



*"Saili le Atamai"*

# American Samoa Community College

**Eighty-Fourth Commencement Ceremony**

**Friday, May 15, 2026**



**Class of Spring Semester - 2026**

## Background History

In July 1970, the American Samoa Community College (ASCC) was established as part of the Department of Education. The first classes were offered in 1970 at the old Land and Survey Building in Fagatogo, now the site of the Lumana'i Building, with an enrollment of 131. The following year the College was moved to the old Fia Iloa High School Building in Utulei. The move to the present location, the former Mapusaga High School campus, occurred in September 1974.

The American Samoa Community College received its initial accreditation in 1976 and has continued to maintain its accreditation under the purview of the Accrediting Commission for Community and Junior Colleges (ACCJC). Throughout the years, ASCC has undergone periodic evaluations and reaccreditations, ensuring that it meets the highest standards of academic quality and institutional effectiveness. ASCC's ongoing accreditation by ACCJC serves as a testament to its commitment to providing students with a rigorous and relevant education, as well as its dedication to continuous improvement and accountability.

## Mission Statement

The mission of the American Samoa Community College is to foster successful student learning by providing high quality educational programs and services that will enable students to achieve their educational goals and to contribute to the social, cultural, political, economic, technological, and environmental well-being of American Samoa.

To fulfill this mission, the College, as an open admission, United States accredited, Land Grant institution provides access to bachelor and associate degrees and certificate programs of study. These programs prepare all students including those who are educationally underserved, challenged, or non-traditional for:

- **S**uccessful entry into the workforce
- **T**ransfer to institutions of higher learning
- **A**wareness of the Samoan Culture and the Pacific
- **R**esearch and extension in human and natural resources

## Board of Higher Education

### **Dr. Oreta Mapu Crichton, Chairperson**

Dr. Lina Galea'i Scanlan	<i>Vice Chairperson</i>
Pualani P. Pulu Fui	<i>Secretary/Member</i>
Sesula F. McMoore Tufele	<i>Member</i>
Loata Sipili	<i>Member</i>
Brigitte Magaui Taatafa-Moala	<i>Member</i>
Maefau Dr. Mary Lauagaia Taufete'e	<i>Ex-Officio</i>
Toalei Toelupe	<i>Student Representative</i>

## ASCC Administration

### **Dr. Rosevonne Makaiwi-Pato, ASCC President**

Dr. Letupu Tauanu'u-Moananu	<i>Vice President of Academic, Community &amp; Student Affairs/ Assistant Accreditation Liaison Officer</i>
Mr. Sonny J. Leomiti	<i>Vice President of Administration and Finance/ Accreditation Liaison Officer</i>
Ma'auga Tauvela Fale	<i>Executive Director of Institutional Effectiveness &amp; Advancement/ Title IX Coordinator</i>
Ms. Tafaimamao Tua-Tupuola	<i>State Director of Pacific Center in Human Security</i>
Mrs. Donna Vaituutuu Ahica-Talaeai	<i>State Director of Adult Education, Literacy, &amp; Extended Learning</i>
Dr. Siamaua Eliapo-Ropeti	<i>Dean of Academic Affairs</i>
Dr. Emilia S. Le'i	<i>Dean of Student Services</i>
Aufa'i Apulu Ropeti Areta	<i>Director of Agriculture, Community &amp; Natural Resources</i>
Aiono Keseta Okenaisa Fauolo-Manila	<i>Director of Samoan Studies Institute</i>
Ms. Shirley De La Rosa	<i>Program Director of Teacher Education</i>
Mrs. Sandra Ho Ching	<i>Program Director of Nursing</i>
Mr. Frederick R. Suisala	<i>Program Director of Trade and Technical</i>
Ms. Annie Masele Panama	<i>Program Director of Counseling</i>
Mrs. Fa'ailoa F. Afalava	<i>Program Director of Library Services</i>
Mrs. Grace Tulafono-Asi	<i>Chief Information Officer</i>
Mrs. Sifagatogo Eli-Tuitasi	<i>Registrar and Records Officer</i>
Mrs. Elizabeth Fuimaono-Leuma	<i>Admissions Officer</i>
Mrs. Shanell Vivao-Tilo	<i>Financial Aid Officer</i>
Ms. Elsie Lesa	<i>Financial Officer</i>
Mrs. Virginia Mailo-Filiga	<i>Institutional Effectiveness Officer</i>
Mr. Mapu Leota	<i>Physical Facilities Management Officer</i>
Mrs. Sereima Sitanilei-Asifoa	<i>Human Resources Officer</i>
Mrs. Jessie Peters-Su'esu'e	<i>Procurement Officer</i>
Mrs. Angelica Tualalelei	<i>Acting Bookstore Officer</i>
Mr. Fa'amasani Tuitasi	<i>Security Officer</i>
Mr. Madjid Al-Shehri	<i>Special Projects Manager</i>

