



Associate Dean Bill Marquardt with Rachel Macalua, 2015 CHCSI Scholarship Recipient

Orlando PA Graduate First Recipient of CHCS Scholarship

Rachel Macalua, PA-C, is the first recipient of the College of Health Care Sciences' **Community Health – Collaborative Service** scholarship. A 2015 graduate of the Orlando Physician Assistant program, Ms. Macalua was recognized for her life-long dedication to community service and caring for those in need. With initial motivation from her parents while still a child, she routinely visited local nursing homes and served breakfast to the homeless. Her routine hospital visits and interactions continued after moving to Orlando to attend Florida Hospital College of Health Sciences in 2008.

Her active involvement in community service continued in 2011 in Central Florida working with **Service and Love Together (S.A.L.T.)** with services ranging from feeding the homeless, to youth programs in low-income housing facilities in the area and providing health screenings and counseling for families.

Ms. Macalua's clinical experiences in the PA Program were highlighted by her mentor in her Family Medicine rotation whose compassion for his families further cemented her motivation to practice primary care medicine coupled with emphasis on emotional and spiritual wellbeing. She rounded out her clinical training with an additional elective experience in a primary care setting.

The **Community Health – Collaborative Service Initiative** is an endowed scholarship fund created in 2015 to recognize NSU Physician Assistant students nearing completion of their training and with a commitment to providing primary and preventive health care services coupled with a further commitment to service in the community to those in need. The **Initiative** also recognizes and promotes NSU Physician Assistant graduates in the community who not only have a similar commitment to primary / preventive

health care delivery, but have also given back to the university by mentoring students during their learning.