



Shamag

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President Marcos visits Benguet Agri-Pinoy Trading Center

April 17, 2026 — President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. visited the Benguet Agri-Pinoy Trading Center (BAPTC) to observe trading and post-harvest activities in the region's highland vegetable industry.

The President was joined by Department of Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr. and was welcomed by local officials including Benguet Governor Melchor D. Diclas, La Trinidad Mayor Roderick C. Awingan, and BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan.

During the visit, the delegation inspected farm inputs and equipment prepared for distribution to Farmer Cooperatives and Associations (FCAs) under the Department of Agriculture's High Value Crops Program. They also toured Spot Trading Building 2 of the trading center, where post-harvest handling and trading activities take place, and interacted with farmers and stakeholders from the Cordillera highland vegetable sector.

In a brief statement, the President noted several government efforts aimed at helping farmers manage the challenges associated with transporting and marketing their produce, particularly amid rising fuel costs that affect the movement of agricultural goods from Benguet and nearby Cordillera areas. As part of the activity, the Office of the President also purchased approximately 20 tons of vegetables sourced from farmers in La Trinidad, Benguet and Urdaneta. These vegetables are set to be distributed to selected communities and institutions in Metro Manila, including local government units, social welfare programs, correctional facilities, and orphanages.

The activity forms part of broader efforts to support local farmers while facilitating the distribution of fresh produce to various beneficiary communities.

 CD.De Guzman, J. Zambrano

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Shamag, first published in 1996, is the official newsletter of Benguet State University. It was named after the Ibaloi word for news. It is one of the platforms for BSU to disseminate the programs, achievements and advocacies to its stakeholders. *Shamag* aims to help the University advance its goals by championing effective communication and partnerships.

Articles, pictures, comments, suggestions, reactions, and letters to the Editor may be submitted to the BSU-Public Affairs Office at publicaffairs@bsu.edu.ph. However, the *Shamag* staff reserves the right to edit submitted materials for mechanics and ethics. The *Shamag* is guided by the Associated Press (AP) style and journalistic standards.

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BSU VMGO
BSU BOR RESOLUTION No. 183, s. 2025

VISION: A premier university in

 **transformative education,**

 **innovative research,**

 **inclusive extension,**

 **sustainable development,**

 **and stewardship of culture and the environment**

MISSION

Cultivate resilient and future-ready human capital through excellent teaching, responsive research, proactive and sustainable community engagements, strategic partnerships, and progressive leadership

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL 1 (Instruction) Ensure equity in accessing quality higher education

Objectives

- Formulate and implement affirmative action policies aligned with Free Higher Education
- Sustain enrollment of disadvantaged students
- Sustain grants and scholarships for undergraduate and graduate studies students
- Develop learning continuity and student affairs services plan
- Implement inclusive education strategies for diverse learners
- Sustain optimal enrollment in all degree programs

GOAL 2 (Instruction) Advance quality and relevant instruction to boost regional economies

Objectives

- Enhance instruction through a supportive and innovative environment
- Continuously improve tertiary and advanced education standards

GOAL 3 (Research) Develop gender and culture-sensitive solutions, innovative and transformative research and technologies to reduce regional vulnerabilities and boost socio-economic activities

Objectives

- Strengthen policies, culture, linkages, and support for research and development
- Advance scholarly capabilities of faculty and staff through research-driven initiatives and activities

GOAL 4 (Extension) Develop proactive extension programs to sustain livable and resilient communities prioritizing disadvantaged areas and vulnerable sectors

Objectives

- Enhance extension system environment for effective community development
- Build capacity among extension service providers
- Implement culturally-relevant and gender-sensitive engagement programs
- Expand reach and inclusivity of extension initiatives
- Evaluate and amplify the impact of extension programs and projects

GOAL 5 (Administration and Finance) Promote integrity-based governance and efficient management of resources

Objectives

- Develop human resource capabilities
- Cultivate a culture of good governance and resource stewardship
- Develop smart and green campus solutions
- Establish sound financial policies and systems

GOAL 6 (Business Affairs) Balance progressive resource development while maintaining existing biophysical resources

Objectives

- Foster a supportive ecosystem for entrepreneurial ventures
- Create strategic and socially-responsible business partnerships
- Strengthen capabilities in revenue-generating activities
- Optimize existing income sources
- Pursue green enterprises and growth opportunities

GOAL 7 Strengthening and expanding strategic partnerships

Objectives

- Build a dynamic and enabling environment for partnerships
- Deepen engagement with alumni, government, and civil society
- Strengthen multi-sectoral collaboration among academe, LGUs, industries, and communities

BSU GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES
BSU BOR RESOLUTION No. 304, s. 2025



BSU CORE VALUES: Integrity, Resilience, Innovation, Stewardship, Service, and Excellence
BSU BOR RESOLUTION No. 304, s. 2025
Shaping Minds, Transforming Communities, Shaping Futures

Quality Policy

Benguet State University is continuously committed to improve its Quality Management System, satisfy requirements of relevant interested parties and provide excellent service for quality education and innovative research aligned with sustainable development and client satisfaction.

