

PACIFIC BASIN INTERAGENCY LEADERSHIP CONSORTIUM

CONFERENCE 2010

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

PBILC Reception 2

PBILC Conference 2
Acknowledgement

Advisory Council 3

Tsunami Disaster 3

PBILC Conference 4
Presenters

PBILC Special 5
Recognition

UCEDD Website 5
Launch

UCEDD Calendar 5
& Events

UCEDD Goal, 6
Directory & Staff

Acronyms 6

The American Samoa Community College (ASCC) hosted the Pacific Basin Interagency Leadership Consortium Conference on Monday and Tuesday, January 11th and 12th,



Conference banner posted in front of the ASCC building

2010. The conference was postponed from last year October due to September 29 disaster. More than 100 representatives of human service agencies from across the United States Pacific have been attended this event. The theme for this year's conference was "In Pursuit of Self-Determination", and were also featured three guest speakers who have overcome adversity in their personal circumstances to lead productive lives.

Speaker John Foppe, from off-island, was born without arms, yet he has adapted and learned to function as a regular member of society. As a child, he had difficulty doing the simple

things most of us take for granted, and led an early life marked by dependency, but today he travels the world as



Speaker John Foppe during his presentation at ASCC Lecture Hall

an author and owner of a successful international training company. Foppe shared his story of self-determination and offered insights on how to silence the participants internal self-critic, do more with less, and stay motivated.

Our local speakers, ASCC Alumni Sevelu Liu and Sanele



Speaker Sanele Tualevao getting ready for his presentation at ASCC

Tualevao also shared how they struggled, and how they determined to be more self-independence in today's real world.

The conference took place from 8:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m. each day in the ASCC Lecture Hall. Sponsors include the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation/Office of the Governor, the University Center for



Speaker Sevelu Liu during gift presentation at the conclusion of the PBILC Conference 2010

Excellence in Developmental Disabilities at ASCC,, the Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, and the Division of Special Education/ ASG Department of Education.



UCEDD Director, Ms. Tafaimamao Tupuola and Co-Speaker for the 2010 Conference Mr. Sevelu Liu

PBILC CONFERENCE 2010 EVENING RECEPTION



Norma Smith (DDPC Director), guest, and Pete Poumele (OVR Director)

The PBILC Conference held a Dinner Reception for constituents on Monday, January 11, 2010 at Sadie's by the Sea Restaurant in Utulei. Mr. John Foppe, Sevelu Liu and Sanele Tualevao were in attendance and honored during the reception. Everyone had a wonderful time getting acquainted and also enjoyed cultural performances by the Taupou Manaia group. The night festivities were hosted by the ASCC-UCEDD Department.



PBILC CONFERENCE 2010 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS



Chairman & ASCC President during the PBILC Conference at ASCC Lecture Hall

The PBILC Conference 2010 came into success because of support and help from our various departments within our ASCC. Special acknowledgements to the following individual, ASCC departments, and ASG Agencies/Departments for their endless support:

- American Samoa Office of Voc-Rehabilitation
- Developmental Disabilities Planning Council
- ASG Department of Education / Special Education Division
- Dr. Seth Galeai, ASCC President
- Mr. Mikaele Etuale, ASCC Vice President
- ASCC Samoan Studies Institute
- ASG TAOA
- ASCC Maintenance & Facility
- ASCC Security
- ASCC Custodians
- ASCC MIS Department
- ASCC Education Department
- ASCC Academic Affairs Office
- ASCC Business Office
- ASCC Procurement / Le Bookstore
- ASCC Institute & Effectiveness
- Upward Bound Program
- Local Farmers



Pete Poumele, OVR Director, Tafaimamao Tupuola, UCEDD Director, Guest speakers John Foppe & Sevelu Liu, and Mikaele Etuale, ASCC Vice President—during the PBILC Conference 2010



UCEDD Staff with Dr. Anaise Uso & John Foppe

"I can no other answer make, but, thanks, and thanks."

By: William Shakespeare

UCEDD ADVISORY COUNCIL by Paulia J. Pelenato



Orientation for new members for the UCEDD Advisory Council at Sadie's Inn in Fagatogo on November 2009

The UCEDD Advisory Council had their first meeting last November 2009 as to discussed various ways of how to improve the services to those who are in special needs. The Advisory Council composed of consumers, family members, educators, human services providers, and the public sectors. The Advisory Committee as-

sists in the planning of AS-UCEDD activities addressing:

- Transportation
- Education and Early Intervention
- Housing
- Employment
- Support Services
- Child Care
- Independent Living
- Special Topics

UCEDD Advisory Council Members 2009-2011

1. Paulia J. Pelenato—UCEDD
2. Pete Galeai— OVR
3. Fa'anati Penitusi—SpEd
4. Norma Smith— DDPC
5. Luisa Tuiteleapaga-DHSS
6. Hellene Stanley-Parent
7. Clara Reid— DOC
8. Lili'a Luavasa— Parent

9. Tautasi Archie Soliai-Ituaumalosi Representative
10. Fiaava'e Savali— P&A
11. Sister Elsa Sintillias— Hope House (Fatuoaga)
12. Alex Sunia —Consumer
13. Telesia Uperesa— Parent
14. Simoa A. Tito— Parent
15. Ilamutu Paopao— Parent
16. Tauaveave Moana— Parent
17. Ashley Silafau— Parent
18. Sanele Tualevao— Consumer

The next meeting will be on February 18, 2010 at 10 a.m at Sadie's Thompson Inn in Fagatogo.



