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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Guam Department of Education to Host Special Education Symposium Honoring 50 Years of IDEA

**Tiyan, Guam** – The Guam Department of Education (GDOE) proudly announces the Special Education Symposium, taking place on July 30–31, 2025, at the Westin Resort, Tumon. This year’s event marks a significant milestone: the 50th anniversary of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), a landmark law that has transformed education by ensuring equity, inclusion, and access for students with disabilities.

The symposium will feature Dr. David Bateman, a nationally recognized authority in special education law and policy, as the keynote speaker. Dr. Bateman will share expert insights into the evolving legal landscape and effective practices that continue to shape special education today. In addition, the event will welcome a Special Honorary Guest Speaker, who will offer a personal reflection on IDEA’s profound impact over the past five decades.

This professional development opportunity is open to all teachers. Seats are limited, so educators are encouraged to register early at <https://sites.google.com/gdoe.net/spedsymposium/registration> or by scanning the QR code in the flyer attached.

Join us to learn, collaborate, and celebrate half a century of progress and advocacy for students with disabilities. For more information, please contact the Guam DOE Division of Special Education at 671.300.1322.

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