

AMERICAN SAMOA ELEMENTARY GUIDANCE PROGRAM

Sept article for the SAMOA NEWS January 2010

Title Elementary students start planning their futures

The Dept of Education has received a large grant from the US Department of Education to design and test out a new elementary guidance program in the 23 elementary schools in American Samoa. The unique features of this program are the following:

1. A Career focus will be the core element of the program for guidance will be a part of all instruction.
2. Teachers will use a careers curriculum for grades 1-8 that will allow teachers to blend academic and guidance objectives that's add value to the other.
3. Students will experience firsthand the jobs available locally via hands on experiences using experiential kits where the students will experience all jobs in American Samoa.
4. Students and teachers will have at their disposal a web page that provides locally created and nationally known skills, attitudes and aptitudes for all major jobs locally and elsewhere. They will also know what companies hire what workers, what experiences and skills they need for entry and success in the careers. Added value to this will be having teachers armed with information to show how key their subject matter is connected to work in American Samoa.
5. All students will have a careers tabloid with job and employer information, wages, application forms, interview procedures and much more that they can have at home.
6. All students will have either paper or an electronic and individualized career planner and portfolio system
7. Parents will be engaged in the career planning and portfolio development of all their elementary children.

Maria Tuatoo, director of Guidance within the DOE, is leading the effort. This past week she brought in from the states two internationally known guidance experts, Drs. Norman Gysbers from the Missouri and Harry Drier, Ohio State University. Together they trained counselors, principals, and met with community, college, business, legislative and educational leaders.

This 3 year grant will allow the DOE to test and have in place a proven effective new approach to elementary education. If interested in a speaker for your group, or if you have questions, contact Ms. Maria TUATOO, _____.