

NORTHERN MARIANAS

NMTECH

TECHNICAL INSTITUTE



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

1ST QUARTER AT A GLANCE:

TRADING UP!!



Our Student Services and Marketing & Outreach teams have been hard at work promoting our new course in our Trading Up program - Hospitality. Trading Up is a dual enrollment program that gives students a head-start into a trades career while in school, where they can receive a nationally recognized certificate.

CTE MONTH

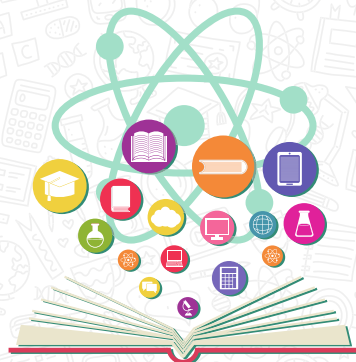


To honor Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month, NMTEch hosted a CTE Expo for the Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School students.

FOSTERING PARTNERSHIPS



NMTech came into partnerships with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) and the Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan & Island Training Solutions (ITS) to give our students more access to the training and education they need in a trades career.



**“EDUCATION IS NOT THE
FILLING OF A PAIL BUT
THE LIGHTING OF A FIRE.”**

- WILLIAM BUTLER YEATS

JANUARY



Our Student Services and Marketing & Outreach teams began the year with an eventful week. On January 6th 2023, Our team held a presentation at the Saipan Southern High School (SSHS) to talk about our newest course in our Trading Up program. In partnership with the Island Training Solutions (ITS), NMTEch is now able to offer Hospitality courses to high school students.

The Trading Up program allows students to take higher education courses while in school. This gives them a head-start into a trades career and earn **nationally** recognized certificates, allowing them to use their training in the U.S. mainland and other U.S. territories.

In the evening, our team set up an information booth at the Fiesta Friday event held at the CNMI Museum. There, our team shared the courses to be offered for Spring 2023 - Welding Level 1 & 2; Carpentry Level 1; Electrical Level 1, 2 & 4; Automotive Technology: Engine Performance / Brakes / Electricity & Electronics; and Culinary Arts I & II.



January 9th 2023 was another eventful day for our Student Services and Marketing & Outreach teams. Our teams held another presentation for our Trading Up: Hospitality program at the Marianas High School (MHS).

We also had our first Student Orientation of 2023 to welcome our Spring semester students and share information regarding our campus, safety, courses, and scholarship opportunities. We invited representatives from the CNMI Department of Labor (DOL) Workforce Innovation Opportunities Act (WIOA) program to present their program and how they can assist our students with financial obligations such as tuition.

JANUARY

On January 10th 2023, our team hosted an Info Session for the staff and clients of the Center for Living Independently (CLI). Our Student Services team discussed the courses we offer and the financial aid opportunities that students can avail. After the info session, CLI staff and clients were given a tour of the campus to see the classrooms and workshops they could be conducting their studies.

On January 11th and January 12th 2023, our Student Services and Marketing & Outreach teams visited the students at Kagman High School (KHS) to present our new Trading Up: Hospitality course. The benefits of enrolling in a Trading Up course and how to go about enrolling were also shared with the students.



On January 13th 2023, we hosted another Spring 2023 Student Orientation to welcome new, returning, and continuing students to our institute.

This semester, we launched the long-awaited Culinary Arts II and Electrical Level 4, with Culinary Arts II being the newest addition to our curriculum.

Also on January 13th 2023, our CEO Ms. Jodina Attao and our Marketing & Outreach Coordinator Mr. Ben Babauta met with the CNMI Department of Labor (DOL) and with Crowne Plaza's management team to discuss the possibility of a partnership for future apprenticeship programs.



JANUARY

WELCOME

January 17th 2023 was the first day of our Spring semester courses! We are so excited for all our students to begin (or continue) their journey into a trade, whether it be for professional growth or personal. We wish you all the best! We are here to assist you every step of the way!



On January 17th 2023, our Student Services and Marketing & Outreach teams attended the Rotary Club of Saipan meeting, where they presented updates about NMTEch. Data on student enrollment, future curriculum, and community projects that were accomplished in 2022 were shared.

On January 19th 2023, NMTEch attended the Tourism Summit hosted by the Marianas Tourism Education Council (MTEC) to share information on the programs we offer and how they can benefit the tourism industry in the CNMI. Over 200 students were present at this event.



