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PR2025 - 0426



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December 30th, 2025

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Newly Appointed Superintendent Dr. Judith Won Pat Unveils New Senior Leadership Team

Tiyan, Guam —The Guam Department of Education is proud to announce that the newly appointed Superintendent of the Department of Education has announced her senior management deputies. Dr. Won Pat has set her goal of selecting a team that will collaborate to integrate their skills and experiences, fostering a unified approach to tackling challenges within the education system; a team that will restore trust in the department by being transparent and accountable; and lastly, a team that will emphasize data-driven policies. This is “The Way Forward” goal.

Her senior management deputies are:

Deputy of Finance and Administrative Services: Franklin Leon Guerrero

Mr. Leon Guerrero holds certifications as a budget officer and has extensive training in financial management. His experience includes significant roles in high-stakes environments like the Pentagon, where precision and accountability are paramount. He will leverage his extensive knowledge in budget formulation and execution to ensure fiscal responsibility within the department. His track record of implementing automation in budget processes will increase efficiency, reduce errors, and free up resources for education initiatives. With zero procurement protests during his tenure at the Port Authority of Guam, Franklin Leon Guerrero’s ability to navigate complex regulations will help build trust and integrity in financial operations.

Deputy of Educational Support and Community Learning: Ms. Jackie Quitigua

A proud UOG graduate, Ms. Quitigua has dedicated over 40 years to public education. Starting as a classroom teacher in Guam, she has held various leadership roles, including education specialist and Senior Director of Curriculum and Instruction for the CNMI Public School System. She is passionate about improving student outcomes across all dimensions and has championed initiatives that enhance student sports, physical fitness, and health and wellness. Ms. Quitigua’s career reflects her commitment to culturally responsive practices and collaborative problem-solving, emphasizing a holistic approach to student success. She has worked with school leaders to provide balanced leadership training for school improvement by conducting instructional review, observation, and feedback for and by teachers.

Deputy of Curriculum and Instruction: Dr. Rizalina Liwag

Dr. Liwag offers 30 years of leadership experience as a teacher, principal, and senior director, with recognized expertise in curriculum, instruction, and assessment. She has successfully led initiatives such as developing a K–12 data center and the Accountability School Report Card, all aimed at improving student achievement. Her strategic alignment of curriculum and professional learning reflects her dedication to equity and continuous improvement in education.

Deputy of Assessment and Accountability: Dr. Julie Ulloa-Heath

With over 24 years in secondary and higher education, Dr. Ulloa-Heath has a strong background in assessment and strategic planning. As Assistant Director of Planning and Development at the Guam Community College, she oversees facilities and manages local and federal funds. Previously, as Dean of Enrollment Management at the University of Guam, she implemented data-driven retention strategies. Her commitment to using data for informed decision-making will enhance accountability and productivity within the Guam Department of Education.



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Dr. Won Pat stated that, “This dynamic team brings a wealth of knowledge, experience, and innovative thinking to the Department of Education. Each member’s unique background enriches the department’s capacity to meet the diverse needs of students and the community. Their collective focus on accountability, student-centered practices, and community engagement positions the department for significant progress and transformation.”

Furthermore, Dr. Won Pat stated, “We have a tremendous opportunity to reshape the educational landscape within the Department of Education. Our commitment to prioritizing children’s needs reflects a belief that every decision made in the Department of Education should benefit students’ overall development.”

This announcement not only outlines her team’s impressive credentials but also sets a tone of optimism and collaboration. The focus on children’s needs and the commitment to high standards in education are clear priorities that she aims to achieve with her new leadership team.

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