

**EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES: NEW CAMPUS-BASED FEDERAL AID PROGRAMS AT THE COLLEGE TO SUPPORT STUDENTS**  
 FEDERAL WORK-STUDY (FWS) AND SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY GRANT (FSEOG) PROGRAMS NOW AVAILABLE AT THE COLLEGE TO ENHANCE FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS STARTING SPRING 2025

**Approval of Campus-Based Programs for Title IV Participation**  
 On October 16, 2024, US Department of Education (US ED) accepted and added the two approved campus-based programs, Federal Work Study (FWS) and Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (FSEOG) in the college's E-App for Title IV participation.

**Award Modification Notification and Authorization**  
 On November 6, 2024, the college's Financial Aid Office (FAO) received from the Common Origination and Disbursement (COD) system the award modification notification which had been posted in the college's campus-based Statement of Account for application year 2024-2025. As of November 7, 2024, the college has received the authorization amount of \$174,311.00 for the FWS and \$225,412.00 for the FSEOG, which should be disbursed on or before June 30, 2025.

**Waiver for Federal Matching Share**  
 According to the US ED representative assigned to assist the college with these two approved campus-based programs, the college is qualified for the waiver for the Federal matching share as required of some higher education institutions because of the college's designation as one of the Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institutions (AANAPISI). On April 13, 2014, the college earned designation and was officially recognized as an AANAPISI by US ED making it eligible for additional funding only available to over 200 colleges and universities designated as AANAPISI.

**Submission of FISAP for 2025-2026**  
 The college's FAO had completed and submitted to US ED its Fiscal Operations Report and Application to Participate (FISAP) for the FWS and FSEOG for 2025-2026 on November 15, 2024.



Members of the Yapese Student Organization (YSO) worked on and completed the full reconstruction of the Canoe House at the National Campus. The \$2,000 project, funded through the Student Activity and VPEMSS contingency funds, reflects the college community's commitment to preserving cultural heritage and fostering community spirit. Project completed successfully.

**NAVIGATING NEW CHALLENGES: IMPACT OF THE FAFSA SIMPLICITY ACT ON PELL GRANT DISBURSEMENTS**  
 SMOOTHING THE BUMPY ROAD AS FAO WORKS TO EASE CHALLENGES FOR THE NEXT ACADEMIC YEAR

As of November 18, 2024, the college's Financial Aid Office (FAO) has awarded \$566,251.77 in Pell Grants to 159 students enrolled this Fall 2024 semester. This represents a 50% lower turn-out in Pell Grant disbursements compared to the same reporting period in the 2023-2024 academic year. The lower turn-out is attributed to systemic challenges stemming from the implementation of the 2024-2025 FAFSA Simplicity Act and other procedural complexities.

**KEY CHALLENGES AFFECTING PELL GRANT AWARDS**

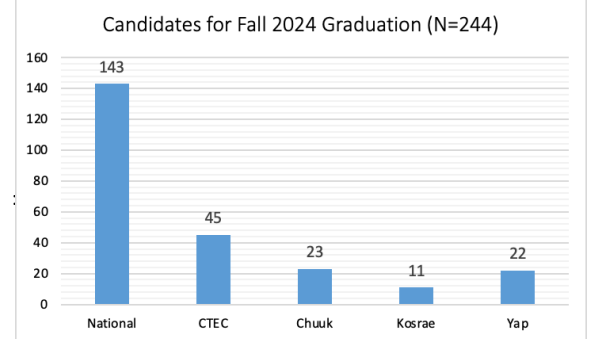
- Impact of the 2024-2025 FAFSA Simplicity Act.** While the FAFSA Simplicity Act was designed to streamline financial aid processes, it also impose new complexities for institutions and students. Below are how it differs from previous FAFSA requirements:
  - Verification and Documentation**
    - Previously:** The college followed traditional verification processes with a focus on specific income verification for selected applicants.

