



BSU hosts ASCU-SN Midyear Festival 2025

Benguet State University (BSU) hosted the Association of State Colleges and Universities – Solid North (ASCU-SN) Midyear Sports and Cultural Athletic Festival 2025 on July 14-18, 2025. Over 3,640 delegates from 24 universities and colleges across Northern Luzon gathered for the event.

With the theme “*SIGED*: Celebrating Athleticism, Culture, and Unity,” the festival served as a platform to showcase talent and cultural heritage, deepen partnerships, promote well-being, and strengthen solidarity among member institutions.

The opening ceremony, held on July 15, 2025 at the BSU Gymnasium, featured a warm welcome from BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan, who expressed gratitude to the organizing committees.

This was followed by a message from La Trinidad Mayor Hon. Roderick C. Awingan who emphasized the festival's role in helping participants to reconnect and find motivation.

CHED Commissioner Desiderio R. Apag III also delivered an inspiring message.

“This gathering is more than a celebration of physical strength, artistic expression, and competitive spirit. It is a reaffirmation of our shared commitment to holistic development, collaboration, and regional unity,” he said. He reminded the participants of their crucial role in empowering, not just educating, students.

In a video message, Guest of Honor and CHED Chairperson Shirley C. Agrupis highlighted that the event was more than a competition—it was a celebration of collaboration and regional unity. She encouraged participants to “compete with integrity, perform with heart, and build lasting connections.”

This was followed by the unfurling of institutional banners, the lighting

BSU hosts...continued on page 7

INSIDE THIS ISSUE...



Page 4 BSU collaborates with DepEd-CAR and two schools in La Trinidad



Page 6 CHED Evaluators assess College of Agriculture advanced studies programs



Page 8 BSU-GAD hosts Workshop on GAD Integration

New Childminding Center launched at BSU

The Benguet State University (BSU), through the Gender and Development (GAD) Office, launched a new childminding center with a ribbon-cutting ceremony held at the BSU International House on July 10, 2025.

GAD Director Jude L. Tayaben, joined by VP for Business Affairs Josel M. Florentin and BSU Non-Teaching Association representative Julie Ann R. Dugat-Tabdi, led the ribbon-cutting. The center was later blessed by

Chief Administrative Officer Matias C. Angiwan Jr.

In his message, Florentin emphasized the significance of establishing such a facility within the university.

New Childminding...continued on page 3



BSU supports the Sustainable Development Goals



Times Higher Education
Impact Rankings 2024



The WORLD
UNIVERSITY
RANKINGS
for INNOVATION



Management
System
ISO 9001:2015
www.tuv.com
12 000022015



AACUP
ACCREDITED
BENGUET STATE UNIVERSITY IN THE PHILIPPINES, INC.

EDITORIAL BOARD**EDITOR**

Jennyline S. Tabangcura

WRITERS

Elsie M. Bawayan

Johna Belardo

Prince Jheruel Gadang

Nick W. Sibaen

Jennyline S. Tabangcura

Brixan Gyle A. Tayaban

DESIGN

Elsie M. Bawayan

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Elsie M. Bawayan

Jhordan T. Cuilan

Prince Jheruel D. Gadang

Danica Jan Paydowan

Nick W. Sibaen

Jennyline S. Tabangcura

CONTRIBUTOR

International Relations Office

CIRCULATION

UPAO Staff

Records Office and Archives

CONSULTANTS

Kenneth A. Laruan

Janet P. Pablo

Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres

Richard H. Kinnud

Josel M. Florentin

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
of articles and photos, visit

www.bsu.edu.ph

and

fb.com/BenguetStateUniversityOfficial

**Shamag may shorten
content and omit photos due to space
limitations.**

Benguet State University**VISION**

A premier university in transformative education, innovative research, inclusive extension services, 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:**

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

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

1. Enhance instruction through a supportive and innovative environment
2. Continuously improve tertiary and advanced education standards

