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*Office of the Director
Learning Resources Center*

November 25, 2011

MEMORANDUM

TO : Acting VPIA

FROM : Director, Learning Resources Center

SUBJECT : 21st PIALA Conference and Site Visit in Kosrae Trip Report

Purpose

I left Pohnpei for a one-week trip for a site visit in Kosrae and to attend the 21st annual Pacific Islands Association of Libraries, Archives, and Museums (PIALA) conference. I left Pohnpei on November 11 and returned on November 19.

Summary

Various presenters talked about various issues that relate to the theme of the conference which was “Discover the Hidden Jewels in your Library and Sharing the Wealth through Collaboration”. Participants were involved in group activities that helped them find ways they can contribute their library services and resources to their local communities. Participants also learned about how they can access or gain access to information from the Legal Information System (LIS) website. Other areas of interest were the LEAP Project update on the online masters library science program at the University of North Texas; the two-year associate library science program at Palau Community College and their partnership program with University of Maine in Augusta (UMA); archiving websites for the Pacific, about the Pacific and by the Pacific people; and the PIHOA Declaration on Non-Communicable Diseases and what the role of PIALA is. Participants also worked together on PIALA’s strategic plan for the next five years, focusing on areas of most relevance to the libraries in the region. I had time to talk with Michael, Kosrae Campus librarian, about the renovation plans that are in place for the library and discuss other issues on orders and collection development.

Discussion

The participants in this year’s conference were challenged on many levels to try to find how they can take an active role and contribute to their local communities and nationwide. Our first challenge was to speak out and let our voices be heard in our entities about the importance of libraries and how they can contribute to the well-being of their users. Our second challenge was

to look at how PIALA can be merged or incorporated into other conferences or workshops on our islands to promote awareness of what libraries can offer in other fields. Our third challenge was to see what changes we can make at our libraries to help create more publicity and exposure for libraries such as including library resources or speakers at various school or government functions.

Action

I immediately started brainstorming activities that our library could start doing here at the college to meet the challenges that were proposed to the participants. Our first activity would be the amnesty month, then World AIDS Day, and then presenting library topics in February for staff development day. We would also be scheduling days when the library staff will be moving away from their desks and mingling, helping, and guiding users in the library. This conference was a jump start for most of us in getting us moving our libraries forward, embracing the technology and resources we have and making use of them to help us succeed in meeting the needs of our users. State campus librarians are still not clear about protocols for sending in orders, requests, etc. to which I responded that there is a committee working on clarifying the roles of the campus directors.