- Now:** FAO staff must rigorously compare all submitted student documents against the ISIRs to verify consistency, which adds more detailed reviews to ensure compliance with eligibility and SAP requirements.
- Alignment with Programs**
  - Previously:** There was less emphasis on ensuring that coursework precisely aligned with a student's declared program of study.
  - Now:** The Act mandates institutions to verify that only program-eligible courses are covered by financial aid, increasing the administrative workload to review academic plans in detail.
- Increased Focus on Technical Compliance**
  - Previously:** ISIRs were processed based on basic institutional checks.
  - Now:** The college's FAO must select ISIRs that conform to the COD Technical Schema "Business Rules", a new layer of compliance ensuring financial aid disbursements align with federal systems.

**COLLEGE ADVANCES 244 STUDENTS TO FALL 2024 GRADUATION CANDIDACY**

**NATIONAL CAMPUS AND CTEC TO JOINTLY CELEBRATE 80TH COMMENCEMENT ON DECEMBER 18, 2024 TO HONOR GRADUATES OF FALL 2024**

Following an initial degree audit conducted on October 18, 2024, by the Registrar's Office, the college proudly advanced 244 students to candidacy for the upcoming Fall 2024 graduation. Chart below shows the breakdown of candidates by campus:



The National Campus and CTEC will celebrate their joint 80th Commencement Exercises and Graduation Ceremony on December 18, 2024, at the FSM-China Friendship Sports Center's main gym in Palikir, Pohnpei.

The ceremony's theme, "*Navigating the Future: Honoring Our Roots, Embracing the Present, and Inspiring Tomorrow's Success*," reflects the college's enduring commitment to empowering students as they embark on the next chapter of their journey.

**SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS: \$12,500 IN APIA SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO FOUR COLLEGE STUDENTS**

The college proudly announces a total of \$12,500 in scholarships awarded by the APIA (Asian and Pacific Islander American) Scholarship Fund for the academic year 2024-2025. These scholarships will provide essential financial support to four deserving students, empowering them to continue their educational journey with reduced financial burdens.

- Breakdown of Awards:**
- \$5,000 from APIA/Cox Enterprises Scholarship:
    - Recipient: One student from the National Campus.
  - \$2,500 from APIA/Wells Fargo AANAPISI Scholarship (two awards):
    - Recipient 1: One student from the National Campus.
    - Recipient 2: One student from Yap Campus.
  - \$2,500 from the 2024-2025 AANAPISI General Scholarship:
    - Recipient: One student from the National Campus.

This financial support highlights the benefits of the college's designation as an Asian American and Native American Pacific Islander-Serving Institution (AANAPISI), granted by the U.S. Department of Education on April 13, 2014. The Vice President for Enrollment Management and Student Services (VPEMSS) is the designated point-of-contact for AANAPISI scholarships, ensuring students receive the guidance and resources needed to access these opportunities.

**24 HOUR CAMPUS SECURITY**  
 URGENT ASSISTANCE IS AVAILABLE 24/7 AT EACH OF THE COLLEGE'S CAMPUSES.

**CAMPUS SECURITY AND SAFETY**  
 WE ARE HERE FOR YOU WHEN YOU HAVE AN EMERGENCY. CONTACT US. WE OPERATE 24/7, 365 DAYS A YEAR

**NATIONAL CAMPUS**  
 CTEC  
 KOSRAE CAMPUS  
 CHUUK CAMPUS  
 YAP CAMPUS  
 FSM-FMI

3270-7017 & 320-2480 EXTENSION 206  
 320-3795 & 320-1065  
 370-3191  
 330-2689  
 350-2286  
 350-3544



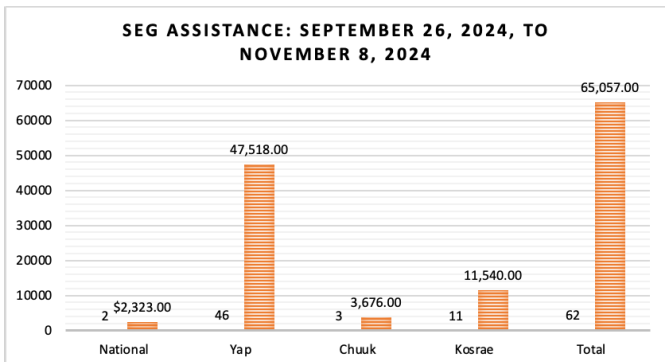
Members of the Chuuk-Chok Students Organization take pride in action, leading an inspiring campus cleanliness drive on October 12, 2024, to keep the college's shared spaces clean and welcoming!