Board Resolution # 2847 S.2016



Doctor of Medicine program undergoes CHED evaluation

April 23-24, 2026 — The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Technical Panel evaluated Benguet State University's Doctor of Medicine program to ensure compliance with the requirements set by the Commission.

During the opening program at the RDC Hall, VP for Academic Affairs Janet P. Pablo welcomed the accreditors, CHED-CAR Regional Office officials, and BSU faculty and staff. In her message, Pablo emphasized the significance of the new program.

VP for Business Affairs Josel M. Florentin shared the history behind the establishment of the University's College of Medicine and reiterated its vital role in meeting regional and national healthcare demands. He added that the accreditation process is a collaborative effort, describing the evaluators as partners to excellence.

This was followed by the introduction of the BSU officials by COM Dean Dr. Ruel G. Revilla; the CHED-CAR Regional Office officials by Chief Education Program Specialist Ma. Geraldine Casipit; and the technical panel and evaluators by Sheila F. Jalbuena, the OIC Senior Education Program Specialist of CHED-OPSD.

The CHED Technical Panel consists of Dr. Ma. Lourdes D. Maglinao, Dr. Racquel Sayo, Dr. Dina Gonzales, Dr. Cecilia Alinea, Dr. Josephine Carnate, and Jalbuena.

Dr. Maglinao provided the walkthrough of the visit, and Dr. Revilla also gave a brief presentation of the medicine program.

Throughout the accreditation visit, the accreditors assessed the program's documents and conducted a facility tour.

During the exit conference on April 24, 2026, University President Laruan, who attended

online, expressed his gratitude to the assessment team for their time and expertise. He said that their insightful observations, recommendations, and professional guidance help ensure the university meets the highest standards of medical education.

Following the President's remarks, the accreditors presented their findings. In response, Dr. Revilla thanked the team, noting that their evaluation efforts demonstrated dedication and commitment to pursuing excellence within medical schools.

In his closing remarks, VP for Administration and Finance Richard H. Kinnud described the College of Medicine as a dream nurtured by generations

of BSU leaders – a vision of affordable medical education for the entire Cordillera region.

He likened the university's journey to the third pig in the fable of the Three Little Pigs, who rejected shortcuts in favor of hard work and durable materials. Kinnud mentioned that while the university could have rushed the process, it chose to plan, prepare, and build on a stronger foundation.

"Mananatili ang aming tiwala na sa matibay na pundasyong binubuo, malalampasan ang anumang pagsubok upang tunay na uunlad at magtagal sa paglilingkod ang Pamantasan, lalong-lalo na sa pamamagitan ng College of Medicine (Our trust remains that with the strong foundation being built, any trials will be overcome – to truly prosper and endure in service to the University, especially through a College of Medicine)," Kinnud said.

The establishment of the COM was approved by the BSU BOR through BOR Resolution No. 42. s.2023, and the Doctor of Medicine Program curriculum was approved through BOR Resolution No. 42a, s.2023.

 E. Bawayan



The creation of this College of Medicine is not only marking an academic milestone but also is considered a promise to nurture and prepare future physicians, making doctors available within our university and in the region to address the pressing need of healthcare and ensure that quality medical service is within the reach of every family."

-JANET P. PABLO, BSU VP for Academic Affairs



STUDENTS IN ACTION: 'Flea Market for a Cause' supports local farmers amidst oil crisis

April 20-23, 2026 — Action took the form of nearly a thousand kilograms of highland vegetables as the Benguet State University Supreme Student Government (BSU-SSG) partnered with the Department of Agriculture–Cordillera (DA-CAR) to launch the “Flea Market for a Cause.”

