



**UNIVERSITY OF GUAM
UNIBETSEDAT GUAHAN
BOARD OF REGENTS**

RESOLUTION NO. 15-19

**RELATIVE TO AWARDING THE HONORARY DEGREE OF MASTERS
OF MICRONESIAN CREATIVE AND TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE
TO MR. FRANK RABON**

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents is authorized to confer degrees; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents seeks to recognize traditional indigenous knowledge of the people of Micronesia; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Regents seeks to also recognize the creative efforts based on traditional themes and knowledge as displayed through a lifetime of achievement by recognized experts; and

WHEREAS, Frank Rabon was born in Guam as the 7th of 10 children of Jesus and Rosa Rabon (familian Tugan, Kokora, Lalu and Bobu) and was raised in a traditional Chamorro family in Barrigada, learning both the traditions and language of the Chamorro people; and

WHEREAS, Frank Rabon became a professional dancer in his young life and learned the broader traditions of dance from indigenous Pacific Islanders from his participation in the Ui Lana O Polynesia in the early 1970s; and

WHEREAS, Frank Rabon used his knowledge and experience upon his return to Guam in 1983 to explore the linkages of the Chamorro people to their own history through song and dance in his professional work in the tourism industry; and

WHEREAS, Frank Rabon learned the history of dance in the Marianas and the connections to other Pacific Islands through former Speaker Carlos Taitano who was producing the Guahu Taotao Tano' pageant; and

WHEREAS, Frank Rabon made it his life commitment to re-create new Chamorro dances, songs and chants based on traditional knowledge and themes through the creation of the Guma' Taotao Tano; and

WHEREAS, Frank Rabon developed a defined series of rites of passage through which hundreds of young people have been inspired in their arts, traditions and life experiences of the Chamorro people; and

WHEREAS, Frank Rabon has defined the very meaning of modern Chamorro dance based on traditional themes through the interweaving of Chamorro language, practices and history that are evident in Bailan Lina'la, Bailan Uritao, Bailan Tunas, Bailan Fayao and Bailan Sekad; and

WHEREAS, Frank Rabon, with Carlos Taitano, created the non-profit organization Pã'a Taotao Tano', which has been the premier organization promoting the development of

Chamorro dance, apprenticeships in Chamorro dance, language learning and cultural programs for the visitor industry; and

WHEREAS, Frank Rabon has received numerous awards for his lifetime achievements including the Master of Chamorro Dance and the Lifetime Achievement Award by the Council of the Arts and Humanities; and

WHEREAS, Frank Rabon has been designated Ambassador at Large for Guam by two previous Governors of Guam, is a four time recipient of the Maga'låhi Arts Award and has received the Congressional Arts Award from the Smithsonian Institute; and

WHEREAS, Frank Rabon has earned the designation of Master of Chamorro Dance through three decades of hard work, determination and creative dance; and

WHEREAS, Frank Rabon's understanding of the roots and historical experiences of the Chamorro people embraces the cultural expressions of the people of Guam from ancient times through the present; and

WHEREAS, the unique singing style and chanting of the dance groups under the creative influence of Frank Rabon have become synonymous with Chamorro cultural expression as it is manifested in the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, Frank Rabon serves as personal testimony to the many connections between tradition, creativity and historical experience as is evidenced in the dance traditions of a people,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents through the Student Affairs, Scholarship, Alumni Relations, and Honorary Degree Committee hereby deems it appropriate to confer the Honorary Degree of Masters of Micronesian Creative and Traditional Knowledge to Frank Rabon; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Board of Regents, along with the President of the University of Guam, will confer said Honorary Degree at the Spring (Fannomnakan) 2015 Commencement on May 24, 2015

Adopted this 23rd day of April 2015.



William Leon Guerrero, Chairperson

ATTESTED:



Dr. Robert A. Underwood, Executive Secretary