Update: NMTEch offices will be closed on Fridays effective February 6th 2023.

We will continue to keep our office hours from 8:30am to 5:30pm Mondays through Thursdays. We are closed for lunch from 12:00pm to 1:00pm and closed weekends & holidays.

FEBRUARY



February is *CAREER AND TECHNICAL* *EDUCATION* Month

On February 23rd 2023, our Student Services team attended the Mental Health First Aid Training held at the Pacific Islands Club Saipan.



On February 27th 2023, in celebration of Career and Technical Education (CTE) Month, NMTech hosted a CTE Expo for the Admiral Herbert G. Hopwood Middle School students. Guest speakers included Secretary of CNMI Department of Labor Ms. Leila Staffler, Public School System (PSS) Commissioner of Education Mr. Alfred Ada, Guam ACTE’s Dr. Sam Mabini Young, and NMTech’s very own Chief Executive Officer

Ms. Jodina Attao. We also had Chef Zenn Tomokane from Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan and Efrain Camacho from EFC Engineers and Architects speak with the students.

On February 28th 2023, NMTech and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) signed a Memorandum of Understanding. Our partnership will allow consumers to take classes at NMTech, in which OVR will assist with tuition fees. Consumers will receive the educational training and possible job placement services needed in their chosen trades. We are also working with CLI and the Commonwealth Office of Transit Authority (COTA) to support consumers.



MARCH

Thank you for going above & beyond.

On March 3rd 2023, NMTEch celebrated Employee Appreciation Day by taking time to do team building activities and team bonding. This will help strengthen our team dynamic, and work better together. WE APPRECIATE ALL OF YOU!

On March 6th 2023, our Student Services and Financial Aid teams went to the Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP) office to pass out flyer and share with clients information on our courses for Fall 2023, scholarship opportunities, and other forms of financial assistance.

On March 7th 2023, NMTEch, ITS, and Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan celebrated the beginning of a partnership by signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that aims to build local capacity in the fields of hospitality and tourism. Students will be able to undergo training needed to complete their courses at the Crowne Plaza Resort.



NMTEch’s management team met with the Education Committee and CNMI Department of Labor (DOL) Secretary Ms. Leila Staffler to establish a closer relationship with the legislature and share updates on the institute's overall capacity. Also in attendance were Chairman Manny Gregory T. Castro and committee members Representative John Paul P. Sablan and Representative BJ Attao.

MARCH

On March 8th 2023, NMTech’s Marketing & Outreach Coordinator Mr. Ben Babauta visited Salt & Barber for an interview to discuss our Cosmetology course. Although still in the works, Ben and Curt Ellis of Salt & Barber have been working hard to get Cosmetology ready for the Fall 2023 semester.



Also on this day, NMTech donated traffic signs to the Kagman Elementary School (KES). The signs will help morning and after school traffic better navigate the parking and drop-off/pick-up areas. Thank you to our Carpentry Students for building and painting the signs.

On March 9th 2023, our Student Services team presented at the Action for Workforce Marianas event hosted by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) and the CNMI Civil Service Commission. Our Project Coordinator Ms. Lei Ogumoro shared information about our upcoming semester, scholarship opportunities, and gave a virtual tour of the campus.



On March 16th 2023, the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance (MINA) delivered four 60-gallon and two 240-gallon trash bins to the NMTECH campus. MINA's new pilot project for recycling plastic bottles will create useful products from PET plastics collected from all partner locations. The goal of this project is to reduce plastics that enter the ocean and landfill. Among those present

for the delivery are Ms. Roberta Guerrero & Ms. Becky Furey from MINA and Mr. Park from Artman.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

EMPLOYEES OF THE YEAR - 2022



A big congratulations to NMTech's Employees of the Year for 2022 - Mr. Benjamin Babauta and Mr. Mike Vargas! You both deserve this and the rewards that come with it because of all the hard work you both did, and continue to do, for NMTech and the community. We are beyond proud to have you both as part of our team. "Both Chef Ben and Mr. Mike are phenomenal people and play critical roles at NMTech. We are grateful for their service and look forward to the many accomplishments to come."
- Ms. Jodina Attao, CEO

MUKBANG FOR THE COALITION AGAINST DOMESTIC AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE



NMTech donated food to the Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence for their mukbang social media outreach. The delicious food was cooked by our Culinary Arts students.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION MONTH

From March 5th to March 11th 2023, NMTEch celebrated Women in Construction week by highlighting women in the CNMI who currently work or are taking courses in the construction field.