Held in front of the BSU Marketing Center, the initiative bypassed traditional middlemen, allowing the Cacadcadaan Farmers Multipurpose Cooperative, through DA-CAR, to bring their produce directly to the student body. The result was an overwhelming success, totaling 932 kilograms of sold commodities, proving that student-led interventions can provide tangible economic relief to farming communities during volatile times.

Under the banner of “Tindig para sa mga Magsasaka,” the SSG and DA-CAR designed the flea market to

address the rising economic threat of the global oil crisis. As rising fuel prices drive up transportation costs and empower middlemen to lower farmgate prices, this



“We feel overwhelmed and our hearts are full with how the BSU community supported this initiative. On our first day, we ordered around 390 kilograms of vegetables, thinking that this would last until the end of the event, but it was sold out within the day.”

-ANGELIKA MASLANG, BSU SSG Officer

direct-to-consumer model served as a vital buffer.

By utilizing DA-CAR logistics to move stocks directly from the cooperative to the campus, the project eliminated the “fuel-inflated” margins of intermediaries. This ensured that farmers received the full value of their labor while the university community accessed fresh nutrition at affordable, stabilized prices.

The market concluded on April 23 with a total sell-out of all stocks, reflecting the strong support of the university community.

According to the organizers, the level of support exceeded their expectations.

CD. De Guzman

BSU holds cultural activity celebrating Cordillera heritage

April 22, 2026 — A cultural activity highlighting the richness of Cordilleran traditions was successfully conducted, reinforcing the importance of cultural preservation among students. This was organized by the College of Social Sciences, Office of Extension Services, International Relations Office, and Institute of Social Research and Development, Gender and Development, in collaboration with the Office of the Presidential Adviser on Peace, Reconciliation and Unity (OPAPRU).

OPAPRU SIPAT IKS Project Leader Gigy G.Banes described the activity as an avenue for experiential and intercultural learning. She highlighted

...continued on page 5



CERI hosts seminar-writeshop on strategic research popularization

April 15-16, 2026 — The Center for Educational Research and Innovation (CERI) spearheaded a hybrid seminar-writeshop titled “Strategic Popularization of Academic Research and Knowledge: Transforming Data, Research Beyond the Pages.” The activity welcomed educators, researchers, and knowledge advocates both online and onsite.

This initiative aims to equip researchers to produce high-impact materials, making their educational research more visible and impactful within the university and beyond.

During the virtual session on the first day, CERI Director Janet Lynn M. Balagtey opened the event by emphasizing the need for academic visibility.

In his message, IHFSA Director Christopher Deponio, representing VP for Research and Extension Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres, introduced the LOOK framework for research popularization: Locate the data that has the potential for real-world application; Outline – Select through information to separate what is truly useful, recognizing that not all academic data is relevant to a specific audience; Optimize – Translate complex, recognizing that not all academic data is relevant to a general audience; and Keep – keep the located data can be referenced or clarified in the future.

The invited resource speakers then shared technical insights in various topics.

Adrian Chris P. Velasco, Information Officer II of the Agricultural Training Institute CAR, opened the technical sessions with “The Visual Spark: Designing High-Impact Research IEC Materials.” He provided practical tips for designing high-impact posters and visual narratives.

College of Information Sciences Faculty Member Rencel Ian M. Bono also tackled the topic on design of brochures and flyers. This was followed by the discussion from Office of the Extension



“Research should not be remained confined to pages, shelves or databases, Instead, it must be communicated in ways that is accessible, engaging, and impactful.”

-JANET LYNN M. BALAGTEY,
CERI Director

Congratulations!

BSU Examinees of the March 2026 CIVIL ENGINEERING LICENSURE EXAMINATION



BALDASAN, Joselle A.



BATTATENG, Jerwel M.



CAGAN, Devorah M.



SALAMAT, Dave Howard M.



TALIG-AN, Clemar T.

Services Director Cheryll C. Launio on the preparation of the policy briefs.

Finally, College of Arts and Humanities Faculty Member Kara S. Panolong presented the topic “Narrative Lens,” focusing on how to design visuals for the eyes while presenting for the ears. She provided practical tips on slide presentation and audio delivery.

The following day, university researchers gathered at the Everlasting Hall for a hands-on workshop, applying the design principles discussed during the first session to their own IEC materials. Participants then presented their work for evaluation and feedback from Velasco, one of the resource speakers. Additionally, Intellectual Property Management Office Director Cynthia D. Garambas discussed navigating copyrights for popularized research.

E. Bawayan

...from page 4

that the students’ presentations were grounded in research and reflected the integration of gender perspectives, cultural understanding, and peace processes within Cordilleran traditions.

