



NEWSLETTER

“TOGETHER, WE CAN BUILD A FUTURE”

FEBRUARY 2025

BASIC SUPPORT/SUPPORTED EMPLOYMENT

BY: VRC JANE TUDELA &
VRCA JENNIFER MARTIN

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

Jacody Terlaje’s journey into the workforce has been one with perseverance and resilience. Jacody was determined to make a name for himself and build his self-esteem.

At the time of applying for Vocational Rehabilitation services, Jacody was a high school student, but showed interest in exploring the workforce. However, his grandma encouraged him to pursue college as a starting point.

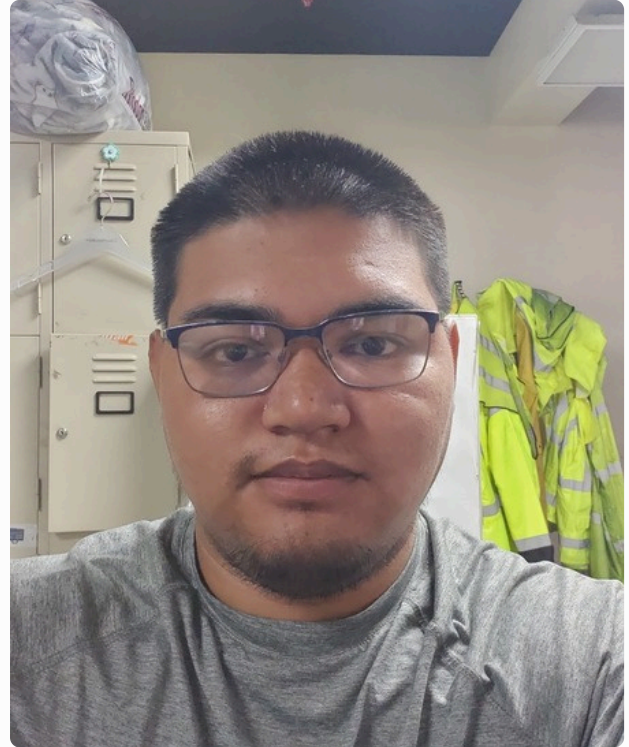
Soon after graduating high school in 2018, Jacody enrolled at Northern Marianas College and pursued studies in Criminal Justice. Once he had settled in and started enjoying college life, COVID-19 emerged and swept across the world.

As the pandemic raged on, Jacody wanted to help his grandma with living expenses. College had to take a back seat in order to do that. In December of 2021, Jacody was hired as a Warehouse Packer under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) initiative. Due to the impermanence of ARPA funding, Jacody’s last day of work was in September, 2023. The end of his employment did not stop him from job hunting. Northern Marianas Technical Institute (NMTech) was also an option.

After lengthy discussion with his grandma, he sought assistance from WIA for job training placement. From December 2023 to March 2024, Jacody completed job training at Star Marianas as a Cargo Handler, with the hopes of a permanent hire. Unfortunately, it did not happen.

Finally, Jacody applied for the Customer Service (Ramp) at Pacific Oriental Inc. dba PIO Aviation and was hired on May, 2024.

Jacody encourages others to believe in themselves and surround themselves with people who show love, care, and provide guidance. *“I doubted myself, about what I can do, but with all the support from my grandma and friends, I am at a happier place. Do not let your disability keep you from finding a job you enjoy.”*



JACODY TERLAJE, FORMER VR CONSUMER

“I doubted myself, about what I can do, but with all the support from my grandma & friends, I am at a happier place.

Do not let your disability keep you from finding a job you enjoy.” - Jacody Terlaje

OVR DATA HIGHLIGHT

BY: ELVIRA SEMAN, DATA ANALYST

- Basic Support/Supported Employment Program
 - **148** Active Cases
- Pre-Employment Transition Services Program
 - **86** Students and Counting!
- Independent Living Older Blind Program
 - **23** Active Cases

REPORTING PERIOD: FY 2025 10/01/24 - 02/24/25

MEET ROSE ANN B. ICHIUO CASE SERVICES MANAGER

BY: ARLENE YAMAGATA, OVR DIRECTOR



We're excited to introduce you to Rose Ann K. Billy-Ichiuo, our dedicated Case Services Manager at OVR!

Rose Ann first joined our team in April 2012 as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. For over a decade, she has been committed to providing expert counseling and support to individuals with disabilities, helping them achieve their career goals with professionalism and dedication.

In April 2024, Rose Ann took on a new role as Case Services Manager, where she now oversees our entire Counseling team, which includes 3 VR Counselors, 3 VR Counselor Aides, and 1 Office Clerk. Her leadership and guidance are integral to the success of the team and the services we provide.

Before her time at OVR, Rose Ann spent 12 years as an Elementary School Teacher and worked closely with students with disabilities. Her wealth of experience and passion for helping others shines through in everything she does.

Congratulations, Rose Ann, on your continued success, and we look forward to many more years of growth and achievement together!

PRE-EMPLOYMENT TRANSITION SERVICES PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

BY: JASMINE CALVO,
TRANSITION SPECIALIST

PRE-ETS BANNER DELIVERED TO SAIPAN HIGH SCHOOLS

As part of our ongoing outreach efforts, a Pre-Employment Transition Services (Pre-ETS) banner has been delivered to high schools across Saipan. This banner provides students and parents with an overview of the Pre-ETS program at a glance, ensuring greater awareness of the services available. It also serves as a valuable outreach tool for underserved populations.

For more information about the Pre-ETS program, please contact **Jasmine Calvo** at **(670) 322-6537/38** or email **jasmine@ovrgov.net**

INDEPENDENT LIVING FOR THE OLDER BLIND PROGRAM HIGHLIGHT

BY: JASMINE CALVO,
TRANSITION SPECIALIST

ILOB/VR OUTREACH AT CHCC DIALYSIS CENTER

On February 19, 2025, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) held an outreach event at the CHCC Dialysis Center. ILOB Caseworker Jasmine Calvo and VR Counselor Ruth Pangelinan, in collaboration with CHCC social workers, shared information on available programs. Calvo discussed the Independent Living Older Blind Program, while Pangelinan introduced the Basic Support/Supported Employment Program. Brochures and large print calendars were disseminated, and attendees had the opportunity to ask questions. For more information about OVR's programs, call **(670) 322-6537/38**.

NMC VISIT: A WORKING SESSION

BY: ARLENE YAMAGATA, OVR DIRECTOR

On January 14, 2025, Mr. Jesse Pangelinan, Director of NMC's Learning Support Services, visited the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation (OVR) with Career Services Manager Ms. Neda Deleon Guerrero and intern Ms. Clarissa King. They met with OVR Director Ms. Arlene Yamagata and VR Counselors Ms. Jane Tudela, Mr. Ray Diaz, and Ms. Ruth Pangelinan to continue their ongoing discussions about the progress and challenges in delivering timely, high-quality services to their shared consumers.

The conversation also focused on the importance of empowering consumers and fostering their independence. They explored scenarios related to continuity of services and brainstormed strategies to raise awareness of OVR's programs.



Taken at the OVR Counseling Unit, (left to right): Ruth Pangelinan, Ray Diaz, Arlene Yamagata, Jane Tudela, Jesse Pangelinan, Clarissa King, and Neda Deleon Guerrero.

Additionally, they discussed ways to educate NMC's student workers on disability awareness and sensitivity as they provide tutoring and mentoring to all students. Finally, an amended MOU between NMC and OVR is currently under review by NMC's legal counsel.



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