

P REPARING GREAT TEACHERS AND LEADERS

In 2010, PREL provided assistance to Pacific state education agencies (SEAs), assisting them in identifying effective teachers and leaders and providing technical assistance for the establishment of mechanisms that measure teacher and leader effectiveness. Through the work of REL Pacific and the Pacific Comprehensive Center (PCC), PREL hosted forums for education stakeholders, connecting national and international experts with local practitioners.



PREL was contracted by the Hawai'i Department of Education (HIDOE) in fall 2010 to provide research and technical support for Race to the Top initiatives that focused on alternative pathways for principal certification and the development of a Turnaround Leadership program. PREL staff worked with HIDOE principals and administrators, as well as union and legislative representatives, to find common ground for a new administrative code that was subsequently enacted in the 2011 state legislative session.

In August 2010, PREL cosponsored the Yap State Leadership Academy in Colonia. All Yap principals and department of education program leaders convened to focus on specific actions designed to develop effective school leaders. The academy covered strategies for increased accountability, data-driven decision making,

and methods for implementing, monitoring, and evaluating curricula. School leaders refined their school improvement plans using recent assessment data. The event was sponsored by the Yap State Department of Education, PREL's PCC, and the University of Guam Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Education, Research, & Service. On the final day of the academy, PREL's REL Pacific supported a Bridge Event on Turnaround Schools by Dr. Sam Redding.

Recognizing the importance of information literacy and the development of 21st-century learning skills, PREL continues to focus on teacher-librarian collaborations. A \$323,792 grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services (IMLS) established the Strategic Collaborations for Information Literacy (SCIL) project. The mission of the SCIL

initiative is to ensure that all students and staff are given the opportunity to become literate, lifelong learners and effective, responsible users of ideas and information in spite of the *digital divide* and other resource inadequacies they may face. Over the next 3 years, the SCIL project will expand and enhance informal, continuing education opportunities for school library staff and teachers in American Samoa and the Republic of Palau. A major focus of the SCIL project is to create and train teams of school librarians, teachers, and principals who will collaborate to integrate information literacy and content.

As part of PREL's ongoing mission to build the capacity of Pacific region teachers and leaders, the Pacific Educator in Residence (PEIR) program hosted two Palauan educators: Ms. Imengel Mad (Library and Information

Pacific Educator in Residence (PEIR)

Since 1986, the year in which PREL began the Pacific Educator in Residence program, over 59 educators have completed a 1-year residence in PREL's main office in Honolulu or, more recently, in one of PREL's nine service centers around the Pacific region. With almost 24 years in operation, the PEIR program precedes the existence of PREL as an independent agency and has witnessed many of its beneficiaries become teachers and administrators in local schools and education agencies.

Four distinguished PREL staff members have emerged from the program: Ms. Evelyn Joseph, Director of the Parent Information Resource Center in PREL's Republic of the Marshall Islands Service Center; Ms. Juanita Sultan-Rilometo, Program Specialist/Field Coordinator at PREL's Pohnpei Service Center; Ms. Keres Petres, Field-Based Reading Specialist at PREL's Chuuk Service Center; and the late Dr. Rita Inos, who had served as Chair of PREL's Board of Directors.

Some of PREL's PEIRs have moved on to notable positions in education: Mr. Casiano Shoniber became the Secretary of Education for the Federated States of Micronesia, and Mr. Peter James is the Chief of Secondary Schools for the Chuuk State School System. The 2010 Pacific Educators in Residence include Mr. Keizy Shiro and Ms. Imengel Mad, both from Palau.



Literacy Initiatives) and Mr. Keizy Shiro (Research & Evaluation). The program offers a 1-year residency for educators from American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia (Chuuk, Kosrae,

Pohnpei, and Yap), Guam, Hawai'i, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands. A collaborative effort of PREL and the departments of education and institutions of higher education in the Pacific region, the PEIR program aims to enhance and

develop the specialized skills of Pacific educators in the context of PREL's ongoing work in the region. PEIRs work side-by-side with senior PREL staff, focusing on research and technical assistance activities that will benefit local schools and communities in the Pacific.