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Community Issues Outline 2

Topic: Lack of Degrees Affecting the CNMI

Purpose: Inform

Audience: NMC staff/ faculty and college students

1. Introduction
   1. General Thesis: Lack of degrees on Saipan doing more harm than good?
   2. Attention Grabber
      1. *The CNMI lacks qualified professionals.*
2. Discussion
   1. What are the agrees that are available?
      1. The six degrees available at NMC (Liberal Arts, Criminal Justice, Business, Education, Nursing, Natural Resource Management)
      2. Associate degree and bachelor’s degree
   2. What do lack of degrees do to the community?
      1. Money and costs
   3. What degrees does the island need more of?
      1. Different fields of study
      2. Doctors/ professionals from off island
      3. Interview with NMC student
3. Conclusion
   1. If NMC decides to add necessary degrees, Saipan will meet the standards of a regular running community.

The CNMI lacks qualified professionals. In the community, there aren’t many degrees or higher-level degrees that extend a Northern Marianas College student’s knowledge after graduating. This academic essay explores the reasons to why the lack of degrees given at NMC affects the CNMI, with the help of information collected about the current degrees given, what’s happening to the community, and what the island needs more of, with support from outside sources and opinions straight from NMC students.

The Northern Marianas College has had a developing amount of degrees come and stay for a while now. There are several different fields of study to achieve an associate degree and a bachelor’s degree; altogether there are about nineteen choices. The six different programs are Liberal Arts, Business, Nursing, Education, Criminal Justice, and Natural Resource Management. Four out of the six listed all include the associate degree and bachelor’s degree, and the other two only have the associate’s option which are Criminal Justice and NRM. Although AA in Criminal Justice is on island, NMC has partnered with University of Guam for the bachelor’s assistance (University of Guam, 2019). The graduate would have to either take online courses or the instructor will travel to Saipan. This is the only way to further obtain a higher degree other than associates. There aren’t enough undergraduate degrees let alone any graduate degrees or higher level such as master’s and Doctorates, for any of the six to continue learning on island.

If NMC decided to fund a wider range of degrees, the island will benefit in terms of money in the long run. It will cost a lot for NMC to open more options, but the community will return the funds as needed. Austerity recently hit the island so it will be difficult to keep up with the governments’ needs, but the lack of degrees may help with the fight. It’s good for NMC to look into other degrees that will benefit the island in the long run because of how dependent the CNMI is with tourist. Governor Ralph Torres stated, “the administration will be determining with the Legislature the potential impact on the fiscal year 2020 budget” because of the decreasing numbers in tourist (Maurin, 2020). A wider range of degrees can help with the different occupations in the CNMI and the community can get back on track with running the economy.

For the most part, Saipan is in need of professionals in different fields of study. The people who are on island that have studied a different major than the six current programs or are doctors in their field, have graduated from another institution off island and not locally. Since there aren’t many higher-level degrees, it’s hard for places like the hospital, who need active nurses (De La Torre, 2019) and medical doctors. So, having anything higher than an associate degree will effectively help the community. According to current NMC students, not only does the medical field need improving, but going back to money and the community, the CNMI should look into marine degrees since we are on a tropical island, surrounded by the ocean and architectural or engineering degrees because of how many typhoons occur. Other than the essential community degrees stated, the NMC students felt like it’s also important to learn about the government in range from political science, more economic courses, or strengthening the criminal justice. It may be vital to higher employment rates (Matheny et al., 2015).

The limited degree choices that the Northern Marianas College offers, may hinder the growth and modernization of the CNMI. If NMC decides to add on to the list of necessary degrees, the CNMI will meet the standards of a regular running community. The additional degrees will benefit the economy and people will be more inclined to stay on island and help the community grow.

References

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