



Embassy of the United States of America Kolonia Media Release No. 07-2007

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Subject: COLLEGE OF MICRONESIA-FSM AWARDED \$100,000 U.S. GRANT

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) in Washington, D.C., recently awarded the College of Micronesia-FSM (COM-FSM) a \$100,000 matching grant to provide funding for the college's Vocational Education Program. The award, funded by the DOI Office of Insular Affairs' Operations and Maintenance Improvement Program (OIA OMIP), will be supplemented with at least \$100,000 from COM-FSM's Pohnpei Campus. It will facilitate specialized technical training to equip FSM citizens with the necessary skills to fill local vocational positions traditionally held by expatriates. It could also facilitate short-term employment in potential jobs arising in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands in the near future in connection with the U.S. military buildup in the Marianas.

COM-FSM President Spensin James received the Notification of Grant Award from the OIA Director, Mr. Nikolao I. Pula, in a letter dated June 22, 2007. In a statement of appreciation President James remarked, "The Department of the Interior has helped COM-FSM Vocational Programs tremendously in the past. We are quite happy that DOI continues to directly support our college and works closely with us to develop promising career paths for our students. This funding will help ensure continuation of valuable and much-needed skills training in the FSM for Micronesian citizens."

**For further information contact the U.S. Embassy
at (691) 320-2187 or usembassy@mail.fm**