Presenters





CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION

B.S. Career and Technical Education Team

Chef Phillip Callos Chef Regine Olarte Ms. Christine Fernandez Marivic C. Schrage, M.Ed. CTE Associate Professor, B.S. CTE, Guam Community College

Professional Background. The B.S. in CTE Team comprises Guam Community College (GCC) high school Career and Technical Education (CTE) instructors who are also students in the GCC Bachelor of Science in Career and Technical Education (BSCTE) program. Guided by their mentor and professor, Marivic C. Schrage, the team includes:

Chef Phillip Callos - GCC ProStart Instructor, Simon Sanchez High School

Chef Regine Olarte - GCC ProStart Instructor, John F. Kennedy High School

Christine Fernandez – GCC Hospitality & Tourism Management Program (HTMP) Instructor, Tiyan High School

Together, they bring industry expertise and classroom experience to the implementation of Project-Based Learning (PBL) in CTE, fostering innovative and hands-on learning for future professionals in culinary and hospitality.

Topic: Implementing PBL in CTE Classrooms

Synopsis. Building on last year's discussion of what Project-Based Learning (PBL) is and why it is essential in Career and Technical Education (CTE), this interactive session shifts the focus to implementation. In this workshop, three Bachelor of Science in CTE students—who are also practicing CTE teachers in culinary and hospitality—will showcase how they have brought PBL to life in their classrooms. Participants will gain firsthand insights into the planning, execution, and impact of PBL projects developed in the BSCTE CTE410 Methods of Teaching: Project-Based Learning in CTE course. Attendees will leave with practical strategies for designing and facilitating meaningful PBL experiences that enhance student engagement, skill development, and workforce readiness.

Presenters





Dr. Debra T. Cabrera, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, University of Guam Professional Background. Dr. Debra T. Cabrera is an Associate Professor in the Sociology Program at the University of Guam. She is also a faculty member for the Women and Gender Studies Program, Micronesian Studies Program, and the Chamoru Studies Program. She also chairs the College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Curriculum Committee. Prior to UOG, Dr. Cabrera was a social studies teacher at St. John's School, and social science faculty then Dean of Academic Programs and Services at the Northern Marianas College. Throughout the years, she has served in local, regional, and national organizations, namely the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities, President Barack Obama's White House Advisory Commission on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, Humanities Guåhan, and the Scientific and Statistical Committee and the Social Science Planning Committee for the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council. Her current research interests focus on juvenile delinquency in the Marianas, the sociology of education, and environmental deviance.

Topic: How Social Sciences Education is Connected to Career Technical Education: Implications for College and Career Readiness

Synopsis. The connection between social sciences and career technical education (CTE) is complex, involving educational practices, workforce development, and societal needs. Social sciences contribute significantly to CTE by providing frameworks that promote an understanding of socio-economic factors influencing career pathways and educational outcomes. This presentation explores how social sciences contribute to CTE, the integration of social studies within technical curricula, and the implications for college and workforce readiness.

Professional Background. Wil is an energetic and contagiously optimistic provocateur of education with experiences in public, independent and charter education across K-16. He attained Doctoral Candidacy at Columbia, has a Harvard Master's degree with graduate credits from MIT; and a Bachelor's degree from UOG. Wil is currently pursuing certifications in Project Management, Cybersecurity, Data Analysis, and CHamoru studies. Select C-Suite executive experiences include chief of staff and senior advisor to regional governors, chief planner, chief technology officer, director of development and institutional effectiveness, and acting associate superintendent.

Topic: A Case Study of Career Tech High Academy Charter School and Accreditation Success

Synopsis: Educational institutions today face complex challenges, including time constraints, internal capacity limitations, resources, and data management. Despite these obstacles, Career Tech High Academy Charter School successfully attained a six-year accreditation in a remarkably short period. This presentation will explore the strategic approaches and collaborative efforts that led to this achievement, offering insights into how schools can navigate similar challenges. Located seaside on Hågat Bay, Guam, Career Tech provides students with diverse educational pathways, integrating traditional seafaring and navigation, college and career readiness programs, and technology and construction tracks. Additionally, the school emphasizes emerging fields such as social media, sustainable living, and the arts, while maintaining a strong foundation in English, math, science, social studies, and world languages such as CHamoru and American Sign Language. This session will examine the key factors behind Career Tech's success, focusing on the role of initiative and teamwork in overcoming institutional challenges. Participants will gain a deeper understanding of how innovative program development, interdisciplinary learning, and strategic planning contribute to sustained growth and accreditation success. By attending this discussion, participants will gain practical insights that may be adapted to their own institutions, fostering innovation and continuous improvement in today's evolving educational landscape.