GOAL 3: (Research) Develop pioneering science and gender and culture-sensitive solutions to reduce regional vulnerabilities and boost socio-economic conditions**Objectives:**

1. Strengthen policies, culture, linkages and support for research and development
2. Advance scholarly capabilities of faculty and staff through research-driven initiatives and activities
3. Conduct socially-responsive and impactful research

GOAL 4: (Extension) Develop proactive extension programs for disadvantaged communities and vulnerable sectors**Objectives:**

1. Enhance extension system environment for effective community development
2. Build capacity among extension service providers
3. Implement culturally-relevant and gender-sensitive engagement programs
4. Expand reach and inclusivity of extension initiatives
5. 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:**

1. Develop human resource capabilities
2. Cultivate a culture of good governance and resource stewardship
3. Develop smart and green campus solutions
4. Establish sound financial policies and systems

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

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

GOAL 7: Strengthen and expand strategic partnerships**Objectives:**

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

BOR Res. No. 183 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

College of Natural Sciences' programs undergo AACCUP evaluation

The Benguet State University - College of Natural Sciences (CNS) submitted two undergraduate programs for evaluation by the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACCUP) during the online Preliminary Survey Visit on July 7-11, 2025.



BSU officials, staff, and faculty members from the College of Natural Sciences pose for a photo during the AACCUP online Preliminary Survey Visit on July 7-11, 2025//PGadang

The event aims to evaluate the CNS programs: Bachelor of Science in Biology and the Bachelor of Science in Chemistry, for their readiness for Level 1 accreditation. AACCUP accreditors were Jevannel G. Borlio from Davao del Norte State College and Leonar Jun R. Gabiana from Central Mindanao University.

During the opening meeting on July 7, 2025, VP for Academic Affairs Janet P. Pablo welcomed the accreditors and participants. In her message, she acknowledged the importance of accreditation in maintaining quality education.

"We acknowledge that accreditation is not just a requirement, it is a vital process that allows us to reflect, evaluate, and improve (our degree programs)," she said.

She added that BSU looks forward to a potential collaboration with the accreditors.

BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan reiterated that the accreditation's purpose is to maintain and sustain quality standards for the degree programs, adding that the university will gladly accept any recommendations from accreditors to strengthen its programs.

The five-day survey visit focused on checking and validating the program documents in the areas of vision, mission, goals, and objectives; faculty; curriculum and instruction; support to students; research; extension and community involvement; library; physical plant facilities; laboratories; and administration. The survey visit also included interviews.

At the closing meeting on July 11, 2025, the AACCUP accreditors gave their impressions, emphasizing the strengths of the evaluated degree programs.

Afterwards, Laruan delivered commitment and words of gratitude to the accreditors.

"Together, with the Administrative Council, we commit to adopt them (recommendations) to make our programs more adaptable to the communities," he stated.

The event concluded with the closing remarks by CNS Dean Sherlyn C. Tipayno, who expressed gratitude to the accreditors, BSU administration, faculty members, and staff for their contribution to the success of the survey visit.//EBawayan

New Childminding...from page 1

"We gather to celebrate the launching of our new childminding center, the facility that honors our Filipino heritage of nurturing children and our

modern responsibility to support employees," he stated.

The center is designed to support student and employee parents by providing

a safe and nurturing environment for their children, allowing them to focus on their academic and professional responsibilities.//PGadang



VP for Business Affairs Josel M. Florentin, GAD Director Jude Tayaben, and BSUNTA Representative Julie Ann Tabdi led the ribbon cutting during the launching of the new Childminding Center, witnessed by the BSU employees on July 10, 2025// PGadang

MOA CORNER

Tarlac Agricultural University inks MOU with BSU

Benguet State University (BSU) and Tarlac Agricultural University (TAU) formalized their partnership with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on July 16, 2025, at the BSU-Office of the President.

