



Shamag



OSS launches i.C.A.R.E Hub

Through the Student with Special Needs, Persons with Disabilities, and Disadvantaged Students program, BSU is taking small strides towards accessible education for all.

The Office of Student Services (OSS) launched the Inclusive Center for Assistive Resources and Empowerment (i.C.A.R.E) Hub at the OSS Social Hall on February 27, 2026. This is part of the Student with Special Needs, Persons with Disabilities, and Disadvantaged Students program. The hub offers features a referral section, assistive devices, an ICT laboratory, and inclusive spaces. It offers academic and accessibility support and linkages to other government assistance. The hub will serve students with special needs and disadvantaged students including student-parents, working students and those who belong to low income households and Geographically Isolated and Disadvantaged Areas.

The launching was highlighted with a ribbon-cutting ceremony led by BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan and VP for Academic Affairs Janet P. Pablo. This is witnessed by Supervising Administrative Officer Raymundo H. Pawid Jr., Gender and Development Office Director Jude L. Tayben, and OSS Director Erlyn Honeylette C. Marquez. After the ribbon-cutting ceremony, Tayben made a presentation titled, "Inclusion in Education and Safe Spaces" containing the student services provided by the university. He also discussed Republic Act 11313 also known as the Safe Spaces Act reminding every student of their right to feel secure and respected on campus.

The program concluded with awarding of certificate and a message of gratitude from Marquez to the participants.  D.Paydawan

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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.

For a complete view
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content and omit photos due
to space limitations.



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

Shaping Minds, Transforming Communities, Shaping Futures

BSU BOR RESOLUTION No. 304, s. 2025

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



Spoken Word Poetry Celebrated at Kalkali 2026

Poems on heritage, values, and the distillation of the human experience were read by their authors during the Kalkali 2026.



Participants of the Kalkali 2026 held in front of the BSU Administration Building on February 27, 2026 in celebration of the National Arts Month.

In celebration of the National Arts Month, the Benguet State University Office of the Vice President for Administration and Finance (OVPAF) and the College of Arts and Humanities (CAH) organized Kalkali 2026, under the theme: “Ani ng Sining: Katotohanan at Giting” on February 27, 2026.

The event showcased various poems written and performed by the university's faculty and staff members. Each piece was composed in either Kankanaey or Ibaloi, accompanied by a Tagalog translation.

To open the program, VP for Administration and Finance Richard H. Kinnud shared the story of Kabuniyan, a traditional folktale from Bakun, Benguet. In his message, Kinnud drew parallels between the story and the event's theme, describing the initiative as a movement to sustain indigenous voices by blending ancestral wisdom with contemporary artistry.

After the participants read their poems and their respective awards handed, Ronda B. Tullay, Dean of CAH, congratulated both the participants and the audience for their role in celebrating the National Arts Month.

“With this, art is not only created but is spoken and shared. Our poets did not simply read their poems but also reflected our culture, struggles, and cumulative spirit,” she said. 🌿📷 E.Bawang



"May this Kalkali be an area to hold conversations of art in poetry, where we will be remembered in a positive light. In our conversation today, may we reflect on our art and what the theme truly means"
-VP Richard H. Kinnud



Evocative Imagery Award

Saleng by Anna Cris L. Langaoan, Secondary Laboratory School



Creative Expression Award

Botas and Alubo by Raquel Abyado, BSU Buguias



Values Preservation Award

Inayan by Penelope F. Tica-a, CAH- Department of Filipino



Heritage and Rhythm Award

Alsong Tan Bayo by Leilani U. Estole, CTE- Dep't of Early Childhood Teacher Education



Ancestral Voice Award

Takal Ni Ka-Afuan by Julie Binaldo-Velasco, College of Administration and Governance



Architect of Words Award

Tapey Nen Kabunuian, Tuled Ni Titit, Tung-a Di Aam-a, and Gayang Di Kordilyera by Jeglecarma, BSU Bokod

Partnerships for the Goals

BSU continues to expand student opportunities through strategic partnerships in peace education, leadership, and academic exchange. By collaborating with international organizations and local cooperatives, BSU empowers learners to become global citizens.

