Camp: Recognizes young Chamorro identity

SANDY IN SAN DIEGO
SANDY FLORES USLANDER

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and Janelle Fejeran on Chamorro history and artifacts; Justin McDermott on goal setting; Joey Quenga on media; Peter Onedera on storytelling; and Rosemary Mantanona on weaving and i tronkon ni-yok.

To close the camp, small groups of campers were assigned to present what they learned at a reception at the Long Beach Pacific Island Ethnic Art Museum. The camp created an atmosphere where students were able to improve their cultural knowledge and simultaneously see themselves excelling as college students and professionals. The students stayed in the CSULB dorm rooms and ate in the campus cafeteria.

Ta Fan Apatte served as a way to satisfy the young Chamorros’ desire for identity while challenging them to think about their place in the larger world.

Ta Fan Apatte camp is free of charge thanks to sponsorship from the Navigating Pacific Hearts project, Island Block Radio, the Cheyenne Angelica LLC and the Kutturan Chamoru Foundation. The organization currently is seeking sponsorship to expand the camp to include more students in 2017.

Sandy Flores Uslander lives in San Diego and promotes Chamorro culture. Reach her at www.GoIsland.net.

Joey Quenga presents camp participants and fellow organizers of the Ta Fan Apatte camp.