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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – August 27, 2025

Governor's Office Celebrates Second Graduation of WICHE Psychology Doctoral Program on Guam

Tamuning, Guam – The Office of the Governor of Guam is pleased to announce the graduation of the second cohort of students from the Guam Psychology Internship Consortium (GPIC) through a partnership between Guam Behavioral Health and Wellness Center (GBHWC) and Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE). The ceremony, held on August 25, 2025, honored the academic success of two students, Christopher Otero and Matthew Hildebrand, who are the first to complete the program recently accredited by the American Psychological Association (APA).

Governor Lou Leon Guerrero attended the ceremony and delivered remarks acknowledging the importance of this milestone for both the graduates and the future of Guam's mental health services. She said, "Today, we celebrate not only the hard work and dedication of our graduates but also a key achievement for our island's future," said Governor Leon Guerrero. "This program is a crucial step forward in addressing the growing mental health needs in our community."

The graduates now join the growing number of local mental health professionals dedicated to serving the diverse needs of Guam's residents. This graduation marks the continued success of the Guam PIC, which has provided invaluable education and training while contributing to the region's long-term healthcare objectives. With additional students currently enrolled, the program is poised to continue its positive impact on the mental health landscape of the Pacific Islands.

"I want to extend my deepest gratitude to the leadership of WICHE for their vision and commitment to bringing this vital doctoral program to Guam, especially to WICHE President, Demarée Michelau, and the WICHE Commission Chair, Barbara Damron. Their partnership has created opportunities that will transform mental health care on our island for years to come," said Lieutenant Governor Joshua Tenorio.

For more information about the Guam Psychology Internship Consortium, please visit <https://guam-pic.org> or gbhwc.guam.gov.