**Pete Poumele
Director, OVR**



Faanati Penitusi, SPED & Tupuola, UCEDD



Lilia Luavasa, a parent during the Advisory Council Orientation

Tsunami Disaster: Addressing Special Needs Population



On September 29, 2009 American Samoa experienced a Tsunami caused from an 8.0 earthquake near the Samoa Islands.

Since the disaster the American Samoa Government (ASG) immediately responded to the special needs population. The UCEDD Director, Tafa Tupuola, was appointed to represent ASG to FEMA in requesting for support for the special needs population.

The Special Needs Task Force was originally established in 2006 from the Office of the Governor to support the Triagency goal in addressing emergency preparedness for the special needs population.

Through this Tsunami Disaster experience the Triagency and Special Needs Task Force identified areas to improve emergency preparedness for future planning and management.

Issues addressing special needs included, Individual Assistance Housing, education transportation, employment,

independent living, durable medical equipment, health, and essential needs.

A key highlight is the advocacy in the FEMA Housing Task Force (HTF) in addressing accessible housing floor plans for the Permanent Housing Construction Program. The HTF agreed that all floor plans will be accessible even if a household does not have an individual with a disability and will remove ramp when necessary.

Through this effort it will also lessen the demand for Independent Living Services.

Pacific Basin Interagency Leadership Consortium

CONFERENCE 2010 PRESENTERS

LEARN THE SIGNS ACT EARLY: -

SIGNS OF AUTISM

- Does not babble, point, or make meaningful gestures by 1 year of age
- Does not speak one word by 16 months
- Does not combine two words by 2 years
- Does not respond to name
- Lose language or social skills
- Poor eye contact
- No smiling or social responsiveness
- Excessive line up of toys or objects

Dr. Anaise Uso	-	CSHCN Program
Barbara Boat	-	Private School Avocation
Elda Suisala / CFIDD	-	Why Parent Centers?
Dr. Jean Johnson	-	Identifying Hearing Loss
Judy Coryell	-	Deaf Education in American Samoa and the Pacific
Segia Ioane	-	Awareness for Parents of the SPED ECE Program
Terri Fejarang	-	Promoting Positive Environment for young children
	-	Increasing Disability Awareness
Tafaimamao Tupuola	-	Autism Spectrum Disorder



Terri Fejarang, Judy Coryell, and Haidi San Nicholas



Tafaimamao during her presentation of "Autism Spectrum Disorder"



Dr. Jean Johnson during her presentation of "Identifying Hearing Loss"



Participants asking questions during "Open Forum Discussions" in the Lecture Hall.



Dr. Anaise Uso & Jacki Tulafono from Department of Health getting ready for their presentation on Dental Health Program.



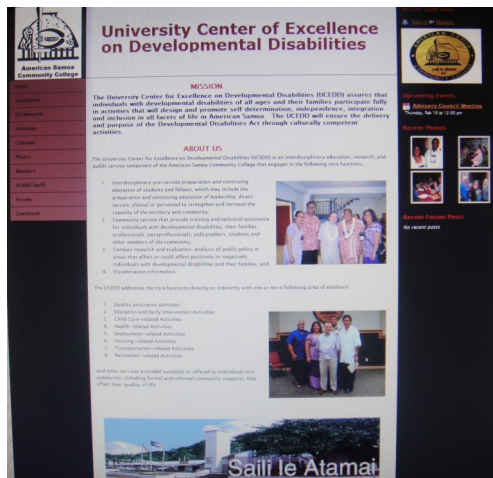
Barbara Boat with conference participants getting ready for her presentation on "Private School Avocation".

SPECIAL RECOGNITION

A special recognition and acknowledgement to our House of Representatives that attended in support of the Pacific Basin Interagency Leadership Consortium Reception at Sadies by the Sea:

- Representative Charlie Tautolo
- Representative Vaito’a Hans Langkilde
- Representative Archie Soliai
- Representative Larry Sanitoo
- Representative Vailoata Amituana’i

UCEDD WEBSITE LAUNCH



The University Center of Excellence on Developmental Disabilities completed its website as to disseminate information concerning best practices to support the quality of life and self-determination of persons with disabilities in inclusive lives in their communities.

*The UCEDD Website is
<http://asucedd.webs.com>
 temporarily*

UCEDD CALENDAR & EVENTS

JANUARY 2010	FEBRUARY 2010	MARCH 2010
11 & 12 - PBILC Conference	15 - Presidents' Holiday	Developmental Disability Month "Pathway to Self Determination" Activities will be published in our February 2nd Edition.
18 - Dr. Martin Luther King Holiday	18 - UCEDD Advisory Council Meeting	
29 - Triagency Meeting		



American Samoa
Community College

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OUR MISSION

The University Center for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) assures that individuals with developmental disabilities of all ages and their families participate fully in activities that will design and promote self determination, independence, integration and inclusion in all facets of life in American Samoa. The UCEDD will ensure the delivery and purpose of the Developmental Disabilities Act through culturally competent activities.



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ACRONYMS/MEANINGS

AS: American Samoa

ASCC: American Samoa Community College

ASG: American Samoa Government

DDPC: Developmental Disabilities Planning Council

FEMA: Federal Emergency Management Agency

HTF: Housing Task Force

PBILC: Pacific Basin Interagency Leadership Consortium

MIS: Management Information System

OVR: Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

TAOA: Territorial Administration on Aging

Triagency: Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, Protection & Advocacy, and University Center for Excellence on Developmental Disabilities