## Academic Department Chairpersons

Dr. Pauline McFall, <i>Agriculture, Community &amp; Natural Resources</i>	Dr. Rosalee Shoulders, <i>Human Security</i>
Dr. Faofua Fa'atoafe, <i>Business Education</i>	Mr. Vesi Matu'u, <i>Language &amp; Literature</i>
Ms. Nyrese Pato, <i>CAPP English</i>	Mrs. Sandra Ho Ching, <i>Nursing Education</i>
Mrs. Amete Mulipola Moefiainu, <i>Mathematics, CAPP Math</i>	Ms. Cassandra Lund, <i>Physical Education</i>
Ms. Annie Masele Panama, <i>College &amp; Life Planning</i>	Dr. Evile F. Feleti, <i>Samoan Studies</i>
Dr. Ernie Tamafili Seiuli, <i>Computer Science</i>	Dr. Randel DeWees, <i>Science</i>
Dr. Rosie Ah Chee-Toeava, <i>Criminal Justice</i>	Mrs. Lilian Ofagalilo Temese, <i>Social Science</i>
Mr. Kuki Motumotu Tuiasosopo, <i>Fine Arts</i>	Dr. Feleni Petelo-Alainuuese, <i>Teacher Education</i>
Mr. Derek Champion Helsham, <i>Health &amp; Human Services</i>	Mr. Adam Sione, <i>Trade &amp; Technical</i>

**American Samoa Community College  
Commencement Exercise  
Spring 2026 Program**

**Presiding:** Dr. Rosevonne Makaiwi-Pato  
*President*

**Conducting:** Dr. Emilia S. Le'i  
*Dean of Student Services*

Master of Ceremony	Mrs. Sifagatogo Eli-Tuitasi <i>Registrar and Records Officer</i>
Processional	<i>"Pomp and Circumstance"</i> <i>by Sir Edward William Elgar</i>
Posting of the Colors	Tafuna High School JROTC
Acknowledgement to Post the Colors	Honorable Pulaali'i Nikolao Pula <i>Governor of American Samoa</i>
Opening Hymn	Spring 2026 Graduates <i>"Vivii Atu Ia I Lo Tatou Alii"</i> <i>CCCAS Hymnal: Music by J. Elinor</i>
Invocation	Pastor Francis Lolesio <i>Assembly of God</i>
Welcoming Remarks	Dr. Rosevonne Makaiwi-Pato <i>President, American Samoa Community College</i>
Special Remarks	Honorable Pulaali'i Nikolao Pula <i>Governor of American Samoa</i>
Hymn	Spring 2026 Graduates <i>"Avatu I le Tupu Viiga e Tatau"</i> <i>CCJS Hymnal: Music by Mata'utia P. Solomon</i>
Introduction of Commencement Speaker	Dr. Emilia S. Le'i <i>Dean of Student Services</i>
Commencement Address	Mr. Daniel Elisara Helsham <i>Director of the American Samoa Department of Agriculture</i>
Presentation of Graduates	Dr. Siamaua Ropeti <i>Dean of Academic Affairs</i>
Acceptance of Graduates	Dr. Oreta Mapu Crichton <i>Chairperson, Board of Higher Education</i> Mr. Toalei Toelupe <i>Student Representative, Board of Higher Education</i>
Distribution of Degrees and Certificates	ASCC and Special Dignitaries
Hymn	Spring 2026 Graduates <i>"Lota Nuu Moni"</i> <i>CCCAS Hymnal: Music by James McGranahan</i>
Special Awards and Presentation	ASG Student Scholarships Faiivae Iuli Alex Godinet <i>Chairman of the ASG Scholarship Board</i>
Closing Remarks	Mrs. Sifagatogo Eli-Tuitasi <i>Registrar and Records Officer</i>
Benediction	Pastor Francis Lolesio <i>Assembly of God</i>
Acknowledgement to Retire the Colors	Honorable Pulaali'i Nikolao Pula <i>Governor of American Samoa</i>
Recessional	ASCC Choir