Women In Construction

Jamie Pangelinan

Company: Taniguchi Ruth Makio Architects +
Position: Senior Design Manager
Education: Master's of Architecture

What inspired you to pursue the construction trades (ie. Architecture)?

At a young age, I was fascinated with art, fabricating art in 3 dimensions, playing musical instruments, and participating in sport activities. Overtime, it became evident that my passion for design and creativity in the form of architecture stemmed from an integration of artistic vision, technical fabrication, rhythm and harmony, and social engagement. Thus, in combination led me to pursue a career in architecture that is a culmination of my interest and its expression. Bringing to life a vision that becomes tangible for all to experience is satisfying and meaningful.

What advice would you give young women thinking about joining the construction industry?

Anything is possible when you instill self-confidence and demonstrate grit being in an industry historically dominated by men. Additionally, it is important to have interest in what you do, seek to improve and continuously improve, find purpose, and believe your work matters, as well as your capacity for achievement. Also, discover and reflect on your interests and how the industry you are seeking can blend those interests and allow growth to discover one's fullest potential.



Women In Construction

Lolly Macatangay

Company: Pacific Engineering Group & Services
Position: Construction Inspector/Cost Estimator
Education: B.S in Civil Engineering

What inspired you to pursue the construction trades?

I am always been amazed by the skyscraper structures you see in the big city and I wanted to know how to build those structures from the ground to skyscrapers buildings that curiosity led me to the field of engineering/construction

What do you like most about your job?

The feeling of fulfillment when I see the completed projects in which I have been part of the engineering/construction group that made it happen.

What advice would you give young women thinking about joining the construction industry?

Young women who are interested to join in the construction industry must have a strong will to complete the task and be versatile enough to adjust to the construction environment.



Women In Construction

Char Quitano


Company: NMTEch
Position: NCCER Instructor , CORE Fundamentals

What do you like most about your job?

I got into teaching NCCER CORE Fundamentals because I believe that the content is valuable in our everyday lives. Teaching students these skills is something they could live with for life and no one could take it away from them. Also teaching the basic safety so that students could practice these good habits in at their work place. All the skills we teach at NMTEch are life long skills that could benefit most situations.

Why is it important for women to be in the industry?

The Construction Industry is a male dominated industry and sometimes it scares women, which is why it was important for NMTEch to push this campaign. We want women in the CNMI to know that women are capable of learning construction related skills and making it a career. We want to empower women and inspire women to take charge of their future no matter the industry.



Women In Construction

Nicole Bauleong

School: Da'ok Academy & NMTEch
Education: Construction Craft Laborer

What did you like most about NMTEch Classes?

I like how we could all work together as a team and learning new information and skills we have not encountered before.

What did you learn about in class?

We have learned many things such as basic safety, hand tools, power tools, learning how to put our skills to work and more.

Why is it important for women to be in the Construction Industry?

Because I believe that not all jobs are for men and that us women can pursue goals others are not capable of.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION MONTH



Women In Construction

Nicolette Villagomez

Company: Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
 Position: Engineer
 Education: B.S. of Civil Engineering

What do you like most about your job?
 The most satisfying part of my profession is applying problem-solving remedies and coordinating with team members across a wide spectrum of public, private, and government entities. The ultimate gratification is knowing that once a project is successfully completed, it benefits this island community.

Why is it important for women to be in the Construction Industry?
 For a long time, the opportunity for a woman to actively pursue a career in the engineering and construction industry was suppressed based on social norms and taboos. However, I believe it is important for women to break the barrier in these industries as it opens the doors and creativity for an important profession.

What advice would you give young women thinking about joining the construction industry?
 It is paramount that you take as many training and education opportunities as possible. It optimally depends on your passion and the avenues you are willing to open up by going through additional training and education to perfect your craft.



Women In Construction

Rachel Wehlburg

Company: Hyatt Regency Saipan
 Position: Assistant Director of Engineering
 Education: B.S. in Marine Engineering

Why is it important for women to be in the construction industry?
 For me, it is important to have women in the construction industry in order to be a role model for young girls who want to pursue that career. I was lucky enough to have my mom as a role model growing up, since she was in the engineering industry for my entire childhood. Unfortunately, not all young girls have this type of role model. If they see more women in construction, then they will have someone to look up to and convince them that there is a place for women in the industry. Women offer a different perspective when it comes to problem solving, organization, and working environments. These different perspectives are invaluable.