The agreement, signed by BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan and TAU President Silverio Ramon DC. Salunson, establishes a partnership focused on academics, research, and other collaborative initiatives. This collaboration aims to foster and develop a mutually beneficial relationship between the two institutions.

The collaboration will focus on faculty and student exchange; immersion and internships; curriculum mapping and development; capacity-building; research and publications; benchmarking and sharing of best practices; cooperative projects on internationalization, sustainable development goals, educational tourism, language, culture, and arts; and other initiatives.

The MOU signing was witnessed by BSU's VP for Academic Affairs Janet P. Pablo and personnel from TAU. //EBawayan



BSU collaborates with DepEd-CAR and two schools in La Trinidad

Benguet State University (BSU) formalized partnerships with the DepEd-Cordillera Administrative Region, Balili Elementary School, and the Epiphany Christian Academy of La Trinidad Incorporated (ECALTI) through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signing ceremony on July 21, 2025 at the BSU RDC Hall.

BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan, DepEd-CAR Regional Director Estela L. Cariño, Balili Elementary School Principal Emerson B. Hadsan, and ECALTI BOT Vice-Chairperson Julia A. Solimen led the MOA signing, emphasizing in their messages the significant role of these partnerships in enhancing education.

"As networks, we should help each other in the enhancement of education... in the sharing of our resources for the improvement of our education," Solimen stated.

"Partnership is crucial to success. It fosters innovation, improvement, and offers support," Laruan added.

BSU with the DepEd CAR signed three different MOAs to renew their collaborations on the Student Internship Program in the Philippines (SIPP), Extension, and the project "Salaknib Tan Namnama."

The BSU's College of Teacher Education (CTE) will join the collaborative efforts on the SIPP and the extension collaborations. The College of Numeracy and Applied Sciences and

other colleges will also participate in the extension partnerships.

The project "Salaknib Tan Namnama" is a DepEd-CAR-initiated project that aims to uplift and restore the self-worth of learners in CAR who have experienced challenging circumstances. This Ibaloi phrase "Salaknib Tan Namnama" connotes "Saving or Protecting and Giving Hope."

On the other hand, BSU and Balili Elementary School signed a MOA to support the extension project, "CATCH: Coaching, BSU collaborates...continued on page 8



BSU joins other Higher Ed Institutions in Consortium for Peace, Justice, and Security

Benguet State University (BSU) officially joined other Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) by signing a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to establish the Consortium for Peace, Justice and Security (CPJS).

The CPJS is a collaborative platform designed to advance high-impact

and innovative research and strategies focused on understanding, preventing, and addressing various aspects of the criminal justice.

The signing ceremony, held on July 17, 2025 at the BSU-Office of the President, began with an overview of the Rights2Life Project presented by Darlyn D. Tagarino, a

faculty member of Business Administration at the University of the Cordilleras (UC). The project is a collaborative initiative between UC and Ghent University and is funded by VLIR-OUS, focused on promoting a responsive criminal justice system in the Philippines. Tagarino, who serves as the Focal person of the project's Domain 5, "A System transformation multi-stakeholder partnership," presented initiatives that led to the creation of the CPJS.

Following the presentation, BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan signed the MOA, witnessed by UC VP for Academics and Research Ariel N. Pumecha.

The MOA outlines the consortium's objectives, organizational structure, and other collaborative agreements of the member institutions. It also highlights benefits for members, such as participation in consortium-led activities.

Laruan emphasized the important role of this collaboration in promoting peace and security within the region.

"Peace and security are important – a prerequisite for successful community development. Without a stable and safe environment, economic progress will be hampered," he stated, expressing his hope that the consortium will further strengthen partnerships among all HEIs.

Pumecha also expressed gratitude to BSU for accepting the collaboration.

This initiative is expected to significantly contribute to the attainment of Sustainable Development Goal #16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions and is aligned with the Philippine Development Plan 2023-2028.//EBawayan



MOU signed between BSU and two Indonesian Institutions

Benguet State University (BSU) further expanded its global reach through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing ceremony with two Indonesian institutions, Universitas Muhammadiyah Jember and Universitas Negeri Surabaya on July 29, 2025. The partnerships aim to foster academic excellence, innovation, and global collaboration through joint initiatives in research, student and faculty development, and knowledge exchange.

