

Samoa Observer: Yazaki helps students realise dreams

By Bethel Peato Ale, 10/12/2021



TWO RECIPIENTS OF THE PROGRAM ANGELINA FAITH MAIAVA AND ALICE TILIGI APULU. (PHOTO: JUNIOR S AMI)

The inaugural class of National University of Samoa (N.U.S.) students who were sponsored by the Yazaki Kizuna Foundation in 2018 have graduated with various degrees.

Past and current recipients of the scholarship gathered at the National University of Samoa on Friday to meet with the Yazaki Kizuna Foundation representative in Samoa, Funefeai Oliva Va'a and the N.U.S. President and Vice Chancellor, Aiono Professor Alec Ekeroma.

The Yazaki Managing Director Dr. Junichi Kitami was also part of the reception (through video conference) as well as N.U.S staff.



Students and N.U.S staff present at the event on Friday. (Photo: Junior S Ami)

Dr. Junichi expressed his sincerest appreciation to Aiono for his cooperation and consideration of the event, saying they decided to hold the small gathering to enable the alumni and the current scholarship recipients to network and get to know each other.

“As you know our foundation’s name is Yazaki Kizuna Foundation. Kizuna is a Japanese word that means strong connection,” he said.

“I believe meeting new people enriches your life. In Japan, we hear university students say that they feel loneliness as they cannot make friends through online classes due to the Covid-19.

“I believe you have gone through many difficulties, but I am so happy to see you today even through a webcam.

“I hope scholarship students would inspire each other by this opportunity and make efforts to pursue their academic career.

“I’d like to conclude by saying that I hope our ‘kizuna’ (connection) will last long through the Yazaki Kizuna Foundation’s scholarship program.”

A recipient of the scholarship, 22-year-old Ieti Simi of Tuanai, now has a bachelor’s degree in science and says he is grateful to Yazaki Kizuna Foundation for their support and assistance over the three-year duration of his studies.



One of the beneficiaries receives her certificate. (Photo: Junior S Ami)

"My family and I are very thankful for the Foundation's generosity in assisting students who come from low income earning families to attain a degree and secure a better future," he said. "I was one of the students in the first group that were awarded scholarships back in 2018, for the entire three-year-duration of my studies here at N.U.S, the Yazaki Kizuna Foundation paid my tuition fees, book allowance and registration fee."

Speaking during the reception, Aiono challenged the recipients of the scholarship program to wisely use the opportunity provided by the Yazaki Kizuna Foundation.

"I want to thank the Yazaki Kizuna Foundation for this tremendous help our students and their families are benefiting from," he said.



One of the beneficiaries receives his certificate. (Photo: Junior S Ami)

“In 2018 when the program first started there were six students who applied and received the scholarship.

“And the number started growing from then and even now there are still a lot of people applying.”

The university Vice Chancellor also reminded the students not to take the opportunity offered by the Foundation for granted, but embrace and use it to the fullest.

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