One for Peace

On February 10, 2026, BSU formalized a partnership with Heavenly Culture, World Peace, Restoration of Light (HWPL) through a virtual MOU signing. This collaboration aligns with CHED mandates to integrate peace education into the university curriculum. BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan and HWPL representatives emphasized a shared mission to transform students into global peace ambassadors.

The partnership introduces the "Peace Education Empowerment Program," featuring an action plan that includes "Peace Educators' Formative" workshops and a "Promotion Campaign Trail." Key initiatives involve establishing dedicated campus spaces such as Peace Clubs, Gardens, and Libraries to promote a culture of non-violence. By integrating these frameworks, BSU and HWPL aim to extend peace-building efforts beyond the university, impacting the community and the nation through collaborative, sustainable education and advocacy.

BSU and UCU to the World!

BSU and the Urdaneta City University (UCU) formalized a partnership through an MOU signing at BSU's International Relations Office on February 19, 2026. The agreement focuses on academic collaboration, research initiatives, faculty and student exchanges, and global engagement.

The event featured cultural performances and was attended by delegates from Konan University, Japan, and the U.S. Peace Corps. BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan and UCU Acting President Amihan April Alcazar emphasized mutual growth, using education as a bridge to connect diverse communities and nations.

Empowering Future Educators

BSU signed an MOU with the State Universities and Colleges Teacher Educators Association, Inc. (SUCTEA Inc.) on February 4, 2026. Represented by regional president Divina M. Yango, the partnership focuses on faculty development, joint research and professional growth through BSU's College of Teacher Education.

Key commitments include SUCTEA providing expert trainers for BSU workshops and co-hosting the "Tongtongan" Educators Forum. BSU will manage logistics while both institutions collaborate on co-designing teaching programs and regional research congresses to strengthen teacher education and innovation.

For the Next Generation's Leaders

BSU and the Pansigedan Advocacy Cooperative (PAC) held the inaugural graduation of the Community Leaders Formation Program (CLFP) on February 21, 2026. The event included a MOA signing with DILG-CAR to formalize leadership and civic education initiatives. The program trained 31 graduates in ethical leadership and cultural values to foster sustainable democracy. BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan emphasized leadership as genuine service. This multi-sectoral partnership advances several Sustainable Development Goals, including quality education and community resilience through strong institutional collaboration.

Partnerships...continued on page 5



BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan with BSU Bokod Campus Administrator Gleemoore C. Makie (left) and IRO Director Rex John G. Bawang showing the signed MOU with HWPL.



Officials of BSU and UCU signing the MOU on academic collaboration, research initiatives, faculty and student exchanges, and global engagement.



BSU and SUCTEA representatives led by President Kenneth A. Laruan and Divina M. Yango pose with signed copies of their MOU on joint research, and professional growth.



Participants of the INTENSE Program Information Session at the DSG Hall, CTE Building with IRO personnel, Kun Shan University delegates, and CHED representatives.



BSU officials led by President Kenneth A. Laruan with PAC and DILG-CAR representatives pose with signed copies of their MOA on leadership and civic education initiatives.



JICA Volunteer Kikuchi Otoha with BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan, IRO Director Rex John G. Bawang and faculty members of the College of Agriculture.



Tottori University students accompanied by ILC staff led by Jhordan T. Cuilan in one of their immersion activities.

INTENSE Program Information Session

On February 3, 2025, BSU hosted an information session for the International Industrial Talents Education Special Program (INTENSE) of Taiwan. Delegates from Kun Shan University and Intact Base Philippines, accompanied by CHED representatives, met with President Kenneth A. Laruan before engaging with Engineering students at the DSG Hall.