***PLEASE REMAIN STANDING UNTIL THE END OF THE RECESSIONAL***

<b><u>Associate of Arts: Liberal Art</u></b>	
Marcelene Eleni Afatia	
Marcelina Kanesa Afatia	
Marion Sialei Afioa'e	■ * C
John F.T.L Ala'ilima-Utu	■ * S
Vailulu'u T. Carter	■ * C
Angoretta Lyncia Fanene	∅
Poutasi Dorothy Fua	
Venessa Fagamalama Leota	* M
Vaioulu Jenny Logologo	
Fa'aoli S. Luafutu	
Toali'i Peter Mailo-Filiga	
Anjelina Jelani Polu	C
Athena Jasmine Polu	M
Priscilla Saufaigā Sina Schwenke	
Nive Taufao Siona	
Shalom Vaimoe Tafili	* C ∅
Angelica Taliaoa	*
Jireh Fa'afetai Penani Taumotoi	■ C
Victoria Tauti	* C
Toalei Sigafili Toelupe	* S ∅
Falesoā Asoiva Jo-Lynetta Tufi	■ * S
Elizabeth Popotafea Tuitasi	* S
<b><u>Associate of Arts Degree with an Emphasis in Elementary Education</u></b>	
Juanita Ronella Tavita	
<b><u>Associate of Arts Degree with an Emphasis in Human Services</u></b>	
Alyssandra Peniria Tuiasosopo	
<b><u>Associate of Arts Degree with an Emphasis in Music</u></b>	
Joffrey Ma'alona	
<b><u>Associate of Arts Degree with an Emphasis in Political Science</u></b>	
John F.T.L Ala'ilima-Utu	■ * S
<b><u>Associate of Arts Degree with an Emphasis in Pre-Law</u></b>	
Gideon JCF Finau	
DeMarcus Tua	
<b><u>Associate of Science: Accounting</u></b>	
Leone Crissy Alema	■ * C
Jericho Buenavista Miranda	
Victoria-Lael L. Pulou	■ C
<b><u>Associate of Science: Automotive Technology</u></b>	
Alexander K. Leiato	

Mavy Fetu Tuipala	S
<b><u>Associate of Science: Architectural Drafting</u></b>	
Ronia Princess Faumui	*
Ronkinson Moe Lavaka	
Joseph Fasi Tamapua Pelesasa	
<b><u>Associate of Science: Business Management</u></b>	
Leone Crissy Alema	■ * C
Lillian Roseline Ausage	
Victoria-Lael L. Pulou	■ C
<b><u>Associate of Science: Civil Engineering Technology</u></b>	
Athena Joy Dela Cruz Buenavista	* M
Xavier Ngai Sipelii	
Tofuola K. Tapaleao	
Falesoā Asoiva Jo-Lynetta Tufi	■ * S
Pena Pena Tuiā	* C
<b><u>Associate of Science: Criminal Justice</u></b>	
Guadalupe Taumaaoe Atukusitino	* C ∑
Mariah Joanna Banse	∑
Leisia O. Siokivaha Latu	∑
Maoa Tommy Mailo	
Bruce Laauli Seumanutafa	
Sooleavauosusanamaipumaisasae Maryanne Sitagata	
Pitolua Savaliiofilemu Sunia	* C ∑
Napoleone John Unasa	
Vaina Jr. Vaofanua	
<b><u>Associate of Science: Cybersecurity</u></b>	
Benjamin K. Sagaga	
<b><u>Associate of Science: General Agriculture</u></b>	
Lafaele Aunoa	
Jireh Fa'afetai Penani Taumotoi	■ C
<b><u>Associate of Science: Health Science</u></b>	
Marion Sialei Afioa'e	■ * C
Devony-Jane Ernestina Koky Ierome	
Levalagi Janelle Luani	
Jedidiah N. Mata'utia	
Sesilia Malia Audrey Nuku	
Jasmine Faaulufalega Thompson	∅
Patrick Jan Martin Abad Tongol	
<b><u>Associate of Science: Inclusive Emergency Management</u></b>	
Fermineline Ausage Ameko	