A lively cultural presentation followed in which students showcased Cordillera indigenous songs, traditional dances, and local cuisine. Through their performances, they highlighted the rich heritage and diverse traditions of the Cordillera communities, expressing stories, beliefs, and values passed down through generations. The inclusion of indigenous foods further enriched the experience, giving the audience a deeper appreciation of the region’s unique cultural identity.

N. Sudaypan

BSU and the communities

CSS and ISRD bridge knowledge gap with crop insurance seminar

April 7, 2026 — The College of Social Sciences and the Institute of Social Research and Development held a seminar at Solibao Hall, NPRCRTC, to address findings from the study, "A Holistic Inquiry and Understanding of Farmers' Climate-related Profit Loss."

The activity brought together strawberry and vegetable farmers from La Trinidad, Benguet, to address the knowledge gap on crop insurance identified in the study. The seminar is part of the initiative "Iyaman: Giving Back to Communities through Research-based Advocacies, Policy Recommendations, and Community Partnership." Additionally, the event aimed to present initial findings to the farmers for validation and to the Philippine Crop Insurance Corporation for possible policy action.

 E. Bawayan




BSU extends environmental stewardship to Puguis Communal Forest

April 24, 2026 — Benguet State University, through the Department of Environmental Science (DES) of the College of Natural Sciences (CNS), in collaboration with the LGU La Trinidad, MENRO La Trinidad, and Barangay Puguis conducted a tree-caring activity and established a firebreak at the Puguis Communal Forest.

A brief opening program took place at the view deck of the Puguis Communal Forest, facilitated by the Activity Leader Aldrin V. Baniaga. In the program, DES Chairperson Janice P. Balangen oriented the participants about the extension activities of DES. This was followed by a short lecture on the importance of the tree-caring activity by DES Faculty Member Norell Jay B. Osting. The tree-caring activity involved the ring weeding of planted trees within the adopted forest of BSU. Puguis Punong Barangay, Hon. Osburn P. Visaya, also shared a message.

The activity was participated in by DES faculty members, Second Year Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science students, members of the Puguis Women's Brigade, and the Barangay Peacekeeping Action Team. Forest Rangers Glenn Anthony Antoc, Herman Ordono, and Joseph Luciano guided the participants.


This effort supports La Trinidad LGU's Binnadang, Limitless La Trinidad, and Our Environment Our Responsibility. It also contributes to the UN's SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 15 (Life on Land).

 J. Balangen



Chemistry Department and MSWDO Tuba empower solo parents with perfume-making workshop

April 15, 2026 — Over 90 solo parents from across the municipality acquired practical home-based skills in a perfume-making workshop in Poblacion, Tuba. Conducted at the invitation of the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office (MSWDO), the session featured faculty from the Chemistry Department as resource speakers and facilitators. The training serves as a core component of "Project CHEM: Chemistry Helps to Empower," an extension project of the Chemistry Department dedicated to providing community members, with sustainable, income-generating tools.

The activity underscored a synchronized effort from municipal leaders to support the sector. Rebecca Apil, Committee Chair on Women, Children and Family Welfare, noted the local government's active dedication to providing solo parents with access to practical crafts designed to directly support their household needs.  S. Tipayno



Partnerships for the Goals

BSU and EHL strengthens collaboration through renewed MOU

April 20–24, 2026 — The partnership between Benguet State University and the Evangelische Hochschule Ludwigsburg (EHL) is a story of shared commitment turning into meaningful action, grounded in values that promote social responsibility, human dignity, and care for the environment. It began in September 2021 with the signing of an agreement that opened opportunities for academic cooperation, faculty exchange, and student mobility.

From 2023 to 2024, the collaboration came to life through the Transdisciplinary Intercultural International Partnership (TIIP) Program, enabling BSU faculty and students to take part in international exchanges, assemblies, and collaborative meetings. Primarily supported through EHL funding and supplemented by BSU, these activities enhanced intercultural academic engagement and strengthened shared scholarly perspectives on social work and global challenges. Notable components of this collaboration included institutional leadership visits, participation in the TIIP Annual Assembly, and BSU's hosting of the MISOTRANS Network Meeting in September 2024.

