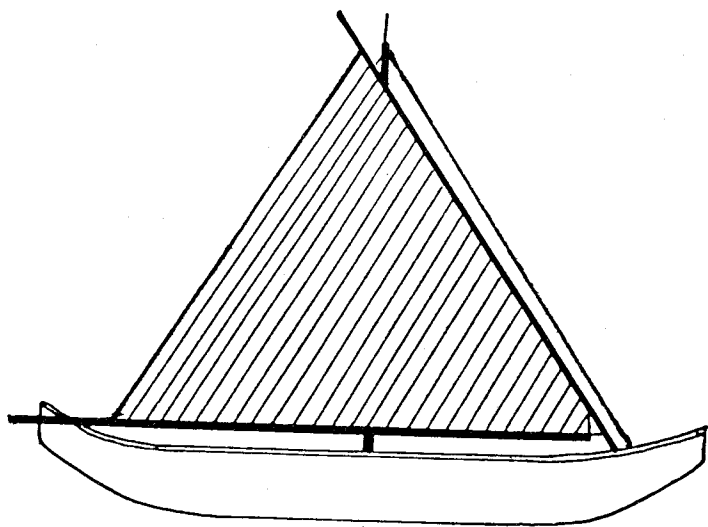


Island Voyagers In New Quests:
An Assessment Of
Degree Completion Among
Micronesian College Students



Micronesian
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ISLAND VOYAGERS IN NEW QUESTS: AN
ASSESSMENT OF DEGREE COMPLETION AMONG
MICRONESIAN COLLEGE STUDENTS

by the research team:

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PREFACE

This study on Micronesian college dropouts is the first empirical one of its kind ever done. It began through the intellectual impetus provided by Father Francis X. Hezel, S.J. of the Micronesian Seminar at Truk. Several years ago he initiated and directed a study, which subsequently was published (PACIFIC STUDIES, Vol. 2, No. 2), about the dramatic increase in the consumption and availability of education in Truk. As the same could be said for other Micronesian states, Hezel's study received attention throughout the islands. Lynn Ilon of the Truk Education Department, contacted me regarding the possibility of developing a study of college dropouts in Micronesia as a follow-up to Hezel's work. At the time I was president of the college at Ponape and felt such an effort would be useful and worthwhile. Mrs. Ilon completed a proposal which was submitted for funding.

Several months later the study was funded by the National Institute of Education in Washington with considerable assistance from Janice Johnson at the Interior Department. However, the situation in Micronesia had shifted as Mrs. Ilon left the islands to accompany her husband on a Micronesian Liaison Office assignment in Washington, and I had left Ponape to become the director of the Micronesian Area Research Center (MARC) at the University of Guam. My successor in Ponape, Fredrick W. Young, Jr., felt as I did, that the project should be implemented. Through his good offices the Community College of Micronesia Board of Regents approved of the idea of transferring the project administration to MARC. The Graduate Dean at the University of Guam, Roy T. Tsuda, was also very supportive. Thus, after the appropriate paperwork clearances in Washington, the study's management was relocated from Ponape to Guam.

During the fall of 1979 considerable reworking and redesign of Ilon's initial proposal was undertaken. A faculty research team was engaged which included Randy L. Workman, Principal Investigator, James Craig, James Nagle, and Edward Robbins, Research Associates. Much of the project's continuing management functions were performed by Christine O'Meara, Research Assistant. Working closely with Dr. Workman, she was instrumental in the smooth implementation of the design.