Wil Castro

Principal, Career Tech High Academy Master Teacher, Leadership Academy



Dr. Deborah Ellen

Associate Professor, Guam Community College Professional Background. Dr. Ellen has worked in the field of education for over 30 years as a classroom teacher, trainer of teachers, curriculum specialist, and college professor. Her experience includes working with educators and students in the US, Middle East, CNMI, Indonesia, FSM, and here on Guam. For the past few years, she has provided professional development in the area of Project-Based Learning and completed certification as an Earth Charter and Education for Sustainable Development Educator.

Topic: Re-thinking Education As If Our Island Matters

Synopsis. This session will focus on two key questions: 1) What do we want our island to be like in 50 years? And 2) What human qualities and values are important for our community members in order to ensure a sustainable and equitable future? Education for a sustainable future must address these questions through innovative thinking and sharing. We will look at what it means to be an educated person, the role of meaning and values in our educational programs, and how we can implement a greater sense of meaning and purpose in our educational settings and community. Information will be shared and participants will engage in group discussions and activities.

Presenters





Dr. Juan Flores
Senior Adviser,
Business and Technology Academy
Charter School

Professional Background. Juan Flores has been a middle and high school science and math teacher and an instructor in professional education at the undergraduate and graduate levels on Guam and several states in the US. He also held roles as a school and district administrator in public and private schools. Juan's experiences are rounded out by work in educational laboratory organizations, the Guam Department of Labor, and nonprofit organizations.

Topic: Project-Based Learning Supporting CTE Learning

Synopsis. This presentation explores the role of Project-Based Learning (PBL) in enhancing Career and Technical Education (CTE) learning by integrating real-world projects into high school core academic courses. It highlights the alignment of PBL with academic standards, its impact on student engagement and career pathway development, and strategies for effective assessment and implementation. This session will provide educators with actionable insights on integrating PBL into CTE learning, ensuring students develop essential academic, technical, and career-readiness skills.

Professional Background. Dr. Ernesto J. Guades is an Assistant Professor in Civil/Structural Engineering at the University of Guam (UOG). Prior to joining UOG, he was a Marie S. Curie Post-Doctoral Research Fellow in Structural Engineering at the Technical University of Denmark. Dr. Guades has a 20-year of combined teaching, research, administrative and structural designing experience in Civil and Structural Engineering. He published around 40 technical papers in journals and conference proceedings and a reviewer of high-ranking journals in Structural Engineering and Construction Materials. Dr. Guades can be contacted at guadese@triton.uog.edu.

Topic: Innovation in Engineering Education: Fostering integration of research and education

Synopsis. The University of Guam is a Minority Serving Institution, and our students are predominantly from underrepresented communities and are Native Pacific islanders. This presentation reports on how our engineering students are being involved in enhancing their learning experience. The initiatives undertaken to integrate research and education will be discussed. The discussion focuses on research and research training for undergraduate and high school students and how they can contribute to the sustainability and resiliency of Guam. It is hoped that the audience will get ideas on innovative ways of coupling research and education. This presentation also expects to provide information on how K-12 and high school will boost their interest in pursuing engineering and other STEM-related programs.



Ernesto J. Guades, Ph.D.

Division Chair and Assistant Professor-School of Engineering, University of Guam



Frank T. Ishizaki, M.S. Instructor of Legal Studies, Expert in Residence

University of Guam

Professional Background. Frank Ishizaki is a retired FBI special agent and has also served as chief of police, director of corrections, homeland security advisor, senator in the 29 th Guam Legislature, and a security consultant. He has also written opinion columns for the Marianas Variety and the Pacific Daily News. He has hosted talk shows for KUAM and K-57 radio. Frank teaches criminal justice and public administration courses for the University of Guam. He is a UOG Distinguished Alumnus and is UOG's first. Chemistry graduate. Frank holds a M.S. in Forensic Chemistry from the University of Pittsburgh. He started the Guam Police Department's crime laboratory in the 70s and became the first FBI agent recruited from Guam

Topic: How do we help students find career paths?

