Description of Funded Projects

Science and Education Resources Development
Cooperative State Research, Education, and
Extension Service

U.S. Department of Agriculture

Washington, D.C.

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Phase III of Developing Resident Instruction in Food and Agriculture Related Sciences at Land Grant Institutions in the Pacific and Caribbean. The University of Guam will be the lead institution for this consortium grant. The other seven (7) institutions or sub-grantees are all insular land-grant designations. They include the University of Puerto Rico, University of the Virgin Islands, American Samoa Community College, College of the Marshall Islands, College of Micronesia - Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), Northern Marianas College, and Palau Community College. This project will address issues of the eight insular institutions that serve communities where college-bound students are mostly first generation students. The percent of these students who have an interest in the food and agricultural sciences is very low. The purpose of this project is to improve overall education, training, and teaching. Specifically, to enhance courses of study and degree programs and to improve curricula and instructional materials and technology. There will be numerous issues addressed in this collaborative project: The Telecommunication assessment and subsequent testing and development completed in 2006 made it possible for all of the land-grant institutions in the insular areas to connect their respective communications systems to participate in collaborative long-distance education projects. A significant effort will be necessary to bring all of the participating institutions to a more advanced common platform that will enable all CariPac institutions to more comparably interact with each other and collaborating institutions on the mainland. A second phase assessment will be conducted to determine what will be required to bring all CariPac member institutions up to a more contemporary and workable level of technology.