Has the Opening of NMC’s School of Business Impacted the Local Workforce of The CNMI?

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EN 202-01

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Proposal Essay Final Draft

September 28, 2018

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The Northern Marianas College (NMC) was established in 1981. Since the time it opened its doors until 2014, it has offered its students training programs to become government employees and teachers of the public school system (“History of Northern Marianas College,” n.d). However, in March 2001, NMC added a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education to its curriculum. This meant that students could, for the first time receive a degree, whereas they could only have received a certification in the past. This worked well for a time, but it was not enough for the local population to be able to grow within their island. In fact, people without the means to study abroad did not have much of a choice. This, in turn, meant hiring outside workers to fulfill the growing diversity of job requirements. That is why, in 2014, NMC implemented the School of Business into its curriculum. It has been four years since this program has been implemented at NMC, as a result, there are more graduate workers specialized in the work field. Thus, the student researcher aspires to investigate how NMC’s School of Business graduates are being placed in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) labor field. Prior research will be conducted over a period of six to eight weeks, following a research schedule, methodology, and the writing process.

This research project will investigate the percentage of workers in the local labor field from the past educational system, since the beginning of NMC until the opening of the School of Business. This project will gather information on the number of NMC business graduates and the number of local workers in the workforce from 2010 to 2017. The NMC School of Business works with businesses and associations which offer job training to business students who are taking the class of Introduction to Cooperative Education. So, in order to acquire information about the apprenticeship program, the student researcher will contact the Business Department of NMC. In addition, employees from Pacific Islands Club, Triple J, and the Imperial Pacific International will be interviewed. These businesses are part of the internship program of NMC, and the student researcher would like to obtain information about the number of students who remain in their job after graduation, and how many of them receive a promotion. Having the information on how NMC Business graduates are placed in the CNMI workforce, will help the ongoing students know what to expect after getting their Business Degree.

To continue gathering information, a ten question survey will be conducted with the NMC students; it will be a multiple choice question survey. In addition, two students who just graduated from the School of Business and one student who will graduate next year will be interviewed. Their names are Simon Necesito, Cassandra Deleon Guerrero, and Marchie Fernandez. Through research, some useful academic articles have been assembled such as, “Graduate Management Admission Council”, also report called,” College Degree: Does it substantially Enhance the Economic Achievement of Chicanos?” Additionally, materials found from the Borja Library of Northern Marianas College, will be used for the background information. Lastly, four non academic sources from the Marianas Variety and Saipan Tribune will be included in this paper.

The student researcher spent the first week gathering a lot information and statistics that were available. The next two weeks will be used to arrange interviews and conduct surveys. Another week will be used to analyze the collected data. Since it is important to double check the efficiency of the gathered information, the student researcher will take time to go over the collected data and to assemble everything together. On the fifth week, the student researcher will start working on the research essay, which will take six to eight weeks to complete.

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| SCHEDULE | Task |
| Week 1 | * Topic Proposal * 4 non- academic sources * 4 academic sources |
| Week 2- Week 3 | * Create survey * Collect information for interviews * Conduct survey and interviews |
| Week 4 | * Analyzing collected data |
| Week 5-8 | * Writing process * Review and making adjusting if needed * Peer Review * E-portfolio |

The student researcher is a hard worker and will prioritize the research project by taking the time during the weekdays to conduct surveys and interviews. The weekends will be used to review information, making adjustments if needed, and working on the e-portfolio required for this research project. The student researcher has already gathered information through literature sources, newspapers, magazines, statistics from NMC, and the CNMI Department of Labor website. A research schedule which includes time for interviews, surveys, and the writing process has already been made. The student would like to start the project as soon as possible in order to have enough time to make corrections and adjustments, if any. With that being said, the student researcher believes that this project should be approved.

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