What advice would you give young women thinking about joining the construction industry?
 I would say to them: Go for it! Make sure you have a thick skin and go into any job ready to prove yourself. When you are a young woman going into a predominantly male career, often times they will already expect that you will fail. You have to prove them wrong right away. Education is invaluable, and there are still women in parts of the world that do not have access to education. We are lucky enough to be given the opportunity here, so take advantage of it! Make sure you surround yourself with people who support your dreams.



Women In Construction

Jolynn Jones Castro

Company: NMHC CDBG DR Projects Division
 Position: Admin Specialist

What do you like most about your job?
 I enjoyed working with my team. I schedule meetings with clients, contractors and construction management teams. I was exposed to a broad range of infrastructure and housing projects, many different managing styles, and many different construction methods and terminology.

Why is it important for women to be in the Construction Industry?
 Women bring in fresh ideas and increase productivity in any work environment. We pay attention to details and have higher expectations.

What advice would you give young women thinking about joining the construction industry?
 Don't feel intimidated and follow your passion. Although I am not directly involved in the actual construction and trades, I want women to know that there are many rewarding career opportunities around the construction industry.



Women In Construction

Sonya Dancoc

Company: SP Dancoc & Associates
 Position: Founder/President & Principal Engineer
 Education: B.S. of Civil Engineering


What do you like most about your job?
 Being an engineer has allowed me to work alongside many different, brilliant, and notable individuals with a mission to advance and improve the world with quality and sustainable infrastructure with the application of sophisticated technology

Why is it important for women to be in the Construction Industry?
 Women bring value to the construction / engineering industry because they have the ability to adapt to unique situations and conditions, are resourceful, and great multitaskers. When women are given the opportunity to lead and apply their skills, they are able to achieve successful outcomes and benefits.

What advice would you give young women thinking about joining the construction industry?
 My advice for young women thinking about joining the construction or engineering industry would be to be prepared to be challenged, focus on your strengths to complete assignments, have a positive attitude and enjoy what you do.

HONORABLE MENTIONS

WOMEN IN CONSTRUCTION MONTH



Women In Construction

Hamanda K. Reyes

School: Northern Marianas Technical Institute
Education: Core, Electrical Level 1

What did you like most about NMTech Classes?
It was a different field—the flexible hours and the supportive staff and instructors. The motivation to do better for me was a self-target coming from the voice within and our support system at NMTEch. And let's not forget about hands-on! I am humbled to experience the journey provided by NMTEch throughout my tenure.

What did you learn about in class?
My course then elaborated on the basics of safety rules as an Electrician. We cannot stress the importance of safety enough. The learning experience taught me the fundamentals of electrical concepts, the modern house wire, voltage, and codes utilized in the electrical field of study. And yes, electrical wire colors do matter.

Why is it important for women to be in the Construction Industry?
Not only did my course of study introduce me to a different field of discipline, but I also developed a self-assured vantage point that got me where I am today. It was practiced and certified by men. Given an opportunity to unwell, it assisted me and secured me back then to the present. It is far from the legal perspective for women in today's society to be ambitious and outgoing in the construction industry. Still, women are entitled to set and pursue goals like men. To be aggressive life-long learners, we deserve to be respected and to be leaders.



Women In Construction

Dina Tenorio

Company: Latte Marine Diving & Salvage
Position: General Manager/Underwater Welder
Education: NCCER CORE + Welding

What inspired you to become an Underwater Welder?
When I was growing up, I could not stay away from water. I always find myself swimming, diving, and always at the beach. I noticed I always got bored fast and when I finally adventured into working with tools, I said "why don't I make this harder and do it underwater" So I learned how to weld underwater. It keeps me going and I like the challenge.

Why is it important for women to be in the Construction Industry?
Women are an untapped resource for skilled workers in the industry that have been suppressed and underrated. Women are great! We can do anything men can do.

What advice would you give young women thinking about joining the construction industry?
Become an underwater welder. Become a Top Site Welder. Become anything. Take advantage of it!



