



## A Message from the Dean



*Håfa adai, todū* (Hello, everyone)!

As we conclude the Fanomnåkan 2025 semester, I take this time to express my heartfelt gratitude to our students, faculty, staff, and community partners for another successful term in the School of Education.

This semester, we've witnessed dedication across all levels—from our aspiring educators in the undergraduate and graduate programs to our faculty who continue to inspire with their teaching, research, and service. We celebrate the successes in this newsletter. Together, we've strengthened our commitment to academic excellence and relevance. We continue our resilience!

We also celebrated key milestones this semester. This includes successful capstone presentations, student teaching placements, and the launch of initiatives that support our mission of preparing highly qualified, culturally responsive educators for Guam and the region.

Congratulations and *Inorabuena* (Congratulations in CHamoru) to our recent School of Education graduates from Guam, Palau and Yap! You have been prepared, along with the 20,000 UOG alumni, with the tools, the knowledge, and the passion to make a difference in the lives of others. We are proud of your accomplishments, and we are very excited for the impact you will make in our schools and communities. BIBA SOE! BIBA UOG!



Alicia C. Aguon, PhD



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@UOG School of Education



## Congratulations Graduates & Thank You Partners

**Inora buena para i estudiante siha! Congratulations to all the Students!**

The School of Education undergraduate graduates are ready for the classroom. Thank you to the schools and Classroom Supervisors who have helped prepare these future teachers to stand alongside you. Classroom Supervisors, we couldn't do it without you!

Graduating Student	Student Teaching Location (Guam)	Classroom Supervisor
Elementary Education		
Mariah Baletto	Truman Elementary	Rovileen Aflague
Tiana Chaco	JQ San Miguel	Internship under Elias T. Taisipic
Cayla-Jayden Constantino	Truman Elementary	Vincent Carbullido
Johara Ann Loyola	LBJ Elementary	Catherine Sayama
Christian Murciano	Tamuning Elementary	Vernalyn Guerrero
Briana San Nicolas	Inalahan Elementary	Miklenne Carbullido
Secondary Education		
Jiannah GlennAbasta	George Washington HS	Joy Ada
Marina Babauta	LP Untalan Middle School	Emmanuel Mangune
Michelle Ann Kalgren	FBLG Middle School	Jamaica Rivera
Mareva Jeanne	Ocean View Middle School	Mark Sablan
Anthony Lui Santos Jr.	George Washington HS	Jeremy Pingul
George Michael Santos	LP Untalan Middle School	Gelmae De Dios
Noel Tapar	Okkodo HS	Judy Naz
Colin Banico Valencia	LP Untalan Middle School	Bernadeth Gumataotao
Long Yip	JFK HS	Frederick Guzman





# Bachelor's Milestones

## Congratulations Graduates & Thank You Partners

Inora buena para i estudiante siha! Congratulations to all the Students!



Through a historic regional partnership between UOG, the Palau Ministry of Education (PMOE) and the Palau Community College, 20 Palauan teachers earned their bachelor's degrees in Elementary Education with specialization in Special Education.

PMOE Graduates: Elementary Education with a specialization in Special Education		Yap IDP Student Graduates: Elementary Education
Lola Blaluk Shirley Celestine Koriang Clarence Mechereng M. Emesiochel Jed Mamoru Gibson Jeannie James Virginia Kuterbis Emolynn S. Mesubed Daphne Jane Nestor Victoria Nestor JLei Ronny	Esther Seoyce I. Ramarui Lorna balt Subris Jessica Andrea Sumor Maxima Dilbung Teliu Kayolalyne Termeteet Annette Obechou Tirso Flora Wasisang Frienda I. Wasisang Gwenethyan Williams	Blanca Jane Gedeyog Jeremiah Hagilelipiy Celino Taiwelyaro Jophen Tashibeisap Paul Tapang





