



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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DMHSA Continues Cycle of Improvement Guam's Participation in Prevention Fellowship Program a Success

Hagatna, November 6, 2009 – Juanita Blaz, Island Girl Power program director recently completed the Center of Substance Abuse Prevention's (CSAP) Prevention Fellowship Program and is now an Internationally Certified Prevention Specialist (ICPS). Juanita is one of the 45 Fellows located in state, community, and local agencies throughout the United States and territories.

The Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, Prevention and Training Branch applied for inclusion in this Prevention Fellowship Program and committed to mentoring recruited Fellows from Guam. Funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) this program was launched in 2006 in an effort to build Guam's prevention workforce. The Fellowship Program emphasizes the application of SAMHSA's Strategic Prevention Framework, a national strategy for comprehensive prevention planning, program development, and services delivery.

“Juanita's hard work towards her successful attainment of an Internationally Certified Prevention Specialist is to be commended. She clearly demonstrates a commitment and passion for working in the prevention field. Her selection and participation in this program is evidence of the Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse's efforts to build the island's workforce capacity and competence. We congratulate Juanita on this major accomplishment.” said Dr. David Shimizu, Director of Department of Mental Health & Substance Abuse (DMHSA).

Mentoring agencies such as the DMHSA Prevention & Training Branch for this CSAP Prevention Fellowship Program are located in 50 states, the District of Columbia, and all Pacific territories and jurisdictions - Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Northern Mariana Islands, and Palau. Program mentor agencies also include the Community Anti-Drug Coalition of America (CADCA) and the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD).

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Fellows undertake projects that promote skills development and knowledge of state-of-the-art prevention practices needed for direct, hands-on prevention service work. Web-based training and workshops conducted by leaders in the field expose Fellows to advances in prevention science and new methods and approaches. Fellows also have the opportunity to develop critical research, writing, evaluation, and presentation skills under the program's structured training environment.

For more information, contact Mrs. Barbara S.N. Benavente, DMHSA Prevention & Training Supervisor at (671) 477 – 8861 or visit

<http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/advisories/0908282920.aspx>

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