Synopsis. Future careers for developing students require mentorship and guidance from teachers, counselors, and parents. Do we offer sufficient help? I don't believe that we adequately reach out to students to show them possibilities. I was fortunate to have blindly developed and have enjoyed my journey. While they kept me busy, my teachers and counselors did not show me possibilities. The challenge for all of us is to take time with each student and to attempt to discover what they should pursue.

Presenters





GCC ProStart Culinary Program

Simon Sanchez High School

Professional Background. Ysabella Basto and Renee Villanueva, senior students in the Simon Sanchez High School ProStart program, are exploring career pathways in CTE teaching. As part of this journey, they attended the Teach CTE event at Guam Community College (GCC) on January 24. Through their participation, they gained valuable insights into the field of Career and Technical Education (CTE) teaching. To fulfill their service-learning hours, they are sharing their reflections with the community, highlighting the significance of mentorship, professional growth, and the role of CTE educators in shaping future generations.

Topic: Teach CTE: Reflections on Teaching as a Career Pathway

Synopsis. Teach CTE is a national initiative by the Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE) designed to address the growing challenges of teacher recruitment and retention. This spring, the Guam Community College (GCC) Bachelor of Science in Career and Technical Education (BSCTE) program hosted its inaugural Teach CTE event, inviting high school seniors to explore teaching as a viable and rewarding career pathway. The event featured a panel discussion with BSCTE students who shared their experiences as both students and CTE instructors, offering valuable insights into the realities of the profession. Given the ongoing teacher shortages within the Guam Department of Education, this initiative plays a critical role in inspiring and preparing the next generation of CTE educators.

This presentation explores key takeaways from the event, emphasizing the impact of personal narratives on career decision-making, the importance of mentorship in CTE education, and the broader implications for strengthening the teacher pipeline on Guam.

Professional Background. Cheryl R. Sangueza is an Associate Professor at the University of Guam School of Education, where she serves as the Program Chair for the Master of Education in Innovations in Teaching and Learning (InTal.). She also leads a wide range of programs across five grants that support high school, community college, undergraduate, graduate, post-doctoral, and workforce fellowships. Driven by her love of learning and her commitment to fostering a sense of belonging, Dr. Sangueza designs her academic courses and grants programs to empower her students. Her joy is in creating transformative learning experiences for all learners in any context.

Topic: Another Perspective to Overcoming Barriers in Education

Synopsis. Enhance your teaching and how you feel inspired to do so! This interactive session explores trends, ideas, and innovations that impact student learning experiences. Focused on fostering growth and positive change for ourselves and our students, participants will reflect on mindsets and practices in ourselves and our workplace and commit to refining professional practices to impact student sense of belonging and learning outcomes. First, the workshop begins with briefly examining subtle yet powerful barriers for learners with participants exploring ways to overcome these. Second, through guided self-reflection, participants will pinpoint two mindsets and professional practices they wish to refine, focusing on the potential impact these changes will have on their students' learning experiences.

Third, paired participants will share their self-reflection outcomes as they continue to explore strategies for professional growth. Fourth, paired insights will be shared with the whole group, sparking further reflection on how shared experiences lead to collective innovation. The session concludes with a review of the key takeaways, reinforcing how shifting mindsets and practices can enhance educational outcomes.

Our goal is that participants will leave excited and equipped to enact personal and professional actionable

changes that are designed to foster a more inclusive and impactful learning environment.



Cheryl R. Sanguenza, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, School of Education Program Chair, Master of Education in Innovations in Teaching and Learning (InTaL) University of Guam



Marivic C. Schrage, M.Ed. CTE

Associate Professor, Guam Community College Professional Background. With 28 years of experience in career and technical education, Vicky—affectionately known by that name—embraces a teaching philosophy rooted in discipline. Renowned for her dedication to practical learning, she seamlessly brings to her classroom real-world tasks performed by experts in their respective fields through project-based learning approaches. Currently, she is actively pursuing a Ph.D. in Career and Technical Education at Old Dominion University, an institution classified among "R1: Doctoral Universities - Very high research activity." Her unwavering commitment to advancing both her knowledge and the field of career and technical education underscores her deep passion for achieving teaching excellence.

