



MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
News Release

Tourism is Everybody's Business!

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MVA MANAGING DIRECTOR

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MTEC WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBER

Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands (NMI) – Kanoa Resort General Manager Wendi Herring has joined the Marianas Tourism Education Council (MTEC) Board of Directors, voted in at the organization's Board meeting on June 15, 2016. Herring was a founding Board member of MTEC in 2002 as a then-representative of Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

“I've been MTEC's biggest fan on Facebook since I got back on Saipan,” said Herring. “I'm excited to be back on the board and am looking forward to our work ahead.”

Chairwoman Vicky Benavente also reported at the meeting that MTEC netted \$12,000 from the Governor's Tourism Cup held last month at Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

“The NMI's tourism industry can continue to grow and flourish, but only with the collaboration from our community and stakeholders. In celebration of the Marianas Visitors Authority's 40th anniversary, the government and the private sector teamed up to coordinate a

successful fundraiser for the MTEC, said Benavente. “With these funds, MTEC is able to continue the education outreach to the schools, focusing on the theme, “Tourism Is Everybody’s Business.”

The Board also voted to offer the first MTEC scholarship to two graduating high school seniors in the amounts of \$1,000 and \$500. Scholarship criteria are being developed and will be announced within the next several weeks.

MTEC is a non-profit organization aimed at educating the public on the tourism industry and its importance to the community. MTEC is administered by a Board of directors, including Christopher A. Concepcion and Martin Duenas (MVA), Jonas Barcinas and Naomi Nishimura (CNMI Public School System), Larry Lee (MTEC), James Nelson (Sorenson Media Broadcasting), Gordon Marciano (PDI), and Shamika Ratwatte (Ernst & Young).



Kanoa Resort General Manager Wendi Herring, center, was elected to the Marianas Tourism Education Council (MTEC) Board of Directors on June 15, 2016, at the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) office. Pictured from left are MVA Community

Projects Coordinator Ryan Calvo, MTEC Board Member Larry Lee, MTEC Chairwoman Vicky Benavente, Herring, MTEC Board Member Naomi Nishimura, MVA Community Projects Assistant Jennalyd Babauta, and MTEC Board Member and MVA Community Projects Manager Martin Duenas.

The Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota are a chain of idyllic islands in the West Pacific, offering a friendly, fun and exciting vacation in paradise. They are an excellent destination for families, adventure and sports-minded travelers, as well as business people looking for a tropical haven. Adventurous travelers from Asia, Australia, Europe and elsewhere looking for new travel discoveries will find them in the Mariana Islands, just three hours travel from most cities in Japan, and four from Asia and Australia. The Northern Marianas are served from Tokyo and Osaka in Japan by Delta and Asiana Airlines. From Korea, Asiana provides direct daily flights from Seoul and Busan and Jeju Air provides daily service from Seoul. From China, direct flight service from Shanghai, Beijing, Guangzhou, to Saipan is available. United Airlines has daily flight connections from nine cities in Japan to Saipan with one stop. United States mainland connections can be made by Delta Air Lines to Saipan via Tokyo Narita, and United Airlines via Guam. Russian and Taiwanese visitors usually arrive via Seoul. For more information, visit www.mymarianas.com.

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