

Dela Cruz

Continued from Page 16

and patient care.

“One of the things I love most about optometry is the ability to provide patients with almost immediate relief and gratification,” Dela Cruz said. “Whether it is helping someone see clearly for the first time in years, addressing discomfort, or guiding them through concerns about their eye health, optometry allows providers to make a direct and personal impact on a patient’s quality of life.”

Creating opportunities

To prepare for optometry school, Dela Cruz chose to attend UOG and major in Bio-Med.

“Bio-Med gave me a strong foundation in biology, chemistry, anatomy, physiology, and other sciences that are important for understanding the human body,” Dela Cruz said. “The courses at UOG challenged me to think critically, manage my time, and develop the study habits necessary for a rigorous professional program.”

As she explored the profession, Dela Cruz recognized a challenge facing students on Guam: there were few local resources or peer networks for those interested in optometry.

Rather than accept those limitations, she founded the Pre-Optometry Professional Society, or POPS, a student organization that helps aspiring optometrists connect with eye care professionals, participate in clinic visits, and learn more about careers in vision care.

Through POPS, students attend informational meetings, engage in outreach activities, and gain exposure to professional pathways that were previously difficult to access locally.

Experiences beyond the classroom

Along with the support system fostered through POPS, Dela Cruz sought opportunities outside of UOG to further strengthen her foundation.

Dela Cruz sought hands-on experience in patient care. She worked as an



COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
Kyra Dela Cruz examines a fellow attendee’s eye during a summer program at the Northwestern University Chicago College of Optometry.



COURTESY OF UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
Kyra Dela Cruz, a recent graduate from the University of Guam, will pursue further education in optometry at the Herbert Wertheim School of Optometry & Vision Science at the University of California, Berkeley.

ophthalmic technician at Eye Care Guam, where she gained firsthand experience supporting patients and developed a deeper understanding of local vision care needs.

Dela Cruz further expanded her professional preparation through summer programs at the Northwestern University Chicago College of Optometry in 2024 and the State University of New York College of Optometry in 2025, both supported by funding from the Research Corporation of the University of Guam.

“The experiences gave me exposure to optometry school curriculum, clinical

skills, mentorship, and a better understanding of what my future in the profession could look like,” Dela Cruz said.

Seeing the bigger picture

Acceptance into UC Berkeley’s optometry program represents the payoff from years of dedication, perseverance, and initiative, but Dela Cruz is quick to credit the people who helped her along the way.

She expressed gratitude to her family, professors, mentors, coworkers, and friends for their encouragement and support throughout her journey.

This same sense of gratitude is one that Dela Cruz hopes to pay forward, as she is determined to return to Guam once she completes her studies and becomes a licensed optometrist.

“I carry my island, my family, my mentors, and my community with me. That support motivates me to continue working hard and to eventually return home to give back,” Dela Cruz said.

She hopes her story encourages other students to pursue ambitious goals while remaining committed to their communities.

“With hard work, support, and determination, we are capable of creating our own opportunities and making space for others to follow,” Dela Cruz said.

Department of Public Health & Social Services
GUAM BOARD OF NURSE EXAMINERS
Health Professional Licensing Office
194 Hernan Cortez Avenue,
Terlaje Professional Bldg, Ste 209,
Hagatna, Guam 96910-5052

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Thursday, June 18, 2026
at 3:00 P.M.

Join Zoom Meeting:
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87428899840?pwd=G4NFaziC16BxBEkp2A8X4Rqj8lwkYP.1>

Meeting ID: 874 2889 9840
Passcode: 272843

MEETING AGENDA


- I. CALL TO ORDER
 - A. Proof of Publication
 - B. Roll Call
- II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES
- IV. TREASURER'S REPORT
- V. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - A. Rules and Regulations (Proposed)
- VI. NURSING EDUCATION
 - A. Annual CNA Report (2024-2025)
- VII. EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT
 - A. Board Appointments
 - B. 2026 NLC and Midyear Meeting Report
- VIII. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Pending Applications
- IX. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Letter from Guam Nurses Association
 - B. 2026 NSCBN Conferences
 - C. CNA Renewal
 - D. Approved Applications
- X. NEXT BOARD MEETING
- XI. ADJOURNMENT

To view the names of the applicants being considered go to:
<https://guamhplp.org/gbne>

LIVE Streaming Link:
https://govguam.tv/video_details/gbne/gbne-live-stream

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For more information or to request for special accommodations, please contact the Board Office at (671) 735-7404/9-12 or email hplp@dphss.guam.gov.


GUAM BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR PHARMACY
REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Thursday, June 18, 2026
at 7:30 A.M.

194 Hernan Cortez Ave. Terlaje Professional Bldg, Suite 209 Hagatna, Guam 96910

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84902496774?pwd=o5q5r57or90hzwtgSPNtzQVOSxASMY.1>

Meeting ID: 849 0249 6774
Passcode: 416002

Meeting Agenda:

- I. Call to Order:
 - (a) Roll Call
 - (b) Confirmation of Public Notice
- II. Approval of Agenda
- III. Review & Approval of Minutes: May 21, 2026
- IV. HPL Administrator's Report
- V. Chairperson's Report
- VI. Complaint(s):
 - (a) GBEP CO-16-01
 - (b) GBEP-CO-24-02
- VII. Old Business:
 - (a) 2025 Renewals
- VIII. New Business:
 - (a) Pharmacist by Endorsement
 - (b) Pharmacy Technician
 - (c) Pharmacies/Facilities/Wholesalers
 - (c) Pharmacy Intern
 - (d) Island Family Pharmacy – Prescription Delivery Policy & Procedures
- IX. Next Board Meeting
 - (a) The next Guam Board of Examiners for Pharmacy Regular Session Meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2026 at 7:30 a.m.
- X. Adjournment

To view the names of the applicants being considered go to
<https://guamhplp.org/gbep>

LIVE Streaming link
https://go.opengovguam.com/meetings_list/gbep

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