



What's New at REL Pacific?

REL Pacific Newsletter, July 2019, vol. 7



Letter From the Director

Dear Colleagues,

Though school is out for the summer, we know your work isn't done, and we'll be seeing many of you in the coming months to continue our work together on professional learning, transition course development, social and emotional learning, language policy, and more. In this issue of the newsletter, we're sharing information on some of that work, including a guest blog from our locally based consultant in Guam, Roberta Abaday, and information on projects underway in Yap. In addition, you'll meet two new staff members and learn about some new REL Pacific resources.

We're always listening, and we'd love to hear from you. For information or feedback on our work, please feel free to contact me directly at dlewis@mcrel.org.

Best regards,
Dale Lewis

Voices From the Region



REL Pacific had the opportunity to chat with Roberta Abaday, REL Pacific's locally based consultant in Guam, about current work and happenings in the region!

[Read About it On Our Blog Page](#)

Learn About Our Current Projects

Check out our website for info on REL Pacific's work helping to prepare students for careers and beyond in Yap, in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), through the Yap Partnership for College and Career Readiness and Success.

[Check Out the Project Page](#)



Learn More About REL Pacific!

REL Pacific is one of 10 Regional Educational Laboratories established and funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Institute of Education Sciences. The laboratories work with partnerships and alliances within their respective regions to develop research and provide training and coaching to support evidence-based education outcomes. The REL Pacific Region encompasses approximately 4.9 million square miles and serves 10 Pacific island entities. REL Pacific is housed at McREL International's Honolulu office.

REL Pacific's Priority Areas



Language &
Literacy



College and Career
Readiness & Success



Professional
Learning



Social & Emotional
Learning

[Learn More](#)

Meet REL Pacific's New Staff!

Laura Ostrow Communications Specialist

Specializing in marketing and communications, Laura has expertise assisting nonprofits with organizational development and fundraising, social media management, and website development. Laura comes to us from Massachusetts, where she completed a Bachelor of Science in Human Services at Northeastern University, before working in both the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Israel prior to moving to Denver.



Darienne Dey Research Associate

Darienne comes to us from the Halau Ku Mana New Century Public Charter School, where she was a mathematics and science teacher. Darienne has expertise in education as both a student and lecturer. She holds a Master's of Education in Teaching from the University of Hawaii at Manoa, and is currently a candidate for a Doctorate of Philosophy in Education.



REL Pacific Resources



New Infographic Available!

Check out REL Pacific's new infographic on professional learning standards and best practices for teachers!

[See the Infographic Here](#)

April 2017

Using high school data to understand college readiness in the Northern Mariana Islands

Philly Roman
Daisy Carmon
Serena Sosaian
Niana Dandapani
MREL International

Key findings

The study used both high school and college data to examine the college readiness of public high school graduates in the Northern Mariana Islands. Students were considered to be college ready if they were placed in only credit-bearing English or math courses.

Key findings include:

- Few students were placed in credit-bearing college courses in English or math about 20 percent in English and about 18 percent in math.
- Female students were more likely to be placed in credit-bearing English courses; students with moderate to high economic need were more likely to be placed in credit-bearing math courses.
- Students were more likely to be placed in credit-bearing English and math courses if they had better high school academic preparation, as indicated by enrollment in Advanced Placement courses, cumulative grade point averages, standardized test scores, and, for math placement, Algebra 2 grades and highest level of high school math courses taken.
- Many students who had a high cumulative grade point average and high test scores in high school were placed in developmental courses.
- Students who had better high school academic preparation were more likely than their less prepared peers to be placed in higher levels of developmental courses.

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REL Pacific Study
Read REL Pacific's research study on *Using High School Data to Understand College Readiness in the Northern Mariana Islands*.

[Read More](#)

Improving the Odds for Students Entering the Workforce in Yap

In addition to ensuring students receive adequate education prior to entering the workforce, stakeholders in Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) have identified a need to implement strategies to support that secondary students in finding career opportunities after graduation. It is hoped that the implementation of evidence-based strategies to support students' college and career readiness will increase economic opportunities for them and their families, producing a stronger workforce and overall economic success.

Priorities for Yap State

Keeping Students in School | Increasing High School Graduation Rates | Supporting Career Readiness & Success

RESEARCH SHOWS:

- 64% of school-aged children in Yap attend secondary school, which is not compulsory.
- 78% of students who graduate high school in Yap pass college entrance exams.
- According to 2013 data, 74% of households in Yap live below the FSM basic-needs poverty line.

Addressing the Need Through Career Opportunities and Workforce Development

These statistics highlight the education and economic challenges that Yap and other jurisdictions in the REL Pacific service region may face. They also highlight the need for local schools to prepare secondary students for college and careers that can sustain the students, their families, and their communities and ensure educational and economic success for all.

Combined with an underlying lack of employment options due to limited and unskilled economic opportunities, these challenges have the potential to affect Yap's continued economic development. To improve the local economy and provide increased career opportunities for Yapese students, educators and school systems alike are working towards implementing evidence-based strategies that better equip school and career systems.

Strategies to Support Students in the Transition From School into College and the Workforce

- Increase student learning of career readiness
- Build stronger connections between CTE, teachers, leaders, and students
- Increase access to career counseling
- Implement curricula that prepare students for career challenges in a variety of roles
- Help students and parents understand the value of CTE
- Increase career and technical education programs at the school level
- Increase career and technical education programs at the school level

Supporting Students' Career Readiness Through Career & Technical Education (CTE) Programs

Research indicates there are numerous benefits for students who participate in CTE-related activities, high-quality CTE and related pathway programs at the high school level have been shown to:

- lower dropout rates,
- raise future income levels,
- increase participation in postsecondary education, and
- allow students to earn dual enrollment credits, industry-recognized credentials, and technical endorsements on high school diplomas.

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New Infographics
REL Pacific has a variety of new infographics on our website on many topics!

[See More Here](#)

September 2016

Toolkit of Resources for Engaging Families and the Community as Partners in Education
Part 1: Building an understanding of family and community engagement

Mona Elise Davis
Kay Frazee
Cari E. Dean
MREL International

Nancy Peters
Guam Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, and Service

Kathleen B. Miller
MREL International

Overview

The Toolkit of Resources for Engaging Families and the Community as Partners in Education is a four-part resource that brings together research, promising practices, and useful tools and resources to guide educators in strengthening partnerships with families and community members to support student learning. The toolkit defines family and community engagement as an overarching approach to support family well-being, strong parent-child relationships, and students' ongoing learning and development. The primary audience for this toolkit are administrators, teachers, teacher leaders, and trainers in diverse schools and districts. Part 1 is designed to guide educators into building awareness of how their beliefs and assumptions about family and community engagement influence their interactions with families and the community and how knowledge about the demographic characteristics of the families in their schools can inform educators about what might support or hinder family engagement with schools.

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REL Pacific Toolkit
The Toolkit of Resources for Engaging Families and the Community as Partners in Education is a four-part toolkit for educators and stakeholders.

[Read More](#)



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