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The Christopher James Foeoletini Ledoux Foundation Awarded ANA Grant to Fund Innovative and Technology Academy

The Christopher James Foeoletini Ledoux Foundation (The Foeoletini Foundation) has received \$279,235 in funding for the first year to launch its newest initiative, The Pacific Innovation and Technology Academy (PITA). PITA will be a three year project from 09/30/2023 to 09/29/2026, with total project funding of \$754,841.00 (amount of the Federal Award including cost sharing or matching). This funding opportunity was made available by the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) Social and Economic Development Strategies (SEDS) program under the US Department of Human and Social Services.

The Foeoletini Foundation's priority for this funding is to establish an institution that will play a critical role in supporting American Samoa's economic development by producing a workforce with technical skills and expertise that can contribute to emerging IT industries. From a broader perspective, PITA's 16-week program will give individuals the training, certifications, and experience they need to compete for entry-level IT positions.

Executive Director Leulu Trude Ledoux-Sunia states, "Substance Use Disorder (SUD) has prevented able individuals and their families from working in American Samoa. Since the start of our outreach work in the villages and with youth, we constantly hear feedback that we don't have the skills to meet the requirements of new job opportunities here. We took this feedback and decided to create a new lane and window of opportunity for our young people. This funding is a milestone win for our local nonprofit community, having a long-term and hugely positive impact. We want to acknowledge The Administration for Native Americans for continuing to provide opportunities for indigenous people. We also want to thank ANA's Pacific Region Technical Assistance team, who continue to bring training to the territory, providing guidance and support so nonprofits like ours can submit successful proposals."

She continues, "One of the main incentives of this program is that by the time you leave the cohort, you will attain nationally accepted certifications in areas to include CompTIA A+, Networking fundamentals, and Cybersecurity here in American Samoa. The next step is helping pair and place those who successfully certify and graduate from PITA in a job with either local government, private sector, or nonprofits. Recruitment and more information about how to enroll will be available via our website and social media pages soon."

"On behalf of the board, I would like to recognize all those who have supported our vision from the beginning. Our organization is committed to providing creative ways to continue supporting

SUD victims and families. We encourage donations to support this initiative and other projects. Your contribution can help us make a difference in the lives of these future IT specialists/technicians."

The Foeoletini Foundation focuses on providing services and resources to families impacted by substance use disorder, victims of substance abuse, and recovery. Our donors' generous support allows the Foeoletini Foundation to fulfill its mission.

The Christopher James Foeoletini Ledoux Foundation is a 501c(3) organization; all donations are tax-deductible. For further information on the Foundation and how to donate, visit our website at www.foeoletini.org or call us at 633-9669 or 733-1507. EIN: 66-0944480

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