The session detailed specialized educational and industrial opportunities in Taiwan, emphasizing the program's role in providing industry-aligned learning and professional growth. Leaders, including CEO Dr. Mike Chu and Dean Prof. Chiu Kou-Chun, discussed the benefits and requirements of the scholarship. By facilitating these international pathways, BSU advances SDGs 4, 8, and 17, ensuring students gain global competencies. IRO Director Rex John Bawang concluded by encouraging students to embrace these cross-border academic experiences.

JICA Volunteer Arrives

On February 11, 2026, BSU welcomed JICA volunteer Kikuchi Otoha to support agricultural innovation and community development projects. She made a courtesy call to President Kenneth A. Laruan and attended an orientation facilitated by the College of Agriculture and the Department of Extension Education. Otoha will undergo community immersion to prepare for her long-term engagement, reinforcing BSU's commitment to international partnerships and sustainable agricultural extension services in the region.

Tottori University students at BSU

BSU welcomed 11 students and two staff members from Tottori University, Japan on February 26, 2026 for a cultural immersion program. The visit, led by the International Language Center, began with a courtesy call to BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan and Governor Melchor D. Diclas.

The delegates explored BSU's facilities, including the Marketing Center and the University Library, alongside the Benguet and BSU Museums to study indigenous history and local governance. A cultural program featuring BSU KONTAD performances and a traditional "Uggayam" prayer concluded the orientation. This initiative aims to contribute to the students' personal growth and linguistic improvement while solidifying the long-standing international partnership between BSU and Tottori University.

 Ellejohn Bawang (UPAD); Rosciel Yapeng Batalier and Jelaine Victorino (BAEL Interns at IRO)

 Ellejohn Bawang (UPAD); Jorelle Mae Avelino and Jay-ann Caouli (BSIT Interns at IRO); Cherlyn Lao-an, Mariel Abitria, and Jersey Rose Fernandez (CHET HM Interns at IRO)

BSU and the communities

In February, four colleges reached out to various Benguet communities in-line with BSU's mandate to transfer knowledge and technology to communities, promote sustainable development, enhance livelihoods, and deliver targeted social services.

MAAWIS TAKO by the College of Nursing

On February 16, 2026, the CN empowered students at Ballyay Integrated School in Kabayan through its MAAWIS TAKO extension program. The acronym stands for Managing Adolescent Health and Well-being in Schools (MAAWIS) and Teachers' Training through Acquisition of Knowledge and Development (TAKO) to Self-care and Empowerment. Faculty members led gender-specific sessions on "momma" chewing, reproductive health, and STI prevention.

Similarly, on February 23, 2026, the team conducted a health literacy outreach at Tuba Central National High School. These sessions addressed the risks of vaping, smoking, and teenage pregnancy, while providing practical demonstrations of Breast Self-Examination. Led by Associate Dean Jude L. Tayaben, these initiatives utilized Project SELF-CARE and Project MOMMA to combat local health challenges. By aligning with UN Sustainable Development Goals 3, 4, and 5, the college continues to transform Benguet's youth into proactive catalysts for community well-being.



A CAH Faculty Member facilitating a workshop session with elementary pupils at Albis, Tublay, Benguet

Manukang Matagumpay by the College of Agriculture

The CA-Department of Animal Science conducted "Manukang Matagumpay" at Beleng-Belis, Kapangan on February 16, 2026. This seminar equipped 37 members of the Beling-Belis Farmers' Association with sustainable table egg production techniques to boost local income.

Led by Chairperson Leo S. Laruan, the program covered cage-free housing, lighting optimization, and layer economics. Faculty members Mary Arnel D. Garcia and Madeline S. Kingan discussed nutrition transitions and agricultural waste management, while Dr. Tom Engelbert Daguioan focused on biosecurity and early disease detection. By emphasizing that profitable farming starts small and scales with experience, BSU reaffirmed its commitment to community empowerment and sustainable agricultural development. This initiative provided practical skills in poultry management, ensuring farmers can maintain healthy, productive flocks while safeguarding communal health.