Women In Construction


Birhen K. Martinez

Company: Hofschneider Engineering Corporation
Position: Project Engineer
Education: B.S. in Engineering

What do you like most about your job?
Though I find my career as an Engineer very challenging in nature, I also find it rewarding. The skillset I acquired through my career, gives me an opportunity to provide meaningful solution that contributes to development of our community. When you are part of the solution, it gives you morale boost to continue doing what you do, regardless of the challenges you may face.

Why is it important for women to be in the construction industry?
I strongly believe that women are more of an analytical thinker than most men. Women are naturally organized and efficient in carrying out task. This is important in construction industry as many phases of the construction work requires full attention to details, analytical thinking, and efficiency in performing tasks.

What advice would you give young women thinking about joining the construction industry?
To our young women who are thinking about joining the construction industry, my advice would be, not to be afraid to get yourself in this male dominated work environment. If you put your heart and mind to something you want to achieve, go for it! Be a Go-Getter!



Women In Construction

Fatima Pascual

Company: Pacific Engineering Group & Services
Position: Construction Inspector/Reinforced Concrete and Soil Special Inspector
Education: B.S in Civil Engineering

What inspired you to pursue the construction trades?
My first preference was not to study engineering. But I pursue engineering because I was aware that as global infrastructure developed, it would present numerous opportunities.

Why is it important for women to be in the construction industry?
We can benefit the industry by promoting more women since they will bring in fresh views and necessary skill sets. As a result, construction projects and outcome will be more productive.

What advice would you give young women thinking about joining the construction industry?
Built environment is one of the first thing you notice when you enter any city. By joining the construction industry, your ideas and imaginations turn into reality.

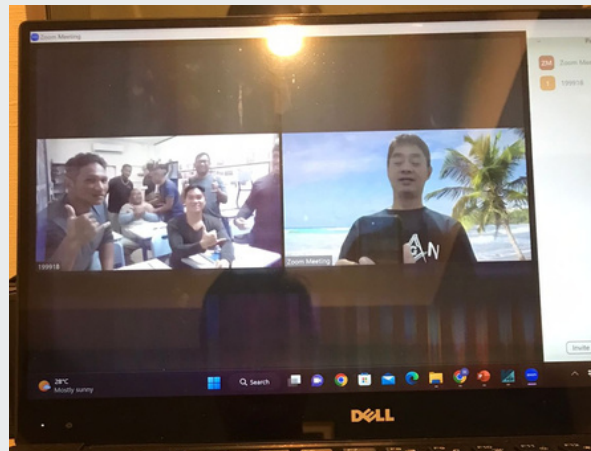
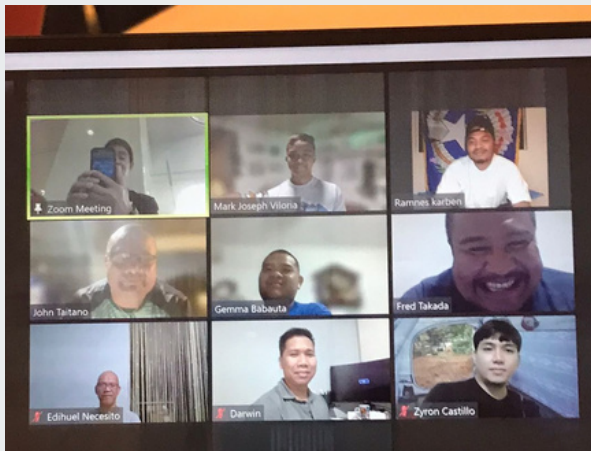
CAMPUS LIFE

CULINARY ARTS II



Culinary Arts II students cooked for the Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month mukbang project.

ELECTRICAL LEVEL 1



Electrical Level 1 and Electrical Level 1 (DOC) students attended class online via Zoom while their instructor is off-island. Way to go!

ELECTRICAL LEVEL 2



Electrical Level 2 students' conducted their Performance Test on polyphase motor terminal identification.

CAMPUS LIFE

AUTOMOTIVE: ENGINE PERFORMANCE



Automotive Technology: Engine Performance students while taking their test.

TRADING UP: CCL



Our Trading Up: Construction Craft Laborer students got a surprise visit from Dr. Jessica Taylor and PSS Commissioner of Education Mr. Alfred Ada.

TRADING UP: CORE



Our Trading Up: Core class from Tanapag Middle School (TMS) went on a field trip to a construction site of the building of a two-bedroom house. Our students got to experience first-hand the proper safety practices and fundamentals that they learned in class.