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## **Pacific Islands SBDC Network Strengthens Regional Expertise at Fall 2025 Professional Development**

*Two-day event builds advisor expertise, fosters innovation, and deepens collaboration across Micronesia*

**Mangilao, Guam** — The Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center Network (PISBDCN) successfully concluded its **Fall 2025 Professional Development Trainings** on **October 8–9, 2025**, at the **University of Guam’s School of Business and Public Administration**.

The two-day professional development event brought together **PISBDCN leadership, business advisors, and staff** from across the region, including the **Guam SBDC, Palau SBDC, Chuuk SBDC, Yap SBDC, and Kosrae SBDC**. Sessions focused on developing technical capacity, advancing innovation, and enhancing the network’s ability to deliver high-quality business counseling and training services to entrepreneurs throughout Micronesia.

### **Strengthening Skills and Strategic Vision**

The Fall 2025 trainings emphasized both skill-building and strategic planning. Participants engaged in sessions such as **Intermediate Microsoft Excel**, and **AI Developments and Trends**, equipping staff with tools to streamline workflows and support clients more effectively. The **2026 PISBDCN Strategic Plan** was reviewed and updated collaboratively, reinforcing the network’s unified approach toward growth and impact.

Sessions also covered essential business advisory competencies including **Cybersecurity for Small Business**, **Financial Projections using the 4 Product Model**, **Client Counseling and Success Stories**, and **Exporting and Shipping in the Region**—each tailored to the unique economic landscape of the Pacific Islands.

### **Guest Speakers Highlight Teamwork and Regional Trade Opportunities**



The event featured engaging guest presentations and special sessions. **Shelyn Shiro**, HR Specialist at Citidel, led a dynamic session on teamwork, emphasizing communication and collaboration across centers. **Jeffrey Garrido**, Account Executive at CentriX Global Distributors, shared valuable insights into regional exporting and shipping logistics, encouraging greater participation in international trade.

Attendees also benefited from shared learning during “Lunch and Learn” sessions, where staff who attended the **ASBDC 46th Annual Professional Training Event** shared key takeaways and best practices.

### **Empowering Advisors, Strengthening Island Economies**

“These trainings are vital to ensuring our advisors and leadership continue to grow professionally and deliver meaningful impact to small businesses across Guam and the Micronesian region,” said Faith Antol, Network Program Associate at the Pacific Islands SBDC Network. “By investing in our staff’s development, we’re strengthening our entire network’s capacity to empower entrepreneurs.”

Through interactive learning, technology updates, and cross-center collaboration, the Fall 2025 Professional Development Trainings reinforced PISBDCN’s commitment to excellence in small business support and regional economic development.

The Network’s next professional development event is scheduled for Spring 2026, as PISBDCN continues its mission to empower entrepreneurs and foster sustainable growth across the Pacific.

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### **About the Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center Network (PISBDCN)**

The Pacific Islands Small Business Development Center Network (PISBDCN), hosted by the University of Guam School of Business and Public Administration, provides confidential business counseling, training, and technical assistance to entrepreneurs across Guam, Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Marshall Islands. The network’s mission is to support the growth and economic development of the U.S. affiliated Pacific Islands in the Western Pacific region by providing high quality training and one-to-one confidential counseling to existing and prospective small businesses.

For more information, visit [www.pacificsbdc.com](http://www.pacificsbdc.com) or contact [sbdc@pacificsbdc.com](mailto:sbdc@pacificsbdc.com).