## Master's Milestones

### Congratulations, SOE Master's Graduates !

#### MA in Counseling: Dr. ShinHwa Lee, Program Chair

Cherese Barcinas Angoco

T'Anah Dominique Terlaje Barcinas

Robyn Julianne Castro Balance

Thomas Ferris Borgonia

Kateri Nickelle Dubose



#### MA in Teaching: Dr. Genevieve Leon Guerrero, Program Chair

Tracy A. Cantimbuhan

Francine Bernadette Chargualaf Cruz

Alex M. De Jesus

Kelsey Gene Docena Fermo

Arem Kim Libranda

Robert Jay Reyes Pendon

Kai Lona Barrer Salenga

Didreanne Libranda Unisog



## Congratulations, SOE Master's Graduates !

MEd Administration and Supervision: Dr. Geraldine James, Program Chair

Stacey Ann Coletta

Ann Margaret Santiago



MEd Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL): Dr. Genevieve Leon Guerrero, Program Chair

Hannah Elise Guiking Benavente

Antonette Cayanan Carlos

Kristine Dela Cruz Jones

Eleanor Heacock Lansang

Mariana L.G. Lujan

Tonisha Jo Lujan-Salas

Karla Jade Fontebuenaf Mafnas

Catherine Jonet Ami Blas Nadeau

Ikea Anne Dominguez Natividad

Marie Ann R. Racadio







# SOE NEWS



Fanomnakan 2025 • Volume 5 • Issue 1 ☆ A Publication of the School of Education at the University of Guam

## LITERACY OUTREACH



### LIONS CLUBS INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 204

Together with the Guam Public Library System, Guam Council of the International Literacy Association, Institute of Museum and Library Services, GDOE CHamoru Studies and Special Projects Division, UOG-SOE Alumni Association, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary, Guam Flotilla 140-02-24, Guåhan Isan Famagu'on Lions Club, Guam Police Department's Recreational Boating Safety Program, Peto's Journey LLC, and Caleb's Courageous Cause, proudly present:



**LIONS CLUBS DISTRICT 204  
SUMMER  
SATURDAY STORY TIME  
JUNE 7, 2025 | 10:00 A.M.**



*Join us via ZOOM or in person at the Hagåtña Public Library*



### REGISTER NOW!

To register, please scan the QR code or click the link below:  
<https://bit.ly/lionsclubreading>



**Win books and other exciting prizes by  
answering questions during the Read Aloud!**



For more information, contact LCI D204 Reading Action Program Chair Dr. Matilda Naputi Rivera @ [mnriviera1@gmail.com](mailto:mnriviera1@gmail.com).







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### LIONS CLUBS DISTRICT 204 INDEPENDENCE DAY STORY TIME

JULY 5, 2025 | 10:00 A.M.



Join us via ZOOM or in person at the Hagåtña Public Library



### REGISTER NOW!

To register, please scan the QR code or click the link below:

