



## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **18 begin paid apprenticeships to become certified nursing assistants through UOG-GDOL program**

The island will soon have 18 more certified nursing assistants, or CNAs, as a third cohort completes the Nursing Assistant Education Program through the [University of Guam School of Health](#), the [UOG Global Learning and Engagement Department](#), and the Guam Department of Labor. The students have completed caregiver training and are now beginning paid apprenticeships at Guam Regional Medical City, Health Services of the Pacific, and, for the first time in the program, the Guam Memorial Hospital Authority.

“This is the first time a government agency has had CNA apprentices, so it’s quite

Launched in February 2019, the Nursing Assistant Education Program was created specifically for workforce development.

“With the growing demand for CNAs in Guam, the program is meant to provide career growth opportunities for the community and help fill vacancies for essential health care professionals,” Hattori-Uchima said.

The UOG School of Health has trained 41 CNAs since the start of the pandemic and 81 CNAs since the program’s inception. The CNAs who completed the previous apprenticeship programs are working for GRMC, Health Services of the Pacific, GMHA, and Catholic Social Service.

CNAs work under the supervision of a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse preparing rooms and supplies, assisting with tests and procedures, and directly assisting patients. Unlike caregivers, CNAs must undergo a set number of classroom and clinical training hours and then pass both a written and skills exam.

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“Welcoming the CNA apprentices to GMHA for the first time is such an exciting honor for us,” said Lillian Perez-Posadas, CEO for GMHA. “We’re thrilled to be a part of their educational journey. Being the community’s trusted public hospital, GMHA will provide these CNAs with incredible hands-on experience with a variety of patients from all walks of life. We know this will undoubtedly shape them into compassionate nurse assistants, dedicated to excellence in health care.”

The cost of the students’ tuition, uniforms, books, clearances, and physical exams is covered through the Guam Department of Labor via the State Apprenticeship Expansion grant, allied health, telecommunications, construction, and hospitality.

Partial funding is also provided by the [Guam/Micronesia Geriatrics Workforce Enhancement Program](#) at the UOG School of Health, which is funded by a grant from Human Services.

Those interested in a future cohort of the Nursing Assistant Education Program need to have a high school diploma and can contact GWEP at [uog.gwep@triton.uog.edu](mailto:uog.gwep@triton.uog.edu) or the American Job Center at the Guam Department of Labor at (671) 475-7000.

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**Photo captions:**

*2021-cna-apprenticeship-program3*

Students of the Nursing Assistant Education Program perform a training exercise at the University of Guam School of Health skills lab prior to beginning paid apprenticeships at Guam Memorial Hospital Authority, Guam Regional Medical City, or Health Services of the Pacific.



*2021-cna-apprenticeship-program2*

Margaret Hattori-Uchima, dean of the UOG School of Health, addresses the third cohort of the Nursing Assistant Education Program on Aug. 16 prior to awarding their pre-apprenticeship and caregiver certificates. The program launched in 2019 to address a need in the Guam workforce for certified nursing assistants.



*2021-cna-apprenticeship-program1*

Under the Nursing Assistant Education Program, 18 students received their pre-apprenticeship and caregiver certificates on Aug. 16 at the University of Guam School of Health. The next step of the three-month program, funded by a grant through the Guam Department of Labor, is a paid apprenticeship that prepares students to become certified nursing assistants.

*Photos courtesy of the University of Guam*