Topic: Essential Skills in an Al-Driven Economy

Synopsis. As Artificial Intelligence (AI) continues to transform industries, the demand for a new set of workplace skills is rapidly evolving. This presentation explores the key competencies that students and workers must develop to thrive in an AI-enhanced work environment. Participants will gain insights into how Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs can equip students with the knowledge and practical abilities to navigate the future workforce, ensuring they are prepared for both the challenges and opportunities posed by AI.

Presenters





Slmon Sanchez High School Team

Carla D. Masnayon, SSHS Principal

Professional Background. Under the direction of Principal Carla D. Masnayon since SY 2013-2014, the SSHS Career Academies faculty continuously adapts and evolves to overcome the challenges that the school faces each year. As of SY 2024-2025, SSHS has reaffirmed four academy concentrations: Tourism, Health Careers & Sciences, Marketing, and Civic Leadership (JROTC). Each of the academies' faculty teams are well-respected and knowledgeable who are in full support of this initiative.

Topic: The Shark Academies: Our Journey to Create a More Meaningful High School Experience for Our Students

Synopsis. This presentation will explore the process and experience that Simon Sanchez HS has had of developing a career academy curriculum designed to equip SSHS students with the skills and knowledge necessary to be competitive in today's rapidly evolving job market. While SSHS has integrated a robust CTE program through various GCC and non-GCC programs, the school has acknowledged the benefits of a more structured academy program. It will cover key strategies for aligning academic learning with real-world industry needs, ensuring that students are not only prepared for higher education but also primed for success in their chosen careers, and are able to do so with a strong support system within both their chosen academy and the school.

Professional Background. Dr. Christine Sison is the Associate Dean of Trades and Professional Services at Guam Community College. She oversees GCC's Career and Technical Education (CTE) high school programs across six Guam Department of Education (GDOE) high schools, working with 50 CTE faculty in Guam's public schools. Her extensive experience includes serving as a Financial Aid Counselor at the University of Guam, a Program Specialist responsible for establishing GCC's first Career Placement Office, and the director of both the TRiO-Project AIM program and the College Access Challenge Grant program. She has also been a trainer for GCC's Continuing Education and Workforce Development programs and has taught at both adult and postsecondary levels. Dr. Sison holds a Bachelor's degree in International Business from Seattle University, a Master's in Public Administration from the University of Guam, and a Ph.D. in Leadership for Higher Education from Capella University.

Topic: Guam Community College CTE Pathways

Synopsis. The Guam Community College Career and Technical Education (CTE) Pathways provides programs to high school students andadults with hands-on training and educational opportunities in various CTE fields. This initiative aims to equip participants with the skills and certifications needed to succeed in today's workforce. The program offers various pathways, from healthcare and information technology to construction and hospitality management, fostering career readiness. Guam Community College collaborates with GDOE, local employers, industry professionals, and community organizations to ensure curriculum relevance, internships, and job placement support, ensuring graduates are well-prepared for success in their chosen careers. This session will provide participants an overview of GCC's CTE Career Pathway system, highlighting its structure, programs, and opportunities for high school students to gain industry-relevant skills, certifications, and college credits.



Dr. Christine Sison, Ph.D Associate Dean, Guam Community College



Dr. Anthony Jay Sunga
Founder and CEO, SIFA Learning
Academy Charter School

Professional Background. Dr. Anthony Jay Sunga, Founder and CEO of SIFA Learning Academy Charter School, embodies science in both his professional and personal life. After a distinguished career in biopharmaceuticals, he returned to Guam with a vision to champion STEAM education for the island and the Pacific region. A dedicated scientist and educator, Dr. Sunga has been a relentless advocate for integrating science, technology, engineering, and mathematics into education. His leadership has driven initiatives that inspire students to engage in STEAM fields, ensuring they are prepared for the evolving global workforce. He actively collaborates with passionate community members and organizations to expand STEAM opportunities, making quality education and innovation accessible to Guam's youth. His commitment to the island's future is evident through SIFA's charter school model and various outreach programs that empower students with the skills, knowledge, and experiences necessary to thrive in the 21st and 22nd centuries.

