

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

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NAME: Underwood, Robert Anacletus

eRA COMMONS USER NAME (agency login): RAUNDERWOOD

POSITION TITLE: President

EDUCATION/TRAINING (*Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable.*)

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
California State University, Los Angeles, CA	BA	09/1969	History
California State University, Los Angeles, CA	MA	06/1971	History
California State University, Los Angeles, CA	—	06/1972	Secondary Teaching Credential
University of Southern California	EdD	06/1987	Policy, Planning, and Administration
Harvard University, Cambridge, MA	—	1988	Management Development Program

A. Personal Statement

My role on this partnership is the Lead/Contact Principal for the University of Guam. As the President of the University of Guam, I oversee the general direction of the University and I am the hiring authority for all faculty and administrators. Based on this position, I can make changes in the University's structure and practices to support biomedical sciences in a wide variety of programs through the allocation of resources and the hiring of faculty. The health conditions of Pacific Islanders and the disproportionality of the incidence of certain kinds of cancer command my personal attention and call for institutional intervention by the only baccalaureate/master's degree University on the other side of the international dateline. The fact that Pacific Islanders are dramatically underrepresented in biomedical sciences in particular and STEM fields in general demands that all educational institutions that serve Pacific Islander communities take dramatic action. This fuels my commitment as President to the success of this partnership. I have been President of the University since May 2008. I was previously employed at the University of Guam from 1977-1992 during which I served as a faculty member, Dean of the College of Education and Academic Vice President.

As the President and Administrator of the University of Guam, as well as PI of this U54, I have been aware of and supportive of both NCI's partnership program and our partnership with the University of Hawaii Cancer Center since their inception when I was the Representative from Guam to the United States House of Representatives. As Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I was directly involved in the development of legislation to deal with health disparities. I was invited to the Oval Office when President Clinton signed the legislation on Health Disparities which helped create new funding opportunities for the NCI.

My professional and government service in Guam and Washington DC as well as my activism for issues pertaining to the educational and political advancement of disadvantaged communities has been shaped by a commitment to the achievement of social justice through educational progress. My legislation on political status issues, educational opportunity, immigration reform and cultural preservation has been matched by the kinds of community and professional initiatives I have pursued throughout my life. I have served as Chair of the Chamorro Language Commission in Guam, the original Guam Humanities Council, political status task forces and I managed a region-wide resource center for Micronesia out of three field offices plus the University of Guam My public service and professional record reflects my passion for the region, commitment to high educational standards and my devotion to issues of health disparities, especially with respect to the incidence of cancer in Guam and Micronesia.

B. Positions and Honors

Positions and Employment

1972 - 1974	Secondary School Teacher, George Washington High School
1973 - 1975	Curriculum Writer, Guam Bilingual Education Project
1974 - 1976	Assistant Principal, George Washington High School, GU
1977 - 1983	Instructor and Director of Bilingual Bicultural Training Program, University of Guam, GU
1977 - 1992	Instructor, Assistant Professor, Associate and Professor of Education, University of Guam
1983 - 1988	Director, Project BEAM (Bilingual Education Assistance for Micronesia)
1988 - 1990	Dean, College of Education, University of Guam
1990 - 1992	Academic Vice President, University of Guam
2008 -	President, University of Guam

Other Experience and Professional Memberships

1974 - 1975	Price Elementary School Parent Teacher Association, Vice President
1974 - 1977	President, Guam Bilingual Advisory Council
1976 - 1977	President, M.U. Lujan Elementary Parent Teacher Association
1978 - 1989	Member, Guam Review Board of Historic Preservation
1979 - 1980	Member, National Advisory Council on Bilingual Education
1979 - 1988	Chairman, Chamorro Language Commission (Government of Guam agency)
1980 - 1981	Member, Political Status Task Force, Commission on Self Determination,
1982 -	Chairperson, Micronesian Regional Education and Solidarity Conference
1982 - 1988	Chairperson, Political Action Committee, Organization of People for Indigenous Rights (OPI-R)
1985 - 1986	Writer and Advisor, Guam Festpac (Pacific Festival of the Arts)
1990 - 1993	Founding Member, Guam Humanities Council
1992 -	Convener and Principal Organizer, Pacific Education Leadership Summit, Supported by the Sasakawa Peace Foundation, educational and political
2001 -	Honorary Board Member, Asian American Action Fund
2003 -	Member and Vice Chairman, Board of Directors, Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies
2003 -	Honorary Board Member, National Asian Pacific Islander Educator Network
2003 -	Founding Member, U.S. Asia Pacific Council, East West Center
2004 -	Official Observer, Ukrainian Elections Sponsored by the U.S. Ukraine Foundation
2004 - 2007	First Chairman, Board of Directors, Asian Pacific Islander
2006 -	Member, Federation of State Humanities Council Board
2011 -	Member, National Board of Education Sciences

Honors

1996	Citizen of the Year, National Association of Bilingual Education
2000	Alumnus of the Year, School of Natural/Social Sciences, Cal State University-Los Angeles
2000	Professor Emeritus for Bilingual Education, University of Guam
2001	Achievement Award, Congressional Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies
2001	Star Thrower Award, Asian Pacific American Women's Leadership Institute
2002	Presidential Merit Award, presented by President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, Republic of the Philippines
2004	Lifetime Achievement Award (second recipient of the award), Guam Humanities Council

C. Contribution To Science

I am not a biomedical scientist and have not contributed directly to the advancement of science; however, as President of UOG I contribute to science by supporting the cancer research endeavors at UOG, including the U54 and U56 grants.

In my capacity as President, I am able to direct appropriate levels of support to science fields especially as they facilitate cancer research projects and activities. More significantly, I can directly assist with creating a pathway for young Pacific islanders to move to STEM fields, to earn graduate degrees and to learn how to become independent investigators. This involves more than the allocation of resources. It involves mentoring, leadership and drawing public attention to the criticality of all young islanders becoming science literate and discovering those who have the potential to become investigators.

My previous service in Washington D.C. and the relationships I established with various agencies assist in the development of science projects and research beyond the usual sources. I helped create a Center for Island Sustainability with a substantial grant from the Office of Naval Research and it has continued with grants out of the Department of Interior. We completed a region-wide biosecurity plan to deal with invasive species issues. The effort was funded by the Department of Defense. I have also championed the effort to secure NOAA funding for a Sea Grant program at the University as well as NSF funding for a possible EPSCoR program.

But more than just funding from a multitude of federal agencies, I have worked with the K-12 Guam Department of Education to establish the pipeline of students in STEM fields. As an academic, I worked directly with hundreds of students in mentoring relationships over the years and I understand the role that mentors can play in reversing previous trends.

Complete List of Published Work in MyBibliography:

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/myncbi/robert.underwood.1/bibliography/44568547/public/?sort=date&direction=ascending>

D. RESEARCH SUPPORT

Ongoing Research Support

NIH/NCI U54-CA-143727

(Underwood - PI)

7/1/2013 – 8/31/2015

University of Guam/Cancer Research Center of Hawaii Partnership (2 of 2)

This grant supports the partnership between the University of Guam and University of Hawaii Cancer Center I cancer research, training, education, and outreach.

Role: Lead PI