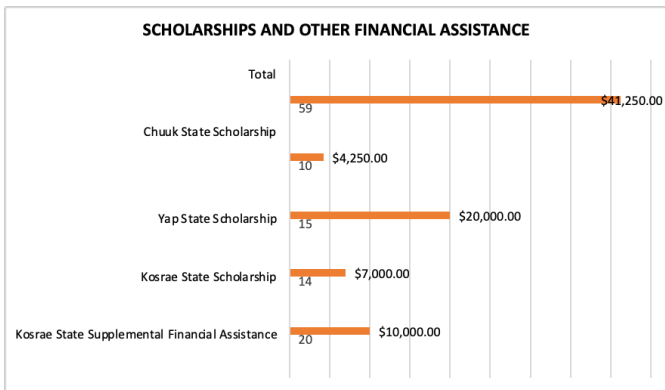
### FAO AWARDS 62 STUDENTS OVER \$65,000 IN SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATION GRANT (SEG) ASSISTANCE

A TOTAL OF \$41,250.00 IN SCHOLARSHIP ASSISTANCE WAS AWARDED TO 59 STUDENTS

The college's Financial Aid Office (FAO) is pleased to report that 62 students across the college's campuses have received a total of \$65,057 in Supplemental Education Grant (SEG) Assistance for the reporting period from September 26, 2024, to November 8, 2024.



Meanwhile, the college's FAO also reported that during the same reporting period, a total of \$41,250.00 in scholarship assistance was awarded to 59 students enrolled this Fall 2024 semester.



### SPECIAL WORK-STUDY PROGRAM FOR RESIDENCE HALL STUDENTS

The Financial Aid Office (FAO) has launched a \$25,875.00 Work-Study Program for the months of November to December 2024. This program will provide additional financial assistance to 68 eligible students residing in the college's Residence Halls. The initiative responds to the requests of students who expressed a dire need for extra financial support to help cover their personal expenses while living on campus. The funds for this program have been sourced from the unused SEG funds, ensuring that these resources are directed toward supporting students in need during this critical time.

### NAVIGATING NEW CHALLENGES ... from page 1.

#### Student Eligibility Checks

- Previously: Verification of program enrollment was standard but less stringent in terms of disbursement timing.
- Now: The college's FAO must confirm that students are enrolled in eligible degree or certificate programs before processing aid, with stricter checks at earlier stages of the aid process.

#### Complexity of SAP Compliance

- Previously: SAP reviews were conducted at regular intervals (often annually or by semester) but were less integrated into disbursement workflows.
- Now: Ongoing compliance with SAP standards is closely tied to disbursement eligibility, requiring real-time or near-real-time validation.

These updates are intended to reduce errors and improve transparency for students, but they shift a significant operational burden onto financial aid offices (FAOs). Institutions must adapt to these changes by improving workflows, staff training, and system integrations to meet the new requirements.

#### 2. Challenges Due to New FAFSA Process

- A significant challenge in the 2024-2025 academic year stems from the FAO's inability to review and correct FAFSA applications before submission, a functionality available in previous years.
  - In prior years, FAO staff could assist students in pre-screening FAFSA applications for missing or incorrect information, ensuring smoother processing and fewer errors.
  - With the introduction of the 2024-2025 FAFSA Simplicity Act, this pre-review capability has been removed. Applications now go directly to the FAFSA Partner Portal (FPP) without FAO oversight, resulting in a higher volume of incomplete or incorrect ISIRs being generated.

#### 3. Technical and Procedural Issues with FAFSA Processing.

The 2024-2025 FAFSA processing cycle presents a heightened level of complexity compared to prior cycles, particularly in resolving technical and procedural issues associated with ISIR eligibility for disbursement. These complications stem from several factors:

- Introduction of the Student Aid Index (SAI). The transition from the Expected Family Contribution (EFC) to SAI has introduced new challenges. Many ISIRs

lack an assigned SAI due to incomplete responses or errors during FAFSA submission, preventing eligibility determination.