Campus Journalism Series 3" sa Mababang Paaralan ng Albis, Tublay, Benguet. Layunin ng programa, katuwang ang KATAFIL at Sinag Filipino, na sanayin ang mga guro at mag-aaral sa pagsulat ng balita, lathalain, editorial, at balitang pampalakasan.

Dahil wala pang sariling pahayagan ang paaralan, nagbigay ang mga eksperto ng aktuwal na palihan upang ihanda sila sa pagbuo at pamamahala ng opisyal na publikasyon. Ang ekstensyong ito ay mahalaga sa paghubog ng kritikal na pag-iisip at responsableng pamamahayag sa elementarya. Sa pamamagitan ng inisyatibong ito, binibigyang-kapangyarihan ng BSU ang komunidad na magkaroon ng sariling tinig at malikhaing kakayahan sa pagsulat.

Policy writing with the Sanguniang Kabataan by the College of Public Administration and Governance

The CPAG hosted a two-day seminar-workshop for 200 Sangguniang Kabataan (SK) members at Chrysanthemum Hall on February 2–4, 2026. Partnering with PESO-La Trinidad, the initiative aimed to enhance the legislative skills of youth leaders through a gender-responsive lens.

Communities...continued on page 7

CAHpability building by the College of Arts and Humanities

Noong ika-7 ng Pebrero 2026, isinagawa ng CAH-Departamento ng Filipino ang "CAHpability Building for Educators and Learners in



CA faculty members with participants of the Manukang Matagumpay training at Beleng-Belis, Kapangan



Students in Action

Students placed BSU under the limelight with the Rondalla performing in a welcome dinner for an international workshop and students winning awards in various competitions



CN faculty members pose with TCNHS teachers



CPAG faculty members with Councilor Teddy C. Walang

Communities...from page 6

The sessions, led by Councilor Teddy C. Walang and faculty member Renabeth G. Donguiz, focused on the fundamentals of crafting local ordinances and integrating Gender and Development (GAD) principles into governance. By emphasizing inclusivity and strategic foresight, the workshop equipped participants with the competencies needed to develop equitable policies. This activity reaffirms BSU's commitment to empowering the next generation of leaders to create a more responsive and gender-sensitive community across Benguet.//

Lenie M. Colcol, R.H.Picpican, Jonalyn Escro,
 Samantha Guinabang, R.G.Donguiz

BSU Rondalla joins HEI Performing groups in welcoming EU-ASEAN delegates

The BSU Rondalla joined other HEI performing groups in welcoming the delegates of the EU-ASEAN Peer-Learning Workshop during the Welcome Dinner at The Peninsula Manila Hotel, Makati City on February 12, 2026.

The event was co-hosted by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) with the EU-ASEAN Sustainable Connectivity Package – Higher Education and the Philippine Qualifications Framework Secretariat.

The BSU Rondalla, led by adviser Alma Vida G. Gallardo, performed a selection of folk and modern songs. CHED Chairperson Shirley C. Agrupis and CHED Cordillera Administrative Region OIC-Director Serafin L. Ngohayon expressed their gratitude to the performers.

SLS student wins 1st Place in Adivayan ni Iskoyda Quiz Bee

Shiloh Von Jolie Decoyna of the BSU Secondary Laboratory School (BSU-SLS) secured first place in the La Trinidad District Population Development Quiz during the "Adivayan ni Iskoyda Part 1" on February 11, 2026.

Decoyna outperformed representatives from 12 competing public and private secondary schools across La Trinidad. This win earns Decoyna the opportunity to represent La Trinidad in the upcoming Division Level competition. Decoyna is coached by Merisa Palsaan.

Mountain Collegian staff hailed overall First Runner-up in individual and group events at 24th Regional Higher Education Press Conference

The Mountain Collegian (MC) secured First Runner-up in both overall individual and group categories in the 24th Regional Higher Education Press Conference (RHEPC) held at the Baguio Central University-Magsaysay on February 11–13, 2026.

