



Bok Melele

News updates from the:
MINISTRY OF EDUCATION

EDUCATION WEEK DEBATES

Topic: Resolved: The RMI should institute a quota system that reserves five of the thirty-three seats in the Nitijela for women.

DATE: THURSDAY & FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 23 AND 24 **VENUE:** ICC
ALL MAJURO HIGH SCHOOLS PUBLIC AND PRIVATE ARE WELCOME
TO ATTEND WITH AT LEAST ONE 2-PERSON TEAM.

Debate coaches please sign up by emailing Carleigh Beriont at dvtp@dartmouth.edu. Coach meeting next week, time and place to be announced.



Pacific Teacher Scholarship Fund



"What do these people have in common?"
They've all received a teacher scholarship from Pacific Resources for Education and Learning.

PREL established the Pacific Teacher Scholarship Fund in 2004 to help committed teachers and education students afford the preparation required to become highly skilled teachers. Since then, we've awarded \$25,747.17 in scholarships to 40 teachers in American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of

the Marshall Islands. Each year, PREL awards scholarships to teachers or teacher candidates who are in the process of completing an accredited teacher preparation program. The scholarships range from \$500 to \$1,000 and go to Pacific Islanders who are committed not only to reaching their own potential, but to providing greater educational opportunities for Pacific Children.

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

- ✓ Be a resident of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, the Republic of Palau, or the Republic of the Marshall Islands.
- ✓ Be a 2nd-, 3rd-, or 4th-year student at an accredited college or university.
- ✓ Be enrolled in an accredited teacher preparation program.
- ✓ Be a student in good standing. (A grade point average [GPA] of at least 2.5 qualifies you as a student in good standing).
- ✓ Intend to teach in a school in the U.S.-affiliated Pacific.

We are now accepting applications for academic year 2012-2013.
For more information on applying for a scholarship, visit:
www.prel.org/scholarship.aspx
THE DEADLINE TO APPLY IS APRIL 1, 2012.



GRANTS AVAILABLE

The RMI National Commission for UNESCO wishes to inform any Government Ministries/Agencies, Local Governments, the Private Sector, Non-Governmental Organizations and/or interested persons that it is now accepting application forms/proposals to be funded under the UNESCO Participation Program Grants in the upcoming funding cycle (FY 2012-2013). Proposals should cover the priority areas of the organization, which include Education, Culture and Sciences. For more information regarding the application and/or other re-

quired forms, please contact:
Mr. Richard A. Bruce
Assistant Secretary for AFHR
Ministry of Education
P.O. Box 3 • Majuro, MH 96960
Phone: (692) 625-6684/5161/5262
Fax (692) 625-3861
Email: rbruce@rmimoe.net
The last day to accept proposals/applications is Monday, 13th February 2012. Electronic copy of the application form is also available. Be advised that no application forms will be accepted after the set deadline.

WAM trainees

Learning how to be confident

The challenge for many non-government organizations (NGOs) in the Marshall Islands is that donor organizations provide funds for activities and then require "hard data" to prove that the program has been a success.

Such is the case at Waan Aelon in Majel (Canoes of the Marshall Islands). Associate Director of the long-running program, Kathy Hutton, said: "All our funders require evidence-based evaluation to show the success of the programs. That's fair enough, it's understandable, but in some cases it's very difficult to measure what we're achieving."

Tests, for example, can clearly show how trainees have improved in math and English or their ability to use woodworking equipment, but life skills are another matter.

The current six-month vocational trainee program at WAM is nearing an end, with graduation set for this Friday. "Over the months I've seen huge increases in confidence and self-esteem amongst our trainees, but how do you calculate that and provide it as evidence?"

"Plus, 90 percent of the trainees may not even be able to recognize the massive changes in themselves. Many people, including myself, will underplay how they are performing."

The biggest change Hutton has seen is "a huge improvement in their life skills. For example, they've learned to turn up on time and most have made a big effort in that department."

Twenty-five youth were accepted into the program, which began on August 1, 2011 and is funded by the RMI National Training Council. "In the first few weeks we had a couple of dropouts, but these were quickly replaced by other applicants. One or two



WAM Associate Director Kathy Hutton.

"Over the months I've seen huge increases in confidence and self-esteem amongst our trainees, but how do you calculate that and provide it as evidence?"

— Associate Director Kathy Hutton

more dropped out over the months, but we're ending the course with 22 trainees.

"Teaching them good working skills is a slow process," Hutton said. "I've seen some that took four to five months before they seemed to be fully participating and embracing each part, such as being counseled."

The lead instructor in the program is Vocational Program Manager Ken Taggart. "He absolutely loves the kids," Hutton said. "He's just wonderful working with them on math and woodwork."

Taggart also helped train four young men to be trainers, two from Ebeye and two from Lae. The hope is that this group will return to their home islands to run similar courses.

		7		9			
	4			2			
8		1		7		4	
		4		3			8
		3	2		6	1	
2				5		7	
	1		3		5		7
			7				6
				1		2	

SUDOKU

Last week's answer

9	7	5	2	1	4	8	3	6
4	3	6	9	7	8	5	2	1
1	2	8	5	6	3	7	9	4
3	8	2	1	4	7	9	6	5
5	6	1	3	8	9	4	7	2
7	4	9	6	2	5	3	1	8
2	5	7	4	9	1	6	8	3
6	9	4	8	3	2	1	5	7
8	1	3	7	5	6	2	4	9