- Critical New Data Points.** The inclusion of questions such as the State of Legal Residence has led to locked applications when students failed to provide accurate answers, emphasizing the increased importance of detailed residency information in the 2024-2025 FAFSA.

- Inaccurate Citizenship Declarations.** Misreported citizenship statuses have emerged as a recurring issue, necessitating labor-intensive verification procedures.

- Consent and Signature Omissions.** A subset of FAFSA applications was rendered invalid because either the student or their contributors failed to provide the requisite electronic consent or complete the digital signature process, hindering ISIR validity.

- Education Background Errors.** Disqualification arose from applicants erroneously indicating a lack of a high school diploma or equivalent credential, even when they were eligible.

- Enhanced ISIR Signature Validation.** FAFSA now flags and disqualifies unsigned ISIRs, including cases where students or contributors fail to complete the signature process, further complicating eligibility.

- Financial Reporting Challenges.** Tax filing and financial reporting have become more intricate, particularly for contributors from the Freely Associated States (FAS). Changes in how these regions are categorized under the updated FAFSA introduce unique barriers for accurate submission. To address this, the FAFSA platform has been recently updated by US ED with region-specific prompts and instructions to assist FAS contributors in navigating the financial reporting sections, particularly regarding tax filing status and income reporting.

- Family Information Discrepancies.** Incorrect reporting of household size and the number of college-enrolled family members introduced discrepancies that required additional resolution.

#### DELAYS IN AWARD DISBURSEMENT

The above issues have caused delays in ISIR acceptance and subsequent Pell Grant disbursements. As of now, the college's FAO continues to resolve outstanding cases to ensure eligible students receive their awards.

CONTINUED TO PAGE 3



Members of the college's Teacher Corps lead by example during an on-campus cleanliness drive, fostering community pride and environmental stewardship, October 21, 2024.



NAVIGATING NEW CHALLENGES ... from page 2.

PROACTIVE MEASURES TO BE TAKEN BY THE COLLEGE'S FAO

To address these challenges and mitigate their impact moving forward, the FAO will be implementing a series of proactive measures:

- Invest in upgraded computer hardware that meets federal specifications, enhancing processing capabilities.
- Continue to conduct outreach campaigns to educate students and other contributors on common FAFSA errors and assist them in completing applications accurately.
- Provide additional training to staff to navigate the new FAFSA system and address technical issues with the COD schema more effectively.
- Modify the internal timeline for FAFSA completion and submission. By setting earlier internal deadlines for FAFSA submission, FAO will allow more time for students to resolve discrepancies, make corrections, and ensure that their applications are processed accurately. This adjustment will also provide the FAO with sufficient time to review applications before they are sent to federal systems, mitigating last-minute issues that could delay disbursements.
- Lobby for alternative processes that could restore some level of pre-review capability to mitigate future disruptions.



OFFICE OF THE COLLEGE REGISTRAR

585 STUDENTS EARLY REGISTER FOR SPRING 2025

EARLY REGISTRATION EXTENDED UNTIL DECEMBER 13 TO BOOST ACCESSIBILITY AND ENROLLMENT

The College's early registration for Spring 2025 has enrolled 585 students as of November 18, 2024, marking 33% of the college's enrollment target for the semester. The early registration for Spring 2025 semester was opened last November 8, 2024.

According to the Acting College Registrar, "Early registration is a strategic initiative aimed at providing students with adequate time to plan their academic schedules, ensuring timely enrollment, and reducing last-minute registration issues." This effort supports the college's mission of delivering quality education through improved access and student services, he further added.

Table 1. Early Registration for Spring 2025, as of November 18, 2024, in headcount, credits, and FTEs. By campus.

