

# 2021 SHEFA CITIZEN-CENTRIC REPORT



## ABOUT US

SHEFA was created by Saipan Local Law 13-21 to provide supplemental financial assistance to qualified Saipan & Northern Island residents pursuing post-secondary education on Saipan or abroad. SHEFA is primarily funded through the appropriation of the local license fees for poker and pachinko machine with additional funding assistance through continuous appropriation from PL 20-10 Casino Gross Revenue Tax.

## OUR MISSION

The Mission of the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) under the Municipality of the Saipan, Office of the Mayor, is to expand educational opportunities and provide financial assistance to qualified residents of Saipan (inclusive of the Northern Islands) for the betterment of our workforce.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

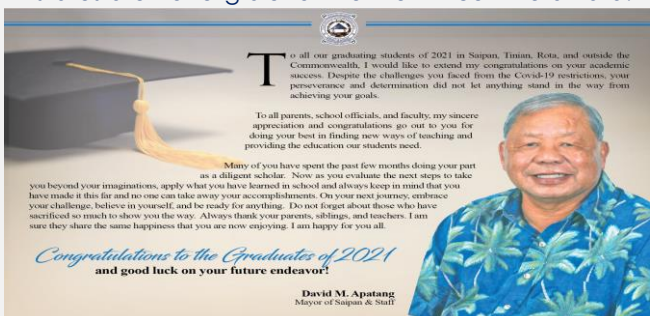
- Oscar M. Babauta  
Chairperson
- Juan K. Tenorio  
Vice-Chairperson
- Francisco D. Cabrera  
Secretary/Treasurer
- Kaelani B. Demapan  
Member
- Raymond M. Muna  
Member
- Michael Evangelista  
Legal Counsel

### STAFF

- Merissa S. Rasa  
Administrator
- Doreen C. Masga  
Administrative Assistant
- Antonette P. Iglecias  
Compliance Officer
- Tricia B. Dela Cruz  
Office Clerk

## Types of SHEFA Financial Assistance

- 1. Grant-in-aid:** Type of financial assistance available to a student from Saipan pursuing postsecondary education in a U.S. accredited college or university or trade certification at the Northern Marianas Trades Institute or recognized trade institution approved by the SHEFA Board. If a grant recipient does not return to Saipan after completion of his or her studies or non-enrollment, the grant automatically becomes a loan and the recipient must repay the SHEFA fund plus interest in accordance with the terms and conditions of attached promissory note/memorandum of agreement.
- 2. Priority Field of Study (temporarily suspended as of fall 2020):** Student pursues a field of study that has been identified by SHEFA as a priority field of study for the island of Saipan, and having met other established criteria. The priority field of study award is granted only to Junior and Senior college level students and those pursuing advance degrees.
- 3. Merit Incentive Award (temporarily suspended as of fall 2020):** Type of financial assistance that is based on academic performance (3.5 GPA) at the end of every semester or quarter. Applicants in their first term of college are not eligible to receive the merit incentive award. Students taking remedial courses or developmental courses in fulfillment of a full-time status are not eligible for the merit incentive award.



Award amount per term

\$600-Vocation/Trade Institutions  
 \$800 – On-island and Online Institutions  
 \$1200-Off-island Institutions  
 \$4500-Advanced Degrees

