



**2025
DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
AWARENESS MONTH**

**CHAMPIONS OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY
AWARD CEREMONY**

**REHABILITATION STAFF RECOGNITION
CEREMONY**

**February 28, 2025
World Resort - Taga Hall
8:00 am to 1:00 pm**

**2025 DDAM Theme
“We Are Here All Year”
“Meet Us, Know Us, Involve Us”**

AGENDA

8:00 - 8:30 am: Registration
8:30 - 9:00 am: Welcoming Remarks
9:00 - 10:30 am: Proclamation Reading

Proclamation Signing:

Honorable Governor Arnold I. Palacios
Honorable Lt. Governor David M. Apatang

***2025 Champions of Equal Opportunity
Recognition***

***2025 Vocational Rehabilitation Staff
Recognition***

10:30 - 11:00 am Closing Remarks
Survey
11:00 - 12:00 pm Lunch
12:00 - 1:00 pm VOICES Election
(members)

A Message From Our Sponsors

CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities

We are here all year—advocating, supporting, and empowering individuals with developmental disabilities. We believe that every person, regardless of ability, deserves respect, inclusion, and the opportunity to thrive. **Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month** is a powerful reminder of these values, celebrating the achievements of individuals with developmental disabilities while promoting understanding and inclusivity in our community. But our work doesn’t stop here. **Meet us, know us, involve us**—together, we can build a more inclusive and supportive society every day of the year. **Thank you for joining us in making a difference!**

CNMI Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

At OVR, we believe everyone deserves the chance to contribute and thrive in the workforce. We provide tools, resources, and support to help individuals with disabilities build skills, gain independence, and pursue meaningful careers. Guided by the **Rehabilitation Act** and the **Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act**, we offer customized vocational rehabilitation services, job training, and employment opportunities, promoting self-sufficiency and inclusion in our island communities. This **Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month**, we celebrate the power of work, inclusion, and respect. Alongside our **Disability Network Partners (DNP)**, we are committed to creating a workforce where everyone has the opportunity to succeed.

University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities

At CNMI UCEDD, we are committed year-round to promoting, supporting, and empowering individuals of all abilities to live with independence, productivity, and full inclusion in their communities. **We are here all year**, not just for a month, but every day, ensuring that opportunities for growth, success, and self-determination are always within reach. Your abilities do not define you - **meet us, know us, involve us**, and together, we can break barriers, challenge limitations, and embrace the strength within. Sail forward with resilience, hope, and unwavering belief in yourself. Your journey is filled with possibilities, and we are here to support you - today, tomorrow, and always. **You just have to believe!**



2025 Saipan Champions of Equal Opportunity

Saipan Advocate of 2025
Emeterio Fitial

Saipan Educator Advocate of 2025
Suzie Torres

Saipan Employer Advocate of 2025
Herman's Modern Bakery

Saipan Family Advocate of 2025
Chris Daniel Bendicto

Saipan Legislative Advocate of 2025
Rep. Edmund S. Villagomez

Saipan Employer Advocate of 2025
One Call, Inc.

Saipan Public/Private Business Advocate of 2025
Office of the Mayor of Saipan

Saipan Self-Advocate of 2025
Hannah Igisaiar

2025 OVR Employers Recognition

CNMI Public School System
(Oleai Elementary School)
Laolao Bay Golf and Resort
One Call, Inc.
Department of Community and Cultural Affairs
(Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program)
Stop Coffee

2025 OVR Counseling Staff Recognition

Rose Ann K. Billy-Ichiuo, Case Services Manager
Jane M. Tudela, VR Counselor
Raymond D. Diaz, VR Counselor
Ruth F. Pangelinan, VR Counselor
Sherraine DLG. Flores, VR Counselor Aide
Ally C. Santos, VR Counselor Aide
Jennifer M. Martin, VR Counselor Aide
Ann Marie S. Marciano, Counseling Office Clerk

2025 NMC-UCEDD HEROES

Saipan NMC-UCEDD HERO of 2025
Jelshie M. Pangelinan



Our sponsors would also like to express our deepest appreciation for the continued support and collaboration of the *Disability Network Partners!*