Under the guidance of advisers Karen O. Laking and Chatelaine M. Wansi, MC was named Overall Best Newsletter and Overall Best Tabloid while their literary folio, Kalaleng XVIII was adjudged Third Best in Literary Content. The MC staff also won awards in various individual events Moreover, three MCians held top rankings in the first-ever search for outstanding tertiary campus journalists in RHEPC. Individual awardees who placed fifth to first are bound to Tuguegarao City, Cagayan, to compete in the Luzon-wide Higher Education Press Conference (LHEPC) 2026.

Board of Regents approves ₱3.79-B 2027 Budget Proposal

The 219th Special BOR Meeting highlighted BSU's strong governance, fiscal stewardship, inclusive education agenda, and sustained collaboration with government and community partners as it continues to position itself as a state university responsive to regional and national development goals.

The 219th Special Meeting of the Board of Regents (BOR) of BSU was held on February 19, 2026 at the Conference Room of Chairperson Myrna Q. Mallari, Commissioner of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), at the HEDC Building, C.P. Garcia Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City.

The meeting is highlighted by the approval of the 2026 Annual Procurement Plan (APP) for Continuing Appropriations amounting to ₱5,404,774.06, as well as the 2026 APP for New Special Projects (Cluster 7) totaling ₱44,978,793.13. The University President was authorized to implement the approved plans in accordance with existing procurement laws and regulations.

In preparation for the next fiscal cycle, the Board also approved the FY 2027 Budget Proposal amounting to ₱3,796,157,000.00. The University President was authorized to

submit the proposal to the Department of Budget and Management, CHED, and other concerned agencies.

The Board also granted authority to purchase two motorcycles, one for the Institute of Highland Farming Systems and Agroforestry and another for the University Business Affairs, and one van for the College of Teacher Education, to be funded from Internally Generated Funds and subject to applicable government regulations.

Chairperson Mallari presided over the meeting with Vice Chair Kenneth Alip Laruan. and members of the Board present onsite and online, including representatives from DA-CAR, the Senate and House Committees on Higher and Technical Education, as well as faculty, student, and private sector regents. Also in attendance online was the OIC-Regional Director of CHED-CAR. 

Students...from page 7

Inter-Campus Socio-Cultural Competition Unite students in Celebration of Heritage and Artistry

On February 24, 2026, the BSU Buguias campus became a hub of cultural harmony as it hosted the second Inter-Campus Socio-Cultural Competition. Guided by the theme "Aning Sining: Katotohanan at Giting," students from the Bokod, Buguias, and La Trinidad

campuses gathered to celebrate their shared heritage through music, dance, and theater. The event opened with traditional prayers and a community dance that unified all participants. Dean Elizabeth M. Bay-an emphasized that the gathering served as a stage for understanding and respect, highlighting the vibrant culture thriving across all campuses.



The Inter-Campus Socio-Cultural Competition at BSU Buguias

*Other BOR actions on their
219th Special BOR Meeting*

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

Approved Mechanism for Handling Students with Special Needs and Indigenous Peoples

GOVERNANCE

Approved conduct of evaluation of the incumbent Private Sector Representatives
Delegated authority to the University President to discipline employees for light and less grave offenses and to conduct investigations of grave administrative cases in accordance with the 2025 Revised Rules on Administrative Cases in the Civil Service

PARTNERSHIPS

Confirmed MOAs and partnerships supporting student internships, research, extension, and administrative collaboration

Confirmed collaborations with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority and the Department of Trade and Industry for the "Aduyanan: Sustainable Livelihood for Economic Stability" initiative

Confirmed a research partnership with the DOST – Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development

Confirmed extension engagements with local community and rehabilitation partners

Confirmed administrative agreements with the Government Service Insurance System and the office of the Solicitor General

Forestry students secure 2nd runner up in National Forestry Olympiad

Team BSU finished as 2nd runner-up in the 15th National Forestry Olympiad held on February 21-27, 2026 at UPLB. The students won in two out of the eight events including Seed Identification and Geographic Information System (GIS).