Topic: Preparing the 21st Century Student for the 22nd Century Workforce

Synopsis. SIFA's recent approval to expand to high school marks an exciting step in preparing students for careers in healthcare, technology, engineering, and beyond. With a focus on inquiry-based learning, hands-on science and engineering projects, and career readiness through robotics, coding, and digital citizenship, SIFA fosters critical thinking and real-world skills. Its interdisciplinary curriculum enriches education through cultural studies, the arts, culinary sciences, and literacy development, while the HOUSE system promotes leadership and collaboration. Additionally, a partnership with the University of Makati ensures advanced teacher training. Looking ahead, SIFA is committed to integrating emerging technologies such as AI, biotechnology, and sustainable engineering while expanding apprenticeship and internship opportunities with global industry partners to provide students with hands-on career experiences.

Presenters







Tiyan High School

Sophie Dueñas, Principal Vicky Sablan

Topic: Building the Foundation for an Effective Career Academy Structure

Synopsis. A well-designed academy structure is the foundation for achieving high-quality student outcomes and meeting the NCAC's National Standard of Practice. This session focuses on the key structural elements necessary to support a thriving academy model and ensure alignment with the best career and technical education.

Topic: Empowering Students Through Work-Based Learning in Career Academies

Synopsis. Tiyan High School Career Academies are transforming student learning by embedding Work-Based Learning (WBL) experiences that align education with industry needs. Rooted in the National Career Academy Coalition (NCAC) 10 National Standards of Practice (NSOPs), our WBL model follows a College and Career Continuum of Experience, ensuring that students engage in real-world learning. A component of our success is our Advisory Board, which ensures that our curriculum and experiences meet workforce demands.

Join us to explore how high-quality Work-Based Learning can transform student outcomes and create career-ready graduates in Guam's evolving economy.





Tiyan High School

Michelle Taisipic Dr. Rachel Flores





Tiyan High School

Mayline Wilson, ELA Teacher Julianne Bigueras, ELA Teacher

Topic :Empowering Career Readiness Through Integrated Curriculum

Synopsis. As a National Career Academy Coalition (NCAC) Model School, Tiyan High School has implemented an integrated curriculum to bridge academic learning with career readiness. Project-Based Learning (PBL) is used as an instructional approach to engage students in interdisciplinary projects that mirror real-world projects or workplace environments.

This session will explore how integrating academic subjects with career pathways enhances student engagement, fosters collaboration, and strengthen workforce skills. Attendees will gain insights into best practices for designing PBL-drivent curricula that align with industry standards, build community partnerships, and promote authentic assessments. With an integrated curriculum, educators can equip students with the knowledge and skills necessary for future careers.

Presenters





Guam Department of Education

Marie Juvy Cariño Teacher, Advanced Robotics Rozalyn Pama Teacher, Intermediate Robotics

Professional Background

Advanced Robotics teacher Marie Juvy Cariño has been teaching for over 27 years and was a finalist for the 2025 GDOE Teacher of the Year award. Intermediate Robotics teacher Rozalyn Pama has been teaching for over 17 years. Both teachers are active teacher leaders at LPUMS. They both hold a master's degree in education from the University of Guam. Mrs. Cariño was the first GDOE teacher to teach middle school robotics in 2011, and both teachers successfully piloted the middle school robotics curriculum in 2022, which was approved by the Guam Education Board that year.

Topic: GDOE Robotics in the Secondary Classroom

Synopsis. Guam Department of Education middle and high school robotics program is equipping students with essential skills for STEM careers. This presentation will highlight how students engage in hands-on learning, developing expertise in engineering, coding, and mechanical design.

Beyond technical proficiency, the program fosters critical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, and leadership—key competencies for success in today's evolving workforce. Through robotics competitions and collaborative projects, students gain real-world experience that prepares them for careers in engineering, computer science, and emerging technologies. Educators, join us to explore the impact of robotics in Career Technical Education (CTE) and how it bridges classroom learning with industry demands. Learn how we can collaborate to inspire and prepare the next generation of innovators and leaders in STEM.

