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COAST360 AND ACADEMY OF OUR LADY OF GUAM UNVEIL “ADVANCING WOMEN EDUCATIONALLY (A.W.E.)”

Adult Education Program for Disadvantaged Women

(Maite, Guam) March 1, 2011 - Coast360 Federal Credit Union and Academy of Our Lady of Guam unveil ADVANCING WOMEN EDUCATIONALLY (A.W.E.), Guam’s first educational program that provides educational and vocational curriculum for disadvantaged adult women.

Coast360 pledged \$60,000 annually for the first two years of the program and is willing to commit additional funding after a review of the program’s success. The contribution will be used to fund administrative and operational expenses of the program that will accommodate up to 50 disadvantaged women ages 18 years of age and older.

Advancing Women Educationally, or A.W.E., will enable disadvantaged women to gain the secondary education equivalent and work skills needed to obtain jobs in Guam’s workforce. The Academy of Our Lady of Guam cited Guam Department of Labor statistics (Guam DOL Release No. 2008-03) which state that women make up 48.8% of Guam’s workforce. Of that percentage, 9.9% are currently unemployed. This is attributed to the lack of a high school diploma or equivalent and lack of or limited work skills. Through this program the Academy of Our Lady of Guam and Coast360 will:

- Reduce the number of disadvantaged adult women on island without a high school diploma;
- Provide disadvantaged women with the needed skills to obtain a job or to advance to a better position in the workforce;
- Decrease the number of unemployed disadvantaged women;
- Assist women between the ages of 18 and older progress in their careers;
- Decrease the percentage of female-headed households on Guam that fall below the poverty line

John Z. Arroyo, President of Coast360 offers, “It is Coast360’s goal to provide the means that better the lives of our members and the community in which we live. Our support of the A.W.E. program is more than just financial – we support the empowerment of young women. This program is the perfect vehicle to enable them to succeed in their chosen field.”

Sr. Francis Jerome, President of the Academy of Our Lady of Guam and administrator of the program, explains, “This will empower women to be better providers for themselves and their families. This initiative is in line with both the Academy’s and the Sisters of Mercy missions.” She continues, “We encourage the young women of Guam who want to improve their quality of life to participate in this program and we are thankful to have the support of Coast360.”

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Coast360 Federal Credit Union is a local, member-owned credit union since 1962. Coast360 provides a full range of banking and wealth management products and services to more than 45,000 members at its three member centers. Coast360 is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration.

For more information, please contact Michelle Bengco, Marketing Manager at 479-8253 or visit coast360fcu.com or for more information on the AOLG A.W.E. program, contact Joni Cepeda at 477-8203.