A significant milestone followed on April 20–24, 2026, when BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan and College of Agriculture Dean Constantino T. Sudaydan represented the university at the 2026 International Assembly of EHL and its partners, held under the theme "Social Work, Human Rights, and the Rights of Nature." During this gathering, President Laruan and EHL Rector Prof. Dr. Andrea Dietzsch signed a renewed Memorandum of Understanding, reaffirming a partnership rooted in shared academic goals and a commitment to people, communities, and the planet. The partnership between BSU and EHL was approved through



International Relations Office
Melinda Madew



BSU Signs MOA with DILG-CAR for Civcademy to empower civil society organizations

April 30, 2026 — Benguet State University through President Kenneth A. Laruan signed a Memorandum of Agreement that formalized BSU's involvement in the operationalization of the Civcademy, a collaborative initiative led by the Department of the Interior and Local Government - Cordillera Administrative Region (DILG-CAR).

Civcademy aims at strengthening the capacity, leadership, and strategic engagement of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) in CAR. This initiative is to capacitate CSOs through co-designed programs and innovation, aligning with DILG's 2023-2028 Strategic Plan. Institutions collaborating for Civcademy includes the City Government of Baguio, Baguio City People's Council

(BCPC), Council for the Restoration of Filipino Values, Pansigedan Advocacy Cooperative, University of Baguio, and the University of the Cordilleras.

The MOA signing was witnessed by BSU International Relations Office Director Rex John G. Bawang, College of Social Sciences Dean Stanley F. Anongos, College of Public Administration and Governance Dean Julie Binaldo-Velasco, DILG-CAR Assistant Regional Director Ruperto B. Maribbay Jr., BCPC Vice President Rodolfo D. De Guia, DILG-CAR Local Government Operations Officer IV Glaiza Lei G. Castillo, DILG-CAR Development Management Officer IV Christian Joseph S. Devera.

E. Bawang



Agriculture Chief meets Cordillera farmers

April 1, 2026 — Department of Agriculture Secretary Francisco “Kiko” Tiu Laurel Jr. met with farmers, truckers, and key stakeholders during a dialogue held at the Benguet Agripinoy Trading Center, where concerns over rising production and transport costs dominated discussions.


The ‘ugnayan’ brought together agricultural workers and local government officials from Benguet, Mountain Province, and Ifugao. Participants highlighted the growing strain on the regional agricultural

sector, particularly due to soaring oil prices linked to ongoing tensions in the Middle East. Farmers and truckers shared firsthand accounts of increased operational costs, noting that higher fuel prices have significantly impacted the transport of vegetables to key markets, including Metro Manila.

In response, Secretary Laurel assured government’s continued support, emphasizing efforts to ease the financial burden on farmers and maintain

the steady flow of produce from the Cordillera region to urban centers.

Officials from Benguet State University, led by University President Kenneth A. Laruan, also attended the dialogue to explore ways it could collaborate with the DA in supporting farmers and strengthening the region’s agricultural sector.

 Office of the President (BSU)



BSU officially launches student portal

April 30, 2016 — Advancing its commitment to transformative education, Benguet State University officially launched its Student Portal in a ceremony held at the DSG Hall, College of Teacher Education. The event, themed: Hawak ko ang Beat, hawak ko ang Portal, brought together students from different colleges.

The portal, an online student information system, intended to meet the increasing demand for remote and easily accessible digital services.

In her welcome remarks, Assistant to the VP for Academic Affairs Imelda Parcasio, representing VPAA Janet P. Pablo, emphasized that the unveiling of a digital platform is a significant step towards realizing the BSU’s Strategic Plan 2025-2030, anchored on our vision, Shaping Minds, Transforming Communities, Sustaining Futures.

Supervising Administrative Officer Raymundo Pawid Jr, representing University President Kenneth A. Laruan, also said that education should be just as accessible and responsive as a student’s daily digital life.

This was followed by the symbolic unveiling of the URL for the University Portal, led by the Office of the University Registrar Director Foilan Manas, Student



This initiative reflects our shared commitment to innovation, accessibility, and excellence. In academic service, the Student Portal is more than a system. It is a bridge that connects learning, communication, and opportunity in a more efficient and student-centered way."

-IMELDA PARCASIO, Assistant to the VP for Academic Affairs

Information and Accounting System TWG Chair Julie Buasen, SAO Pawid, and OVPAA Special Assistant Parcasio.

Afterwards, Buasen gave a walkthrough of the portal features and a demo on accessing the portal by a student representative.

OUR Director Manas reminded the students to use the student portal responsibly. He also encouraged every student to explore the portal, embrace the transformation, and continue shaping your minds for the future.

 E. Bawayan