Guam Department of Education

Vito Calvo Jr., Member, GDOE Use Policy Committee Michael Meno, Principal, Southern High School Elaine Cortez, Teacher, Computer Science, SSHS

Professional Background.

- Vito Calvo Jr. is a member of the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use Policy committee. He has led districtwide presentations and workshops to educate teachers on the effective use of AI.
- Michael Meno is the principal of Southern High School. He leads his team in integrating AI as both a
 teaching tool and a method for evaluating student performance. He also played a key role in creating
 the school's AI use policy.
- Elaine Cortez holds an M.S. in Computer Science with a focus on Interactive Intelligence. She teaches
 Computer Science at Simon Sanchez High School, where her curriculum includes physical computing,
 robotics, and Artificial Intelligence (AI), along with its practical applications in the real world.



Synopsis. All tools are becoming an integral part of our daily lives and the workforce, with new advancements emerging regularly. But are we preparing people to understand and navigate these tools effectively? This presentation will explore the impact of AI, offer strategies for using AI responsibly, and highlight the importance of being aware of its potential negative effects. The goal is to help individuals understand both the benefits and challenges of AI, ensuring they are better prepared for the future.



Presenters





Douglas Turner

SCI Solutions

Director Business Development

Professional Background. Douglas Turner is a highly experienced maritime professional with a distinguished career spanning nearly two decades. Holding a Chief Engineer license for any motorized ship on any navigable waters worldwide, he possesses extensive expertise in the maritime industry. His work has taken him to over forty countries across five continents, showcasing his deep knowledge and global experience in the field.

Topic: Charting a Course To Success: Career Readiness for Maritime Professionals

Synopsis. This presentation provides educators with an in-depth look at the maritime industry—an often-overlooked yet highly lucrative and rapidly expanding career field, particularly in the Pacific region. With the military and maritime sectors experiencing unprecedented growth, Guam stands at the forefront of unique opportunities for local talent. The session will highlight the advantages of maritime careers, including exclusive job openings for U.S. personnel, the alignment of local students' skills with global employer demands, and the industry's significant role in the regional and global economy. Attendees will gain insights into both traditional and non-traditional career pathways, from earning a maritime engineering or navigation degree to apprenticeship and on-the-job training programs that offer zero-debt education.

By equipping educators with knowledge of available resources and career entry points, this presentation aims to inspire students to explore a sustainable and rewarding profession while addressing Guam's workforce needs for the next generation of maritime professionals.

Professional Background. Allyn Wall is the founder of Digital Glo Consulting, an agency specializing in Al-powered digital marketing, SEO, lead generation, and immersive 3D virtual tours. A U.S. Army veteran, she applies leadership, discipline, and strategic thinking to drive business success. With a B.S. in Pure Mathematics from Clark Atlanta University and a Master's in Training and Performance Improvement from Capella University, Allyn helps businesses optimize their online presence, leverage Al-driven marketing, and stay competitive. Her work has propelled brands to first-page Google rankings, increased customer engagement, and transformed digital marketing outcomes.

Topic: Al in Marketing - Transforming Career Readiness and Business Growth

Synopsis. All isn't the future—it's NOW. Businesses worldwide are using it to skyrocket engagement, crush competition, and automate marketing like never before. But here's the truth: Guam's businesses aren't using Al... yet. That means there's a massive first-mover advantage for those who learn it NOW.

This high-energy, interactive session will introduce Career and Technical Education (CTE) professionals to the AI tools shaking up digital marketing—for instant content creation and automated video marketing. We'll break down exactly how AI is changing marketing forever and why students and businesses MUST adapt to stay ahead.

Key Takeaways:

- *Al Marketing That Sells See how Al tools create killer ads and social media content in minutes —not days.
- *Career-Ready AI Skills Teach students prompt engineering, AI content mastery, and digital marketing automation—the skills that pay the bills.

This isn't just another lecture—it's a marketing revolution. Educators will get hands-on with Al tools and leave with real strategies to prepare students for high-paying, Al-driven careers.



Allyn Wall
Founder, Digital Glo Consulting