<https://bit.ly/lionsclubreading>

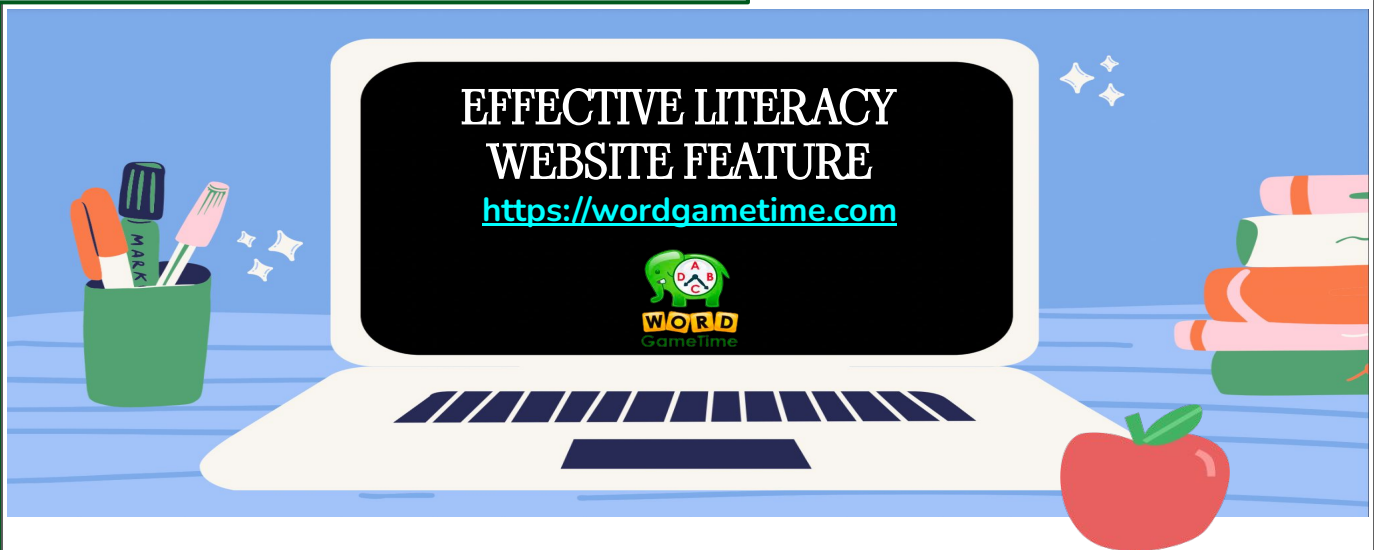


Win books and other exciting prizes by  
answering questions during the Read Aloud!



For more information, contact LCI D204 Reading Action Program Chair Dr. Matilda Naputi Rivera @  
mnrivera1@gmail.com.





Word Game Time (<https://wordgametime.com>) is a free website that offers language arts games and homework help. The games are fun and have been approved by educators. The goal of Word Game Time is to help students succeed. The site provides content for kindergarten through 7th-grade students in spelling, typing, reading, geography, and language arts.

Word Game Time features a user-friendly site with content organized by grade, subject, and type. The language arts section includes activities that help students with letter-sound recognition, parts of speech, subject-verb agreement, and other essential skills. Another noteworthy feature is the educational videos, which are fun and engaging for all grade levels. Some videos are animated, while others offer instruction from a teacher.

Word Game Time is similar to websites like ABCYa.com and Funbrain.com. However, what sets it apart is the variety of free worksheets available for parents, teachers, and students. While some sites offer worksheets, the ones on Word Game Time cover a wide range of topics, including poetry, homophones, and dictionary practice.

Word Game Time is an excellent online resource if you're seeking more variety in online learning and practice. The variety sets this website apart from other online learning games and resource sites. The materials are well-organized and easy to find, making it a site that makes learning fun and engaging.

\*Contribution by T. Leon Guerrero







## SOE Partnership with Palau Ministry of Education



Dean Alicia Aguon, Dr. Cardenas, PMOE Director Ida Kilcullen, PMOE Chief Lucia Tabelual, Dr. Leon Guerrero and Dr. Green presented “Thank you” gifts to Director Kilcullen and Chief Tabelual in appreciation for the collaboration and support of the Palau Ministry of Education.

The University of Guam School of Education, in partnership with the Palau Ministry of Education and Global Learning & Engagement, proudly announces the graduation of 20 students who have successfully earned their Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education with a Specialization in Special Education.

This milestone reflects a powerful regional commitment to inclusive education and sustainable teacher development across Micronesia. Designed with flexibility and purpose, the program was tailored to support working professionals in Palau while maintaining rigorous academic expectations rooted in equity and cultural relevance.

The realization of this academic achievement was made possible through the visionary leadership of Director Ida Kilcullen, Dean Alicia Aguon of the University of Guam School of Education, and Director June De Leon of the Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service (CEDDERS). Their collaborative efforts helped secure a program structure aligned with national and regional compliance standards, supporting Palau’s long-term educational goals.

The academic integrity and instructional excellence of the program were led by Dr. Jackysha Green, Program Chair of Elementary Education, and Dr. Catherine Cardenas, Program Chair of Special Education. Their leadership, curriculum design, and ongoing faculty support ensured that each graduate was held to the highest standards of teacher preparation. Both faculty members coordinated course delivery, provided individualized mentoring, and maintained a focus on culturally responsive pedagogy throughout the program.