Campus	In Headcount			In Registered Credit & FTE		
	Actual (A)	Target (B)	A in % of B	Credits (C)	FTE (D)	D %Diff A
National	328	892	37%	4,404	367	12%
CTEC	83	280	30%	941	78	-6%
Chuuk	74	241	31%	797	66	-10%
Kosrae	10	158	6%	87	7	-28%
Yap	90	214	42%	1,031	86	-5%
Total	585	1,785	33%	7,260	605	3%

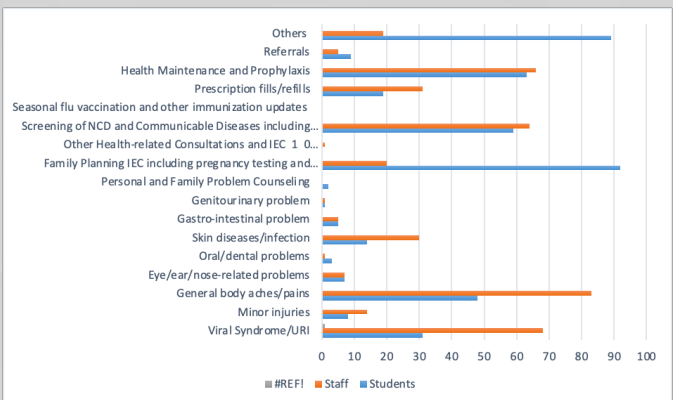


COLLEGE NURSE

NATIONAL CAMPUS HEALTH SERVICES

865 RECORDED VISITS BY STUDENTS AND STAFF TO THE COLLEGE'S DISPENSARY

Between September 22, 2024, to November 18, 2024, the dispensary at National Campus College recorded 865 visits, with 52% (350 duplicated count) attributed to students and 48% (415 duplicated count) to college staff.



The college nurse also reported that the most common reasons for visits were general body aches and pains, which accounted for a total of 131 visits. This was followed closely by health maintenance and prophylaxis services, with 129 visits. Screening and follow-up for non-communicable and communicable diseases ranked third, with a total of 123 visits.

ACCESS | INNOVATION | RESILIENCE



Students from the Residence Hall enjoying good food and great company during the Midterm Relief Cookout on October 19, 2024. A well-deserved break to recharge and reconnect

The Student Choir at National Campus soaking in the beauty of Rainbow Island during their unforgettable excursion on October 26-27, 2024. A perfect harmony of nature and music!



UPDATES: COUNSELING AND TUTORING SERVICES

Resume Writing and Job Interview Workshop

A resume writing and job interview workshop was held on October 28 and October 30, 2024. The resume writing session focused on helping students craft effective resumes to enhance their chances of securing job interviews. The second session covered job interview preparation, strategies for a successful interview, and post-interview follow-ups. A pre-and post-test was conducted with 30 participants, revealing a significant improvement in scores after attending the workshop.

feedback, with students noting that they gained useful study strategies for exam preparation. They found the presentation to be clear, easy to follow, and highly beneficial. Of the 33 participants, 28 (93%) earned perfect scores on the short-answer questions, while 2 (7%) made only one mistake.

Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Training for Counselors

To better support students facing mental health challenges, particularly suicide, and to learn appropriate responses, the counselor participated in a series of trainings with fellow counselors and the Student Services Coordinator from Yap Campus. The sessions, led by Pat Ryan, Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Specialist, were held on October 8, 15, and 29, 2024.

Test Taking Tips Workshop

The Test Taking Tips Workshop, held on September 27, brought the total number of participants for both workshops to 33. A post-workshop survey revealed positive

Counseling Services: September 26, 2024, to November 8, 2024

Counseling Services	National	CTEC	Chuuk	Kosrae	Yap	Total
Clearance	10	4	2	0	0	16
Financial Aid Appeals/FAFSA	1	0	105	0	0	106
Disciplinary	10	6	0	0	0	16
Scholarship Information	0	0	8	0	0	8
Personal Counseling	5	1	0	0	1	7
Academic	90	43	30	0	1	164
Transfer	10	0	1	0	0	11
Others	3	8	0	0	56	67
<b>Total</b>	<b>129</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>141</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>390</b>



Students from the Resident Halls were given a unique opportunity to immerse themselves in the vibrant tapestry of Japanese culture during the Japan Culture Exchange activity on campus, exploring traditions, language, and customs through interactive activities and enriching experiences.



Students in the Residence Halls enjoyed a relaxing evening of entertainment during Movie Night on Saturday, October 12, 2024, from 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM. This event provided a much-needed opportunity to unwind and relieve academic stress while enjoying a great film with friends.