

Fernandez' initiative to give a laptop to every 5th, 6th, 9th, and 11th grade student. Last year, Governor Calvo committed \$3 million in Compact-Impact funding to purchase these laptops. The mobile laptop carts were purchased through the American Reinvestment Recovery Act.

These computers were awarded to teachers for use in service learning or school-to-work programs, Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM) classes, computer science and career education, and physics classes. With more laptops available for teachers and students, DOE can teach students to learn using the technology needed to excel in higher education and the workforce.

### **The Rigálu Foundation donates iPads to the SPED program**

Earlier this month, First Lady Christine Calvo's *Rigálu* Foundation donated three iPads to GDOE's Special Education Division. These iPads will be used by SpEd to provide assistive technology to students undergoing speech therapy.

This donation will help the division's speech therapists to provide the latest, innovative programs to help students.

According to the division, students with disabilities in years past used voice output systems with limited capabilities. Using these iPads provide access to students who can communicate better using touch screens. The iPads provided will greatly enhance the division's capabilities of accessing and merging technology and education. Tools used for therapy can be pre-loaded into the device, and customized almost instantly, depending on the student's individual needs.

"The Department of Education, Division of Special Education is extremely fortunate to have received three iPads from the First Lady's *Rigalu* Foundation for SPEDtacular! With this generous donation, the speech therapists are able to utilize technology when delivering therapy to our students with disabilities; which in turn, enhances and strengthens progress towards meeting the individual goals and objectives for our students with disabilities," Assistant Superintendent for Special Education Yolanda S. Gabriel said. "Again, the Division greatly appreciates all that has been provided by the First Lady, which is evident of her support to our children with disabilities and their families!"

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