Further instructional support was provided by Dr. Genevieve Leon Guerrero, Chair of the Master of Arts in Teaching Program, as well as Dr. Nieves Flores and Ms. Judy Roberto, whose teaching and mentoring helped translate theory into practice for the students. Collectively, these faculty members ensured that academic expectations were met with quality, relevance, and compassion.

Integral to student success was the support of Chief Lucia Tabelual, who served as a cultural and community mentor. Chief Tabelual provided guidance and emotional encouragement, helping students remain grounded in their identity and values as they navigated academic demands. Her mentorship bridged traditional knowledge and modern education, reinforcing the importance of culturally rooted teaching.

Today, these 20 graduates are equipped to serve as qualified, inclusive educators prepared to uplift and support all learners in Palau and beyond. Their success stands as a testament to what can be achieved through intentional partnership, dedicated faculty leadership, and the steadfast support of community mentors.

We extend our warmest congratulations to the graduates and express our deep appreciation to the faculty, leaders, and mentors who made this vision a reality.

Sulang, Si Yu’us Ma’åse’, and Thank You for investing in the future of education across the Pacific.





## SOE Partnership with Palau Ministry of Education



On Thursday, May 15, the UOG School of Education held a convocation ceremony at the Palasia Hotel to recognize and honor the achievement of these teachers from the Palau Ministry of Education. UOG President Dr. Anita Enriquez, SOE Dean Dr. Alicia Aguon, Dr. Cathy Cardenas, Dr. Genny Leon Guerrero and Dr. Jackysha Green were present for the convocation.



The commencement ceremony for these 20 graduates was held at the Palau Community College on Friday, May 16, 2025. UOG President Anita Enriquez was the guest speaker for commencement. During the commencement ceremony, SOE Dean Dr. Alicia Aguon presented the 20 graduates to UOG President Dr. Anita Enriquez for the conferral of degrees.





## SOE Nominations for UOG's Graduate Awards



Dr. Alicia Aguon (SOE Dean), Dr. Geraldine James (ADSU Program Chair), Stacey Coletta, Kirstine Jones, and Dr. Genevieve Leon Guerrero (TESOL Program Chair)

**The School of Education proudly recognizes and congratulates two Fanomnakan (Spring) 2025 SOE graduates for their nominations for the University of Guam's Graduate Awards.**

### **UOG Presidential Thesis Award Nomination:**

**Stacey Coletta** received a M.Ed. Administration and Supervision (ADSU) degree this semester. She is currently the principal at Wettengel Elementary School.

Ms. Coletta's thesis entitled "*Balancing Acts: A Case Study of Female School Assistant Principals' Work-life Balance*" offers a compelling and timely exploration of the experiences of female assistant principals in Guam. According to Ms. Coletta, "This study wasn't just about research—it was about sharing the voices and experiences of women who are constantly balancing the weight of leadership with the responsibilities of family and personal life... What I hope comes through in this work is the real need to shift how we support them—not by adding more to their plates, but by rethinking how we value, structure, and care for those in leadership."

### **UOG Graduate Student Award Nomination:**

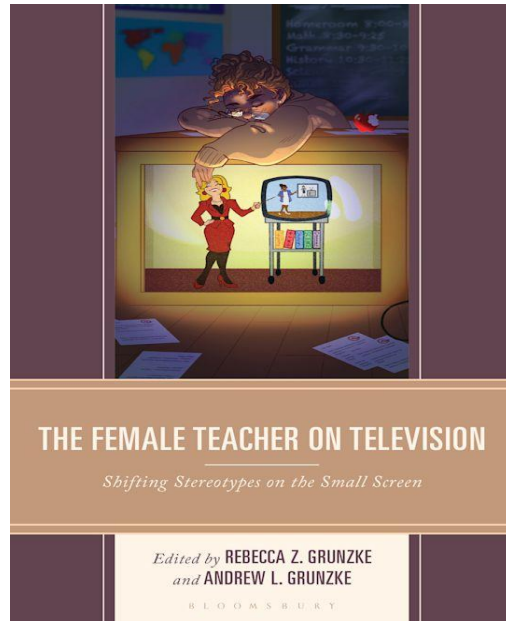
**Kirstine Jones** received a M.Ed. Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) degree this semester. She is currently an ESL teacher in Okkodo High School.