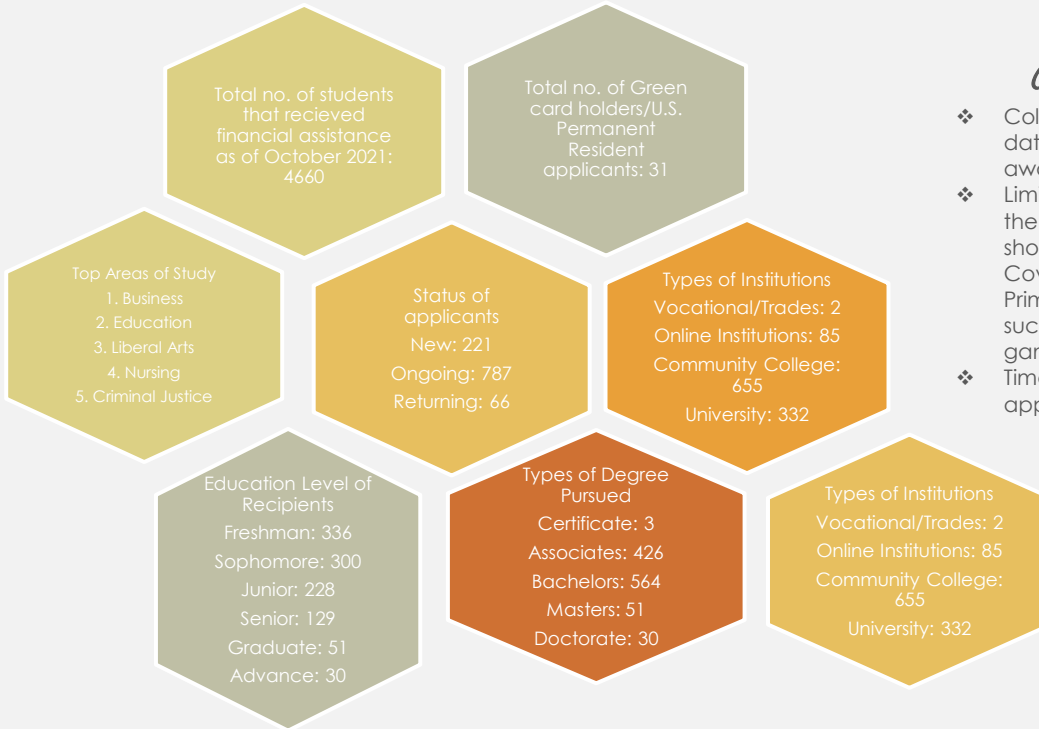


**Total Number of Graduates in 2021: 120**

Associate degree: 78 Bachelor's degree: 41  
 Master's degree: 0 Advance/Doctorate degree: 1  
 Vocational Trades Certificate (NMTI): 0



Award Count	1074 Recipients
Disbursement Amt.	\$1,422,700.00



*Challenges*

- ❖ Collection of graduate data after students meet award duration.
- ❖ Limited funding due to the CNMI's economic shortfall as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Primary funding sources such as the poker and gaming establishments
- ❖ Timely annual appropriation and release

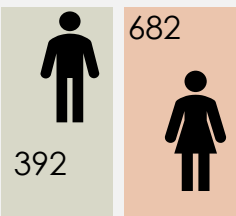
No. of Outreach Conducted: **11**



	High School: Early Admission Program or 2+2 Program avail to the Grant-In-Aid
	Trades/Vocational School : Grant-In-Aid Undergraduate: Grant-In-Aid, Priority Field of Awards, and Merit Incentive Awards
	Masters Program: Grant-In-Aid, Priority Field of Awards, and Merit Incentive Awards Advanced/Doctorate Programs: Grant-In-Aid

**COMPLIANCE SECTION**

Recipient Demographics



No. of previous recipients currently in the workforce: 836  
 Total loan collections from 2004 to 2021: \$479,134  
 Student loan collections for 2021: \$87,608  
 Total in receivables: \$16,638,930  
 No. of students in default: 2,121



### Annual Appropriation

Fiscal Year	Award Appropriation	Public/Saipan Local Law
FY 2004	\$ 1,200,000	SLL 14-13
FY 2005	\$ 2,400,000	SLL 14-28
FY 2006	\$ 3,000,000	SLL 15-5
FY 2007	\$ 3,000,000	SLL 15-5
FY 2008	\$ 3,000,000	SLL 15-26
FY 2009	\$ 3,000,000	SLL 16-4
FY 2010	\$ 3,000,000	SLL 16-10
FY 2011	\$ 3,000,000	SLL 17-9
FY 2012	\$ 3,000,000	SLL 17-14
FY 2013	\$ 3,000,000	SLL 18-3
FY 2014	\$ 3,000,000	SLL 18-7
FY 2015	\$ 3,000,000	SLL 18-24
FY 2016		SLL 19-6
FY 2016	\$ 3,000,000	SLL 19-11
FY 2017	\$ 3,000,000	SLL 19-27
FY 2018	\$ 500,000	PL 20-10 Continuous
FY 2018	\$ 1,500,000	SLL 20-24
FY 2019	\$220,001 (personnel and operations) and \$450,001 for grants	SLL 21-05
FY 2019	\$ 500,000	SLL 21-10
FY 2020	\$875,000 (\$250,000 for operations and \$625,000 for awards)	SLL 21-16
FY 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$1,200,000 (\$950,000 for awards and \$250,000 for operations/personnel)</li> <li>\$100,000 (operations/personnel)</li> </ul>	SLL 22-2 SLL 22-5

