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Erika Cruz named 2017 Distinguished Alumnus

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The Guam Community College named Erika Sotto Cruz, deputy superintendent of Educational Support & Community Learning at the Guam Department of Education, as its 2017 Distinguished Alumnus. Cruz will be honored at the 40th GCC commencement at 4 p.m. May 12 at the University of Guam Calvo Field House, a press release stated.

Cruz graduated from the former GCC Vocational Technical High School in 1985, with a focus Computer Science. She earned her bachelor's degree from Chaminade University and her master's in educational leadership from the University of Portland, where she was selected as the Guam Alumni of the Decade for the University of Portland's School of Education.

For more than two decades, Cruz has worked with GDOE, serving as a middle school teacher, assistant principal and principal. In her current capacity as deputy superintendent, she oversees all of Guam's 41 public schools.

Cruz has also served on various accreditation committees in Hawaii. She oversaw GDOE's district accreditation visit, making GDOE the first nationally recognized accredited school district.

"It is an honor to be selected as the 2017 GCC Distinguished Alumnus," Cruz said. "I continue to work in the field of education and always refer back to the education I received from the Guam Community College, which provided me with the leadership, education and work skills necessary to be the person I am today."

"We are very proud that this year's Distinguished Alumnus is an educator," said Dr. Mary Okada, GCC president. "Erika Cruz is one of the rising stars at GDOE. We thank her for her dedication to improving our educational system, and we look forward to a continued fruitful partnership with Erika and with GDOE."

Information was provided in a press release.