Ms. Jones' nomination for this award recognizes that she exemplifies resilience, dedication, and purpose-driven learning. As a working mother returning to graduate school in her forties, she has balanced family, faith, and academics with unwavering determination. Her pursuit of a Master's in TESOL reflects not only a commitment to growing as an educator, but a heartfelt desire to better serve the ESL students in her classroom--students whose struggles she understands deeply and whose success she sees as part of her own calling.



## FACULTY ACCOLADES

### Faculty Scholarship Spotlight: Drs. Rebecca and Andrew Grunzke



Cover image of the book authored by Drs. Rebecca and Andrew Grunzke, out in July.

This past semester, Drs. Rebecca and Andrew Grunzke have been actively engaged in their scholarship, culminating in presentations at the annual meeting of the Popular Culture Association/American Culture Association in New Orleans, LA, this April.

Dr. Andrew Grunzke presented "Bringing a Raygun to the War on Higher Education: Anti-Intellectualism's Role in the Olympic Fiasco." His paper analyzed the criticisms leveled against Dr. Rachel Gunn of Macquarie University (B-girl Raygun from the Olympics), exploring how these attacks reflect broader anti-intellectual trends impacting higher education.

Dr. Rebecca Grunzke presented her paper, "Governesses in Popular Culture: The Coming of Age of the Victorian Status Symbol." This research examined the evolving portrayal of governesses in popular film and television, from classics like *The Sound of Music* and *The King and I* to *Dark Shadows* and *Star Trek: Voyager*. This paper developed from her contribution to their forthcoming edited volume, *The Female Teacher on Television: Shifting Stereotype on the Small Screen*. The book, being published by Bloomsbury Press out in July, represents several years of hard work, featuring some highly respected scholars in education and television/media studies.

Pre-orders are now being taken: <https://www.bloomsbury.com/us/female-teacher-on-television-9781666916393/>

The School of Education extends its sincerest congratulations to Drs. Rebecca and Andrew Grunzke on their impressive scholarly achievements and their upcoming publication!





## FACULTY ACCOLADES

### Dr. Green and Dr. Sablan lead STEM Ambassador Professional Development with NSF Navigating Home (UAH)



In July 2024, elementary school teachers from across the Yap States took part in a professional development workshop led by Dr. Green and Dr. Sablan. Held at the Yap Department of Education in partnership with the University of Guam, the workshop focused on creating place-based, problem-based lesson plans around the theme of drought. Teachers worked to integrate core subjects—reading, math, science, social studies, fine arts, and PE—into meaningful, unified lessons for their students as final unit plans.

We extend our sincere thanks to the Yap DOE for hosting this workshop and to the University of Guam for their critical support and expertise.

<https://stemap.utah.edu/blog/?categories=Reflections>



Dr. Green and Dr. Sablan featured with Yap cohort students and Cal Hachibmai from Yap State Department of Education





## Student Spotlight

### Charter Day: SOE's Niyok Fiesta



Dr. Sablan and her students from ED334, ED350, ED355, ED363, and ED392 brought learning to life at the 47th University of Guam Charter Day! 🎉 From hands-on lessons to interactive activities, our future educators showcased their skills while engaging with the community—including students from Guam Department of Education and private schools. This was more than just a class—it was real-world experience in action! 💡📚 BIBA UOG! BIBA SOE! 💚👉



**NIYOK NIBBLES STATION**  
(Coconut Candy)

L-R: Nevea Salas, Anjanette Ponce, Izellah Navarro, Gabrielle Bengco



**Weaving Station**

L-R: Remelynn Rivera, Lara Camacho, Gramlich Simion, Darnelle-Renee Benavente, Emma Rosario





