



NEWSLETTER

"TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD A FUTURE"

JUNE 2025

Sheila Quimson's Journey: Turning Challenges into Triumphs

Sheila Quimson is a proud graduate of Northern Marianas College, earning her Associate of Arts degree in Liberal Arts. Her journey to this achievement was one marked by personal challenges, perseverance, and meaningful milestones.

"Without the support of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR), I would not have been able to fulfill my dream of earning a college degree and finding meaningful employment," Sheila shared. "I've always wanted to become a teacher, and while I know I'll need to continue my education to reach that goal, for now, I'm eager to showcase what I've learned as a Teacher Aide within the CNMI Public School System."

Throughout her college journey, Sheila faced obstacles related to her disability and financial hardship. She began attending Northern Marianas College in 2013, often taking just one or two classes per semester due to her circumstances. "There were days when I wanted to quit because of my disability," she recalled. "But there was always a voice inside me that said, 'How will you prove to others that disability is an ability, not a weakness, if you give up now?'"

She credits much of her success to the dedicated staff at the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, especially her Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor, Ms. Jane Tudela. "She always offered positive encouragement and helped me find ways to overcome the challenges I encountered in college," Sheila said. "I'm also grateful to my mother, who worked two jobs to support our family, and to my classmates, instructors, and even strangers who later became like family to me."

To others who may be navigating similar challenges, Sheila offers this advice: **"You may have a disability, but you have to keep going. Stay positive, and remember – there are people out there who are willing to help and support you every step of the way."**



A milestone reached, a dream in motion. Way to go, Sheila!

We celebrate Sheila's remarkable accomplishments and wish her continued success as she follows her heart and pursues her dream of becoming a teacher. May her story continue to inspire others to believe in themselves and never give up.

Public Service Appreciation & Staff Recognition

On May 6, 2025, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) proudly joined fellow government agencies and programs under the Office of the Governor at Capitol Hill for this year's Public Service Recognition Week – a special time to honor the hard work, dedication, and heart of our public servants. Our outstanding team members recognized were:

★ Employee of the Year – Elvira O. Seman

Elvira, our talented Data Analyst, has been part of the OVR team since 2006, contributing in various capacities over the years. Her commitment to precision, teamwork, and public service excellence made her a standout choice for this well-deserved award!



Elvira O. Seman

★ Leadership Award – Lourdes C. Atalig

With an inspiring 46 years of dedicated service, Lourdes embodies leadership through compassion, wisdom, and steadfast dedication. Her remarkable career continues to leave a lasting impact on OVR and the many lives we serve.



Lourdes C. Atalig

★ Years of Service Recognition – McQueen U. Hiroichi

McQueen, our dependable Administrative Clerk, was honored for his 21 years of invaluable service to OVR. His behind-the-scenes support keeps our operations running smoothly, and we're grateful for his unwavering commitment.



McQueen U. Hiroichi

And the celebrations didn't stop there!

At our quarterly staff Professional Development Day on June 23, 2025, we continued to recognize the dedication within our OVR family by honoring additional staff members for their years of service. Elvira Seman was recognized once again for her 19 years of commitment, along with Rose Ann Billy-Ichiuo and Jane Tudela, each celebrating 12 years of service. We also acknowledged Sherraine Flores and Ann Marie Marciano for reaching their 3-year milestones. Their hard work and dedication help fuel the important services we provide every day, and we're proud to have them on our team.

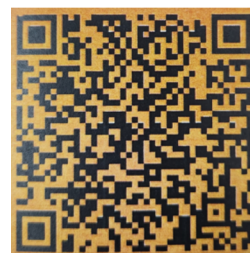


From left to right: Elvira Seman, Lourdes Atalig, Rose Ann Billy-Ichiuo, Ann Marie Marciano, Jane Tudela, Sherraine Flores, and Arlene Yamagata.



Inclusive Hiring Pays Off!

Employers who hire individuals with disabilities may qualify for the **Long-Term Disability Employment Tax Credit** – a valuable incentive that supports inclusive hiring while offering tax savings. It's a win-win opportunity to build a diverse and talented workforce while giving back to the community. **Contact the Department of Labor's Administrative Services Office at (670) 664-3196 for more information.**



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