



PRESS RELEASE

Lesley-Anne Leon Guerrero
Senior Vice President,
Chief Experience Officer

PO Box BW
Hagåtña, Guam 96932

TEL (671) 472-5300
FAX (671) 472-5243

bankofguam.com

Member FDIC



@BankofGuam

Bank of Guam was established over 50 years ago, and as The People's Bank, is Guam's first locally owned and chartered bank. Built on the vision of founder Jesus S. Leon Guerrero to be the driving force for prosperity in the communities it serves, the Bank's work continues through its network of over 500 employees spanning 6,000 miles and 16 branches across Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and San Francisco, California.

September 22, 2025

BANK OF GUAM® ANNOUNCES 2025-2026 APIA SCHOLARS-BANK OF GUAM COHORT, AWARDING \$50,000 TO FIVE STUDENTS

Hagåtña, Guam – Bank of Guam is proud to announce the 2025–2026, APIA Scholars–Bank of Guam Cohort, marking another milestone in the Bank's long-standing commitment to investing in the next generation of leaders from Guam and the Micronesia region.

APIA Scholars (Asian Pacific Islanders American Scholars) is the nation's leading non-profit organization supporting Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander students and eligible students. As part of the Bank's partnership and sponsorship with APIA Scholars, each recipient will receive a total of \$10,000 over four years in \$2,500 installments annually, as well as access to APIA Scholars' College-to-Career success programs.

This year's cohort includes the following five students:

- Charles Joseph "CJ" Baybay, from Saipan, attending Northern Marianas College and majoring in Business
- Ivan D. Filethin, from Yap, attending University of Hawaii at Mānoa and majoring in Mechanical Engineering
- Marsandrea H. Russel from Pohnpei, attending Oral Roberts University and majoring in Criminal Justice
- Evangeline A. Taitingfong from Saipan, attending University of Texas at San Antonio and majoring in Child Psychology
- An additional Scholar from Saipan who prefers not be named

The People's Bank started as a dream, and we remain committed to empowering young minds to believe and dream BIG. For more than a decade, Bank of Guam has invested in tomorrow's leaders through various scholarships that have opened doors for students from across our region. Through this partnership, we're proud to support the academic journeys of these inspiring young leaders, helping to build not only their future, but the communities and generations they will uplift.

-Joaquin P. L.G. Cook, President and Chief Executive Officer, Bank of Guam

Since 2011, Bank of Guam has provided dozens of scholarships to high school students across the region who are pursuing higher education at accredited colleges and universities. This year, over 1,000 applications were received for APIA Scholars' Scholarships from across Guam, Saipan, Palau, American Samoa, Pohnpei, Chuuk, Rota, Tinian, Kosrae, Yap, the Marshall Islands, and Hawaii.

Bank of Guam's deep-rooted belief in supporting local students and our shared future has made a lasting difference in the lives of so many young people. Their investment is not only financial — it is a meaningful commitment to investing in the potential of this next generation.

- Dr. Noël S. Harmon, President of APIA Scholars

About APIA Scholars

Based in Washington, D.C. and founded in 2003, APIA Scholars is the nation's leading non-profit organization devoted to the academic, personal, and professional success of our Scholars, with a focus on those who are most in need. Through Scholarships, Student Success Programs, Research and Applied Partnerships, APIA Scholars carry out their mission to educate, elevate, and empower our Scholars and the next generation of students. For more information about APIA Scholars, please visit us at www.apiascholars.org.