## Student Spotlight

### Charter Day: SOE's Niyok Fiesta



**Niyok Tales Station (Puppet Show)**

Top: Alexia Fejeran, Kiara Pangelinan  
Bottom: (standing) Daphne Guterrez, Jaylene, Kateri Santos (sitting) Alexia Fejeran, Daniela Ferrer, Cassidy Fejeran



**Coconut Dash (Relay Race)**

L-R: Nicole Castro, Sophia Minatoya, Faith Murphy, Jaylene Bermudes, Nicolas Taitano, Cassidy Fejeran



**Niyok Targets Station (STEAM)**

L-R: Kali Abalde, Isaiah Meeks, Patricia Leon Guerrero, Anna Martin, Asia-Rio Dela Cruz



**NIYOK PASSPORT STATION**

L-R: Madison Taitano, Kaysie Terlaje, Daphne Gutierrez, Camarin Reyes





## Student Spotlight

### Children's Literature: Celebrating Student Creativity

Students of Dr. Miller's ED319: Children's Literature class, showcased their creativity by creating visually engaging and educational displays, adorning the hallways of SOE. Their efforts highlight their passion for literacy and storytelling. Wonderful work future educators!



L-R: Darnelle Benevente, Gabrielle Bengco, Nevea Salas, Daniela Ferrer



L-R: Gabrielle Bengco, Darnelle Benavente, Nevea Salas, Daniela Ferrer



L-R: Elizabeth Roper, Isaiah Meeks, Madison Taitano, Camarin Reyes



L-R: Izellah Navarro, Cassidy Fejeran, Lara Camacho, Asia Dela Cruz



L-R: Alexia Fejeran, Nicole Castro, Kali Abalde, Anjanette Ponce



L-R: Daphne Gutierrez, Remelynn Rivera, Jaylene Bermudes, Emma Rosario, Patricia Leon Guerrero





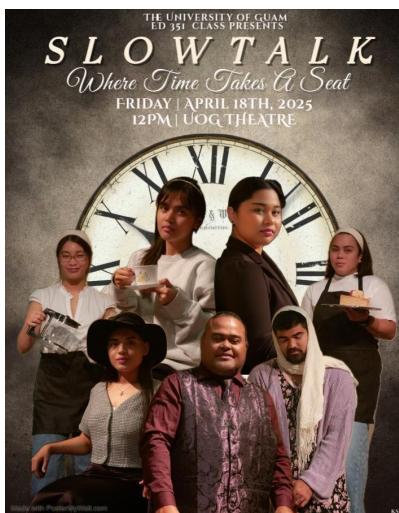
## Student Spotlight

### Future Educators Shine in: "Slow Talk, Where Time Takes a Seat"!

On April 18th, students from Dr. Dean Olah's Elementary Education: Fine Arts Methods class truly outdid themselves! They poured their creativity into crafting and performing an original play, "Slow Talk, Where Time Takes a Seat," which debuted at the Fine Arts Theater. With fellow faculty members and students in attendance, this captivating production was a testament to their collaborative spirit and innovative approach to learning. It was an inspiring display of our future educators in action!



Front L-R: Nicole Castro, Camarin Reyes, Jaylene Bermudes, Daniela Ferrer, Daphne Gutierrez, Izellah Navarro, Back L-R: Nicolas Taitano, Gramlich Simeon, Kateri Santos, Cassidy Flores, Dr. Olah, Dean Aguon, Dr. Sablan







## Student Spotlight

### Dr. Bernadita Camacho-Dungca Place-Based Education Award



SOE Dean Dr. Alicia Aguon pictured with Francine Cruz, proudly representing the spirit of excellence.