### Award disbursement from Fall 2013-2021

Academic Year	No. Of Recipients	Total Disbursement
Fall 2013	527	\$863,400
Spring 2014	444	\$827,800
<b>Total for AY 13-14</b>	<b>971</b>	<b>\$1,691,200</b>
Fall 2014	519	\$859,300
Spring 2015	482	\$829,800
<b>Total for AY 14-15</b>	<b>1001</b>	<b>\$1,689,100</b>
Fall 2015	545	\$844,200
Spring 2016	459	\$787,100
<b>Total for AY 15-16</b>	<b>1004</b>	<b>\$1,631,300</b>
Fall 2016	627	\$985,100
Spring 2017	563	\$1,002,200
<b>Total for AY 16-17</b>	<b>1190</b>	<b>\$1,987,300</b>
Fall 2017	585	\$962,100
Spring 2018	625	\$1,146,800
<b>Total for AY 17-18</b>	<b>1210</b>	<b>\$2,108,900</b>
Fall 2018	819	\$1,409,500
Spring 2019	714	\$1,405,200
<b>Total for AY 18-19</b>	<b>1533</b>	<b>\$2,814,700</b>
Fall 2019	871	\$1,409,500
Spring 2020	767	\$1,508,100
<b>Total for AY 19-20</b>	<b>1,638</b>	<b>\$2,917,600</b>
Fall 2020	711	\$758,500
Spring 2021	603	\$664,200
<b>Total for AY 20-21</b>	<b>1,638</b>	<b>\$1,422,700</b>

Fiscal Year	Operations Expense	Fiscal Year	Personnel Expense
2013	\$ 33,236	2013	\$ 66,765
2014	\$ 24,958	2014	\$ 75,042
2015	\$ 27,319	2015	\$ 77,253
2016	\$ 51,358	2016	\$ 108,455
2017	\$ 41,784	2017	\$ 122,386
2018	\$ 46,060	2018	\$ 142,013
2019	\$ 21,181	2019	\$ 155,740
2020	\$ 21,422	2020	\$ 128,105
2021	\$ 19,111	2021	\$ 140,336
	<b>\$ 286,429</b>		<b>\$ 1,016,095</b>



*The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams*  
- Eleanor Roosevelt

## HIGHLIGHTS

### Board Appointment and Reappointments

We welcome our newly appointed Board of Director, Mr. Henry Kyle B. Hofschneider and our re-appointed Board of Directors, Mr. Oscar M. Babauta, Mr. Juan K. Tenorio, Ms. Kaelani B. Demapan and Mr. Raymond M. Muna.

#### Committee Chairperson

Juan K. Tenorio  
Henry Kyle B. Hofschneider

Kaelani B. Demapan  
Raymond M. Muna  
Oscar M. Babauta

#### Committee

Committee on Awards  
Committee on Program and  
Development  
Committee on Policy and Procedure  
Committee on Appeals  
Committee on Fiscal, Legislative, and  
Community Affairs



- The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance Board has adopted Board Resolution No. 2021-001, authorizing and directing legal counsel to prepare amendments to SHEFA regulations for publication in the Commonwealth Register to allow active duty in the armed forces of the United States to satisfy both the obligation to return to Saipan and work and the required service contribution to work in the private or public sector in Saipan imposed by the current regulations and contractual obligations binding all SHEFA recipients.
- The Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance Board has adopted Board Resolution No. 2021-002, which requires new applicants to complete two years of post-secondary studies at Saipan-based educational institutions such as the Northern Marianas College and the Northern Marianas Technical Institute. This was implemented in the fall 2021 term. The limited resources available and the urgent need for an increased local workforce necessitate measures to conserve resources and focus on maximizing support to the widest student population and the most fundamental educational needs in support of the development of the on-island workforce.
- Northern Marianas Technical School (NMTI) – We are excited to report that this fall 2021 brought the highest number of applicants and recipients from NMTI. In July, the Board met with NMTI and shared our continued support of their vision and look forward to the success of the program and their students.
- The Administrator met with Mr. Lawrence Camacho, UOG Dean of Enrollment, who was very interested in learning more about the SHEFA program. Mr. Lawrence Camacho shared his plans to meet with other Guam leaders to discuss implementing a similar program in Guam for their students.
- During these trying times for many, as of October 2021 (review began in February 2021), the SHEFA board has forgiven the loans of students who returned to Saipan and worked for the number of years needed to complete their service obligation, despite not returning at the allotted time-frame agreed upon on the Memorandum of Agreement. The review of each student file in default is an ongoing process. However, we hope to catch the number of returning students who completed their service obligation, so we can forgive their loans. To date, we have forgiven a total of \$613,100.00.
- SHEFA Appropriations for 2021- Both Saipan Local Laws 22-2 and 22-5 passed and appropriated to all SHEFA accounts.

## GOALS

- To expand educational and vocational/ trade opportunities in the Commonwealth.
- To improve collection of academic, graduate and employment data.
- To improve compliance, collections, and enforcement efforts.
- Online scholarship management program.
- To implement a Workforce Development Scholarship that will focus on long-term buildup of expertise in the post-graduate level or specialize fields to fill highly needed job categories.
- Continued commitment to increase transparency and accountability.

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