



# CRE NEWSLETTER



## COOPERATIVE RESEARCH & EXTENSION (CRE)

A COMPONENT OF COM-FSM LAND GRANT PROGRAM

**CRE Staff Participated in Food Safety Training in UoG**

**COM-FSM President visited CTEC-Pohnpei campus**

**Up Close & Personal with Coordinator Trisden Elias**



**Dr. Nat & Avalon interviewing an Intern**

The mission of CRE is to provide exemplary administrative support to the Agriculture Experiment Station researchers, the Director of Resident Instruction and CRE State Coordinators in their efforts to provide excellent training, knowledge and skill development in agriculture and aquaculture, nutrition, resource management, and youth and families through our research, extension, and resident instruction programs. The CRE office and program will provide unrestrained support and collaboration to the President in pursuit of the mission, goals and objectives of COM-FSM.

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National Institute of Food and Agriculture  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



## CRE Staff Participated in Food Safety Training in UoG

Training on the latest national food safety requirements made its way to the islands of Micronesia this week via a USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture-funded program hosted by the University of Guam and the University of Idaho.

The four-day training brought 14 public health agents, food safety educators, and land-grant extension agents to Guam from Palau, the Marshall Islands, and the islands of Yap, Pohnpei, Kosrae, and Chuuk in the Federated States of Micronesia to learn about food safety practices to prevent foodborne illnesses.

Foodborne diseases are a significant public health issue across the Western Pacific, according to the World Health Organization, yet few food safety professionals in the region have had access to appropriate resources, including training on the national Food Safety Modernization Act.

Extension food-safety specialist Jang Ho Kim of the University of Idaho, who previously worked with Cooperative Research, Extension, and Education Services at Northern Marianas College in Saipan, is the director of the grant program, titled “Customized Food Safety Education Strategy for Hard-to-Reach Audiences in the Western Pacific Islands”

“This is a training for agriculture and extension agents, and then they will go out and teach and provide food safety information for their people, like farmers and processors,” he said.

The participants said there is a general lack of awareness about the importance of food safety on their islands. One shared how high electricity costs prompt residents of Kosrae to turn off their refrigerators overnight, increasing the risk of food contamination.



Lecture on Fundamentals of Food Safety



Facility Tour



Participants exploring sheet mulch



Food Safety Training Participants

“I’m excited to bring back the training materials and try to tailor fit it to what we practice back home, especially in the hospital because that’s where we serve the most vulnerable people,” said Steward Molens, a nutritionist at Pohnpei State Hospital.

Joining Kim in delivering the training were UOG food scientist Jian Yang; director of the Food Technology Center at the University of Idaho Joshua Bevan; and Douglas Marshall, chief scientific officer for Eurofins Microbiology Laboratories Inc. out of Colorado.

They provided an overview of the FSMA and conducted sessions on farm worker health and hygiene, produce safety, best manufacturing practices, developing food product ideas, and the pandemic’s effect on food safety.



# COM-FSM President visited CTEC-Pohnpei campus

On March 02, 2023, Dr. Theresa Koroivulaono, President & Chief Executive Officer, College of Micronesia-FSM paid a visit at Career and Technical Education Center (CTEC) Pohnpei campus.

It took place at the crowded Student Hall anticipating her arrival. She was welcomed by the whole CTEC family headed Phyllis Silbanuz, Acting Dean.

The short ceremony started with a prayer and reading of the COM-FSM Mission statement. It was immediately followed by an Opening Remarks delivered by AD Phyllis. Each Department was also introduced in passing.

Dr. Koroivulaono was so ecstatic when she received the token and gifts prepared by CTEC family. "Thank you so much for these gifts. I can feel the love and your warm welcome," she said.

She also shared her humble beginnings as an Educator and encourage the students to aim for excellence and do not settle for less.

The ceremony ended with a group photo and shared a light snacks and drinks.



Dr. Theresa delivering a speech



AD Phyllis explaining the tokens & gifts



Dr. Theresa expressing her gratitude of the gifts received



Dr. Theresa posing with CTEC Family



CTEC Student Hall

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UPCOMING EVENTS

20-21 COLLEGE FAIR  
A DAY TO EXPLORE YOUR CAREER OPTIONS

24 FINAL EXAM PREPARATION WEEK

5 LAST DAY OF INSTRUCTION

8,9, & 11 FINAL EXAMS  
BREAK A LEG!

10 HOLIDAY-FSM CONSTITUTION DAY

17 COMMENCEMENT EXERCISES

For more information visit [www.comfsm.fm](http://www.comfsm.fm)

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# Up Close & Personal with Coordinator Trisden Elias

## What are your hobbies?

As an average Pohnpeian, I consider assisting people as my hobby.

## What are you passionate about?

I am passionate about Agriculture. Since we are facing certain health and environmental issues in our time.

## What is on your bucket list?

To move CRE to a new elevation.



**Trisden Elias**  
CRE Coordinator  
Pohnpei

## What skill would you most like to learn?

Public speaking

## What makes you unique?

I'm a quite type of person.

## What do you enjoy spending money on?

By spending it on my family's needs.

## What is the biggest risk you ever took?

Attending University of Guam

## What is your best childhood memory?

Spending time with my grandparents



**Graduated from University of Guam with a degree in Tropical Agriculture Production**