Francine Cruz, a dedicated educator at FBLG Middle School, was honored with the Dr. Bernadita Camacho-Dungca Place-Based Education Award for Education during the 2025 UOG Press Awards Ceremony. She was nominated by Dr. Michelle Santos (retired, SOE). Recognized for her commitment to culturally responsive teaching and place-based learning, Francine exemplifies the passion and purpose that drive Guam's educational leaders. Her work reflects deep respect for the island's heritage and devotion to nurturing the next generation of learners.



### Elementary Education Students: CHamoru Month Showcase



SOE students from ED 363: Health and PE Methods participated in the Payless Supermarkets CHamoru month fiesta on March 29, 2025. They showcased and displayed original health and PE Guam coloring and reading books and shared literature with the children who visited the store. This community engagement activity provided students with hands-on field experience and practicum. Dr. Zena Sablan and Dr. Jackysha Green were on-site providing guidance and support in this endeavor.





## Faculty Announcements

We are proud to announce SOE's newest cohort in MEd. Reading kicking off this summer!

*Dr. Theresa Magpuri-Lavell, Program Chair*

<b>Vicente Babauta</b>	<b>Renalyn Buan</b>
<b>Ashley Cepeda</b>	<b>Praise Fango</b>
<b>Ronna Mae Jaravata</b>	<b>Janae Leon Guerrero</b>
<b>Danielle Lopez</b>	<b>Ashley Lordios</b>
<b>Vyela Danielle Nahoolewa</b>	<b>Chloe Poblete</b>
<b>Shaina Santiago</b>	<b>Meia Torres</b>



UNIVERSITY OF GUAM  
SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

### LEADERS IN EDUCATION

# 18-CREDIT

## CERTIFICATE PROGRAM

ADVANCE YOUR CAREER • INCREASE YOUR PAY

#### CUSTOMIZE YOUR LEARNING WITH COURSE SELECTION FROM:

- Innovations in Teaching and Learning (InTaL)
- Reading
- Administration and Supervision
- Counseling

#### PROGRAM BENEFITS

- Reclassify from Teacher II to III
- Potentially reclassify from Teacher III to IV
- Assist Teacher IV in moving to Teacher V



ANTICIPATED START  
**AUGUST 2025**

For more information email :  
Cheryl R. Sanguenza, Ph.D  
[csanguenza@triton.uog.edu](mailto:csanguenza@triton.uog.edu)  
by June 1 to express your interest in registering and  
indicate which program benefit you are seeking.



UNIVERSITY OF  
**GUAM**  
UNIBETSEDÁT GUÁHAN





## SOE FACULTY AND STAFF



Alicia C. Aguon, PhD  
Dean



Catherine Cardenas, PhD  
Assistant Professor



Genevieve Garret, PhD  
Assistant Professor



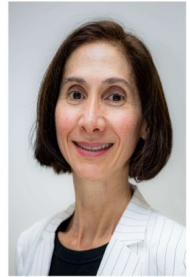
Jackysha N. Green, EdD  
Assistant Professor



Andrew L. Grunzke, PhD  
Associate Professor



Rebecca Z. Grunzke, PhD  
Assistant Professor



Kathrine Gutierrez, PhD  
Associate Professor



Geraldine S. James, EdD  
Assistant Professor



ShinHwa Lee, PhD  
Assistant Professor



Theresa Magpuri-Lavell, PhD  
Associate Professor



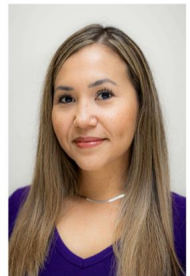
Mary Jane Miller, EdD  
Professor



Dean A. Olah, PhD  
Associate Professor



Cheryl R. Sanguenza, PhD  
Associate Professor



Zena G. Sablan, EdD  
Assistant Professor



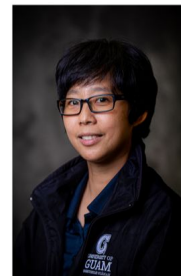
Justin Barroya,  
IT Support Technician



Pascual Olivares,  
Program Coordinator I



Keolani Santos,  
Administrative Assistant



Carim Yanoria,  
Administrative Officer

