

# GCC recognizes first practical nursing class

By **Isaiah John Aguon**  
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The Guam Community College's first cohort of 19 practical nursing students was acknowledged Tuesday at the school's multipurpose auditorium in Mangilao.

GCC called it an overdue ceremony due to complications related to the global COVID-19 pandemic.

The December 2020 class, labeled the pandemic cohort, is GCC's first cohort for the Associate of Science in Practical Nursing.

It is also the first cohort to achieve 100% pass rate for the program in the National Council Licensure Examination, Practical Nursing.

The 19 individuals now are officially licensed practical nurses.

"We are extremely proud of our 2020 graduates and we thank them for their service, most especially during the peak of the pandemic. This cohort should be commended for their willingness to immediately respond to the governor's call for action in response to the COVID-19 pandemic," said Dorothy-Lee Duenas, GCC Nursing and Allied Health administrator



**LICENSED:** Pricilla Pillsbury was awarded her Associate of Science in Practical Nursing certificate during a ceremony Tuesday morning at Guam Community College. Norman M. Taruc/The Guam Daily Post

100% pass rate so that's really exciting news, and then all of us are also employed, so we're really happy and excited and proud of each other," Pillsbury said.

Ermin Samelo, LPN, also shared how the program was for him.

"It was an interesting experience knowing that we were in a pandemic in the middle of our nursing school. The biggest takeaway from that was an experience of perseverance. We didn't let it stop us from finishing what we started and today we are all licensed practical nurses. Congratulations to us all," said Samelo.

The graduates are now employed in the public and private sectors in the medical health care field.

The hospitals and clinics include: Guam Memorial Hospital, Guam Regional Medical City, DPHSS, American Medical Center, Guam Sleep Center, Sagua Mañagu, Guam Radiology Consultants, Dr. Lim's Clinic, Dr. Shieh's Clinic, Branch Medical/Naval Hospital, Federal Emergency Management Agency or FEMA Travel LPN, Keller Oaks Nursing & Rehabilitation Center in Fort Worth, Texas, among others off island.

and instructor.

After completing the course, all 19 graduates immediately went out onto the front lines battling the invisible virus.

The individuals volunteered at the Department of Public Health and Social Services and in local clinics to assist with COVID testing, COVID vaccinations and assessments, and airport screening.

Pricilla Pillsbury, one of the new licensed practical nurses, shared with The Guam Daily Post what the program has done for her.

"They opened up a lot of opportunities," said Pillsbury. "It's now an associate program, so we're able to bridge

onto the RN program at UOG, so from there it helped a lot, with a lot of experiences and other classes added on to the program. We started up in (2020) and graduated in November 2021."

Pillsbury looks forward to taking advantage of the bridge to the RN program.

"Yes, for sure, that's one of the reasons I did the licensed practical nursing program, because we're able to bridge over," she said.

The enthusiasm was palpable as Pillsbury described to the Post the emotions that ran through her while being recognized for this milestone.

"Excited for me and my colleagues, we all passed our ... so we all have

## 35 complete GCC caregiver boot camps

Thirty-five participants were recognized for their hard work and commitment to care for the island's people in a boot camp completion ceremony Tuesday at the Guam Community College Multipurpose Auditorium in Mangilao.

Sixteen received their certificates in the Child Care Provider Program II, while 19 received certificates as Certified Nursing Assistants.

The 16 who completed the Child Care Provider Boot Camp II will now be able to start their two-month on-the-job training with participating child care programs.

They will be offered positions with their assigned organizations/programs. Some already are employed with day cares and schools after completing the training.

This Child Care Provider boot camp cohort is the second of its kind, and there are several more planned for the rest of this year.

The boot camp was developed by the Guam Economic Development Authority, Department of Public Health and Social Services and GCC to educate and train students and provide island families with qualified providers to meet the critical shortage in available and affordable day care and after-school programs.

The CNA boot camp was developed in response to an overwhelming interest by the community for the CNA program, as well as a continued need for Certified Nurse Assistants in hospitals.

The program and training were free to qualified applicants who were accepted into the cohort.

Nearly all of the 19 qualified have recently turned in their applications to test for CNA licensure through the Guam Board of Nurse Examiners.



**▲ WE DID IT:** Students who have completed the Guam Community College Certified Nursing Assistant Boot Camp II take a selfie at a recognition ceremony at the GCC campus yesterday in Mangilao.

**▼ OKADA:** Mary Okada, president of the Guam Community College, makes opening remarks during a certification ceremony at the GCC campus on Tuesday morning in Mangilao. Photos by Norman M. Taruc/The Guam Daily Post



(Daily Post Staff)

**GOVERNMENT OF GUAM**  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES  
DIPARTAMENTON SALUT PUBLIKO YAN SETBISISON SUSIAT

**The Guam Board of Medical Examiners**  
**Regular Virtual Board Meeting**  
**Wednesday, August 24, 2022 at 4:00PM.**  
**Join Zoom Meeting**  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84152665029?pwd=dUI4bzhtVjVpMemJXakh1YXcxYUdz09>  
**Meeting ID: 841 5266 5029 Passcode: 394545**

**Meeting Agenda:**

- I. Call to order:
  - (a) Roll Call
  - (b) Confirmation of Public Notice.
- II. Adoption of Agenda:
- III. Review and Approval of Minutes: Minutes of July 27, 2022.
- IV. Treasurer's Report: Mr. Philip J. Flores
- V. HPLO Administrator's Report:
- VI. Chairperson's Report: Nathaniel B. Berg, M.D.
  - (a) Emergency Issued Licenses
- VII. Old Business:
  - (a) Determining Jurisdiction of Complaint - Continued:
  - (b) Application(s) for Full Licensure:
  - (c) Complaint(s)
    - (1) GBME-CO-20-005
    - (2) GBME-CO-2021-011 (3) GBME-CO-2022-001
    - (4) GBME-CO-2022-002 (5) GBME-CO-2022-003
    - (6) GBME-CO-2022-006 (7) GBME-CO-2022-010
- VIII. New Business:
  - (a) Complaint(s): (1) GBME-CO-2022-011
  - (2) GBME-CO-2022-012
  - (b) Application(s) for Full Licensure
  - (c) Application(s) for Temporary Licensure
  - (d) Full Licensure Renewal(s) 2021-2023
  - (e) Interstate Medical Licensure Compact (IMLCC) Applicant(s)
  - (f) Discussion of Bill No. 317-36(COR)
  - (g) Discussion of Bill No3 318-36 (COR)
  - (h) Collaborative Practice Agreement
- IX. Announcement: The next Guam Board of Medical Examiners Regular Virtual Meeting is scheduled for September 14, 2022 at 4:00pm via ZOOM.

**To view the names of the applicants being considered, go to:**  
<https://guammedical.org>  
**To view the LIVE Streaming link:**  
<https://facebook.com/HPLOGuam>

For more information, please contact the Board office at (671) 735-7404/10 thry 12. Persons needing telecommunication device for the Hearing/Speech Impaired (TDD) may contact (671) 475-8339.

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