

Compliance Investigation Division (CID) Advisor completes Master of Fraud and Financial Crime

Kolonia, Pohnpei- The Pohnpei Office of the Public Auditor (POPA) is pleased to announce that Ms. Sophia H. Pretrick, a Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE) has completed her Master of Fraud and Financial Crime on May 10, 2019 at the Charles Sturt University (CSU) which is based in Australia through Distant Education. She finally received her degree on August 20, 2019. The Master of Fraud and Financial Crime aims to meet the educational needs of those with responsibility for fraud and financial crime deterrence, prevention, detection and investigation in the public, corporate and law enforcement sectors. For her case, Sophia enrolled in the CSU's Online Program and it took her through three (3) phases to complete it.



Sophia wants to share not only her achievements but also what she learns from her journey. She pursued her Master's Degree because she wants to challenge herself to attain higher education and to continue learning so she can do her job right for the people of FSM. Due to the changing environment and fast-pace technology, the complexity of her work make it vital to continue learning and upgrade her knowledge to make sure she's one-step ahead in order to do anti-corruption

work in the public sector. Completing her Masters was a challenge for her, she has to balance time with family, her studies and office workload. She was able to overcome all the challenges because of the support of her family and the work management.

She wants to encourage the young generation to follow their dreams and always take opportunities that will come their way especially when it comes to enhancing their skills and knowledge. "She shared that it is never too late to pursue Higher Education or any of our dreams". Her late mother, who was her teacher/mentor encouraged her to finish what she started. With the right support system, determination and faith in God, anything is possible. Reaching your dreams should not be the destination, your achievements should always inspire others and always share your skills and

knowledge to motivate others”. Currently, she is mentoring Auditors/Investigators from the Public Auditors offices to pursue in becoming Certified Fraud Examiner. Her journey in completing her Master’s degree end but she is now entering a new journey by pursuing other certification programs in the future. As C.S Lewis said “*You are never too old to set another goal, or to dream a new dream.*”

Sophia assisted in establishing the Compliance Investigation Divisions within the Yap, Kosrae and Pohnpei State Office of the Public Auditors. Previously, she worked at the FSM Office of the National Public Auditor for over 12 years. She attained a Bachelors in Criminal Justice Administration during her under-grad studies.