Ninna Mikaele Torres Balauro	* ∑ α
Vailulu'u T. Carter	■ * C
Meripa Mariah Chanel	C
Tumanu Talalelei Fesilafa'i	∑
Jazell Therema-Noa Harmon	* C ∑ α
Miracle-Marie Fa'afete Howard	* C ∑ ∅
Nehemiah Joseph Fuamatu Lutu	* C
Levalefaiva K. Malala	∑
Filipina Nelda Kaisa Petelo	* C ∑
Etevis Savelio	
Merenita Setu	S
Iutita Snow-Tuitasi	* C ∑
Judeniño Josephus Tuaolo Supapo	∑ α
Apineru Vaoga	
<b><u>Associate of Science: Information Communication Technology</u></b>	
Veronica Fouvale Papali'i	C ∑
Fialau'i Saron Sotoa	
<b><u>Associate of Science: Marine Science</u></b>	
Antone Toyo Su'esu'e	
<b><u>Certificate of Proficiency: Practical Nursing</u></b>	
Siamouli Iele	

<b><u>American Intercontinental University, AZ</u></b>	
<i>Bachelor – Business Administration</i>	
Tiara Sootaga	
<b><u>Devry University</u></b>	
<i>Bachelor of Science – Technical Management with Specialization in Health Services Management</i>	
Lepoi Wilson	
<b><u>Arizona State University, AZ</u></b>	
<i>Bachelor of Arts - Business Administration</i>	
Lealofi Connie Lolesio	
<b><u>Grand Canyon University, AZ</u></b>	
<i>Master of Science – Mental Health &amp; Wellness</i>	
Tatupu Beauty Epenesa-Metusela	
<b><u>Liberty University, VA</u></b>	
<i>Master of Education – Higher Education: Student Affairs</i>	
Ron Edward Luardo, Jr.	

<b><u>Purdue University Global, IN</u></b>	
<i>Bachelor of Science - Psychology in Applied Behavioral Analysis</i>	
Losalia Paileulu Sialega	
<b><u>South University, GA</u></b>	
<i>Bachelor of Science – Criminal Justice</i>	
Herenee Asiata-Tiatia	
<i>Master of Business Administration</i>	
Tauaveave Poumele	
<i>Master of Science – Criminal Justice</i>	
Monica Lei Ve'ave'a	
<i>Master of Science – Human Resources Management</i>	
Flora Violeta Kelemete-Ma'a	
<b><u>Southern New Hampshire University, TX</u></b>	
<i>Bachelor of Science – Environmental Science</i>	
Deidra Benita Tautunuaafatasi	
<b><u>The University of Arizona Global Campus, AZ</u></b>	
<i>Bachelor of Arts – Applied Behavioral Science</i>	
Mina-Mine Iuta Sunia	
<i>Master of Arts – Education with Specialization in Higher Education</i>	
Blessing Tusiga	
<i>Master of Arts – Organizational Management</i>	
Azora Faapouli Niumata-Sunia	
<b><u>University of Phoenix, AZ</u></b>	
<i>Bachelor of Science – Management</i>	
Faiga S. Mavaega	
<b><u>Walden University, MN</u></b>	
<i>Master of Public Health</i>	
Betty Fritz	
<b><u>National University, CA</u></b>	
<i>Doctor of Education with Specialization in Special Education</i>	
Jessica Tuamafa Faiupu	
<i>Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Leadership</i>	
Virginia Faiga Samuelu	

- S - Summa Cum Laude: Cum GPA 3.90 - 4.00
- M - Magna Cum Laude: Cum GPA 3.75 - 3.89
- C - Cum Laude: Cum GPA 3.50 - 3.74
- \* - PTK Honor Society
- - Two Degrees
- - Three Degrees
- ∅ - Student Government Association (SGA)
- α - Alpha Eta Chapter
- ∑ - Omicron Sigma Sigma



## **Special Gratitude**

American Samoa Government Student Financial Aid Board  
Tafuna High School JROTC  
Public Information (KVZK-TV)

## **Acknowledgement**

Board of Higher Education  
President's Office  
Physical Facilities Management  
Institutional Effectiveness & Advancement  
Division of Student Services  
Division of Academic Affairs  
Student Government Association  
ASCC Le Bookstore  
U.S. Representative to Congress,  
HC Uifaatali Aumua Amata Coleman Radewagen

## **Hail ASCC**

American Samoa Community College – Alma Mater  
*Words by: Namulaulu Dr. Paul V. Pouesi*

Hail ASCC! Filled with joy and harmony. Serving people in our community. Hail ASCC! Marching on to victory. We're the future of our families. We are proud of our ASCC. Your name is my crown across the sea. We pay tribute to all who have served faithfully. We thank the Lord, our parents and the faculty. You're my ecstasy. Hail ASCC! Thank you for the memories. We will treasure your love and hospitality. Keep on reaching for the sky. Keep on searching and you'll find. With the blessings from our God on high, with the blessings from our God on high.