

Samoa News
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“ASPA shares its VTC facilities with students”

The American Samoa Power Authority (ASPA) has organized a video teleconference (VTC) for students who are participating in the “Feso’otaiga ma ou tuaa” project coordinated by the American Samoa Humanities Council (ASHC) and the Department of Human Social Services (DHSS).

Miss American Samoa, Lupe Ane Kenape Aumavae who is in charge with the project is teaching the participating students how to research their ancestry and create family trees using computers.

Miss Aumavae excitedly expressed how pleased she is about ASPA’s offer to give her students the opportunity to experience a live connection with other students in other parts of the world.

The video tele-conferencing will be held as part of the project next week Thursday at ASPA’s Tafuna Plant.

Andra Samoa, ASG PEACESAT Director who is also the DELTA Consortia Coordinator for ASPA enthusiastically told Samoa News that the idea of VTC came about after they saw several pictures of the project in the Samoa News.

ASPA’s PEACESAT Director also claimed that this would be the first group of local students to VTC with multiple groups from around the world.

According to Theresa Lutu, ASPA’s administrative assistant, who is coordinating the initiative with the DHSS she is working on confirming the participation of a group from Hawaii, and for the first time a group of students from Japan and a group of students from the Independent State of Samoa.

Video teleconferencing is seen not only as a fast link for integrating the Samoan Culture into other parts of the world but also as a chance for local students to learn and appreciate other children’s culture and values.

Miss Aumavae explained to Samoa News that the students will actually present during the VTC some of the findings they have collected during their re search into their roots and the significance of these findings to themselves and their identity as Samoans.

She also said that they will be providing traditional entertainment during the VTC and demonstrating some of the important aspects of the Samoan culture.

Miss Aumavae also told Samoa News that the idea of children sharing their cultural values gives them a sense of pride about who they are and where they come from.

The VTC, according to Miss Aumavae, will be the highlight of their four-week project, which will be concluded on Friday next week. She explained that the ASPA

coordinators would take the group of students on a tour to the site of their VTC on Wednesday.

The participating students, who range in age from 7 to 14 and are mostly female, have discovered things the coordinator never expected.

“I have witnessed the willingness of the students to learn more about their culture and they, themselves have come up with some constructive ideas for cultural preservation,” stated Miss Aumavae about her group of students.

The 30 students in the project have gone as far as revealing some of the sentimental traditional (and valuable) artifacts their great great great grandparents have treasured for many years.

“While we tend to be accustomed to the rapid introduction of technology, we must accept it as positive changes in our lifestyle while at the same time finding the most appropriate ways to preserve the most important aspect of our fa’aSamoa,” stated Miss American Samoa.

As for implementation of the project, Miss Aumavae said that there has been positive feedback from both students and their parents.