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To: Karen Simion, Interim Vice President of Instructional Affairs

From: Jennifer Helieisar, Director of Learning Resource Center

Subject: Trip Report

John E. Roueche Future Leaders Institute, June 18-28, 2015
ACCJC Regional Accreditation Training, July 13-17, 2015
2015 Annual PIALA Conference, July 27-Aug 4, 2015

John E. Roueche Future Leaders Institute, Las Vegas, Nevada

I left Pohnpei on June 18 to Las Vegas with Delihna Ehmes to participate in the John E. Roueche Future Leaders Institute (FLI) at the Four Seasons hotel.

The event began with a pre-conference on Women's Leadership. Participants heard from and participated in discussions with other women leaders in higher education with leadership positions as chancellors, deans, and presidents. They shared with the participants, the unique challenges they faced as women in leadership positions and gave us advice on how to overcome those challenges. Experts shared some insights on the realities of the female leader and how to develop leadership strategies. Takeaways from the pre-conference included learning how to fail gracefully, to expect that things will not go the way leaders want them to and accept them and move on or make improvements.

The main conference was held the afternoon of June 21 and was completed on June 25. Participants were provided different scenarios where priorities and hard decisions had to be made by us, in leadership positions. Interview techniques were also shared with the group, focusing on image, voice, body gestures, and speech clarity. Other areas of interest to me were those on conflict management, building relationships, managing change and culture of the organization, and remembering to treat people as people.

From the workshop, four areas I wanted to focus and improve on: 1) Get into the practice of using handwritten notes to express gratitude, acknowledgement from those who support, donate, and contribute to my professional network. 2) Adapt Parham's *Improving Your Presentation Skills* presentation at the annual Pacific Islands Association of Library, Archives, and Museums (PIALA) conference in July; 3) Develop relationships with more faculty members and other key administrators; 4) Get into the practice of scheduling time for office appointments (open door policy) and email. Delihna and I left Vegas for home on June 28.

ACCJC Regional Accreditation Training, Honolulu, HI, July 13-17, 2015

I left Pohnpei on July 13 as part of a team of 13 college personnel, who attended a two-day training for ACCJC on accreditation and self-evaluation writing at the Kapiolani Community College (KCC) in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Experts on the accreditation process shared their insights and success stories of the institutions and regions they represented. The first day we heard from experts on the importance of learning outcomes, assessment, using rubrics and strategies to make assessments more meaningful for students. I was personally impressed with Guam Community College, with how much they've incorporated their mission into each component of their institution. KCC's campus wide involvement in the assessment of student learning outcomes was also shared with team members. Yap Campus Dean Lourdes and I joined a group in sharing SLO assessment successes and challenges at our campuses in comparison with other institutions in the group.

The second day was targeted on the specific language and changes that the Standards incorporated. Our team joined Palau Community College in addressing specific questions that were significant to the purpose of the self-study reports that both institutions were in the process of writing.

The group returned to Pohnpei on July 18.

2015 Annual PIALA Conference, Majuro, Marshall Islands, July 27-Aug 4, 2015

I traveled to Majuro on July 27 to participate at the annual Pacific Islands Association of Libraries, Archives, and Museums (PIALA) conference, which was hosted by the Marshall Islands Library Association (MILA) in partnership with the College of the Marshall Islands in Majuro, Marshall Islands with the theme, *Balancing Literacy and Technology for the Advancement of our Communities*. A series of workshops were held during the week, held in conjunction with the Pacific Educational Conference (PEC).

I sat in on the PIALA Board meeting the evening of July 27 to share with the board members a project to develop a strategic plan for PIALA, which is being funded by the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA) Building Strong Library Associations (BSLA) program. A panel discussion of the same topic was held with PIALA members on day four of the conference. My contribution to the PIALA sessions was a presentation titled *Perfecting your Presentation Skills*, where I shared tips on presenting a topic effectively and engaging the audience. Librarians have an important role in promoting information literacy and advocating for libraries everywhere thus the need to have skills in presenting a topic. PIALA members held their general meeting on the last day of the conference with new officers for the post of president and secretary elected. Ms. Lola Schutz of Majuro, Marshall Islands was elected as the new PIALA president and I was elected as the new PIALA secretary for 2015-2017.

I had a meeting with the Director of the CMI Library, Chris Sebastian, regarding a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to share our resources via Inter-Library Loan for the purpose of meeting the information needs of our students and also forming partnerships with other academic libraries in the region. As a graduate of the Library Education for the U.S.-Affiliated Pacific (LEAP) Cohort program of the University of North Texas, I worked with our Program Coordinators, Dr. Yvonne Chandler and Jane Barnwell, to recruit prospective library science students for the LEAP II Cohort, beginning in summer 2016.

References:

2015 Roueche Future Leaders Institute – LV Participants List 7-1-15. (2015 June).

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College Participates in ACCJC Workshop. (2015 July).

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The 25th PIALA Annual Conference in Majuro, Marshall Islands, July 27-31, 2015. (2015 Aug).

http://media.wix.com/ugd/bea69d_4f3d667bc8694cca9545eb0603d44bf4.pdf