Commander to Naval Beach Group One.

In addition to her operational tours, she served at Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Hawaii as the Seabee Division Officer, Assistant Regional Officer-In-Charge of Construction Wahiawa and Action Officer for the Assistant Regional Engineer. During her time at NAVFAC HI, she also deployed in support of Joint Task Force Haiti for humanitarian aid/disaster recovery efforts. She reported to Civil Engineer Corps Officer School and was an Instructor for Public Works Basic, Facilities Maintenance Division Basic and Intermediate Public Works. She also served the Public Works Officer at Barstow, California.

CDR Rivas is currently assigned as the Executive Officer for the Officer in Charge of Construction Marine Corps Marianas.

She is a registered Professional Engineer in California, a member of the Defense Acquisition Corps, a qualified Seabee Combat Warfare Officer and qualified through PWD Level III. Her personal decorations include a Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (three awards), a Joint Service Achievement Medal, and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Award (two awards) and various Campaign and Unit Awards.



Dr. Fred R. Schumann is a Professor of Global Resources Management in the School of Business and Public Administration at the University of Guam. Dr. Schumann teaches business and tourism-related courses in the university's business program. He also serves as a graduate faculty member in the University's MBA program. Dr. Schumann holds a B.A. from Western Colorado University, an M.A. from the University of Oregon, and a PhD from Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University. He has participated in various tourism-related economic revitalization projects and is currently involved in pursuing

education and workforce development projects for the region.



Dr. Kenneth Erik Swanson earned a Bachelor of Arts in music education from the University of Nevada, Reno. He received his Master of Education in curriculum and evaluation from the University of Nevada, Las Vegas and continued in the EdD program achieving Nevada Administrator Certification and achieved his PhD in leadership in educational administration from Capella University. Over the course of his career in public education, Dr. Swanson taught middle and high school band and choir in Las Vegas, Nevada. He served over 20

years as a K-12 principal in the DoDEA system. After retiring from the DoDEA system, he returned to his native Pacific Northwest and then took up the Superintendent challenges in Omak, WA.



Dr. Jessica Barcinas Taylor is the Career Technical Education Program Director for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Public School System. She has been with the CNMI Public School System since 1999. Her career in education includes holding positions as a teacher, a counselor, a vice principal and a principal before becoming a program manager and eventually a director of CTE. She was born and raised on Saipan and possesses a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science from the University of Washington, a Master's Degree in Education through the University of Guam and a Doctoral Degree in Educational Leadership, Administration, and Policy from Pepperdine University. She is passionate about giving back to our islands and ensuring that all students in the CNMI have access to high quality and comprehensive career pathways leading to careers, college, and life!