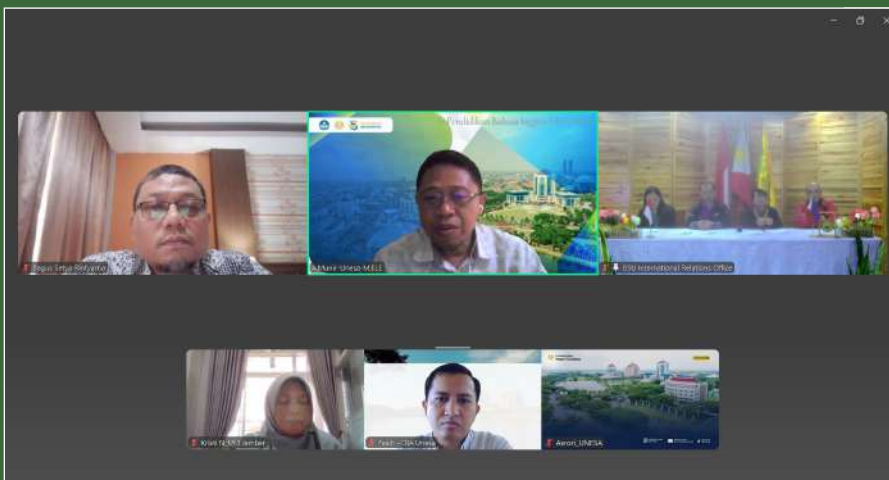
The program opened with welcome messages from Rex John G.

Bawang, Director of the BSU International Relations Office; Kristi Nuraini, M.Pd, Chairperson of the International Affairs and Partnership Office; and Asrori, S.S., M.Pd, Head of the International Office of Universitas Negeri Surabaya.

Key messages of support and commitment were delivered by Kenneth A. Laruan, President of Benguet State University; Dr. Hanafi, M.Pd, Rector of Universitas Muhammadiyah Jember; and Prof. Dr. Nurhasan, M.Kes, President of Universitas Negeri Surabaya.

Chester B. Esnara, Campus Administrator of the BSU Bokod and initiator of the partnership, facilitated the implementation of initial collaborative activities. These included virtual lectures, academic conferences, book reviews, and research publications in the fields of education, humanities, sciences, and agriculture.

The MOU documents were formally signed by the three university leaders and witnessed by representatives from each institution. The ceremony concluded with closing remarks from Janet P. Pablo, BSU Vice President for Academic Affairs.//IRO



CHED Evaluators assess College of Agriculture advanced studies programs

Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Technical Evaluators conducted a Certificate of Program Compliance (COPC) evaluation visit to 11 advanced studies programs of the College of Agriculture on July 22, 2025. The evaluation aimed to assess the programs' adherence to the CHED quality standards.

The programs evaluated included three Doctoral degrees: Doctor of Philosophy in Agronomy, Doctor of Philosophy in Horticulture, and Doctor of Philosophy in Rural Development. Additionally, eight Master's programs were assessed: Master of Science in Agribusiness Management, Master of Science in Agronomy, Master of Science in Animal Science, Master of Science in Entomology, Master of Science in Horticulture, Master of Science in Plant Pathology, Master of Science in Soil Science, and Master of Science in Agroecology.

In a message, BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan thanked the evaluators and CHED for organizing the visit. He highlighted the importance of obtaining the COPC as part of quality assurance to ensure that the University delivers quality education.



BSU officials and faculty members from the College of Agriculture gathered at the RDC Hall on July 22, 2025 for the CHED COPC evaluation of the CA's graduate programs/DPaydowan

Following Laruan's message, Office for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Staff Member Evelyn D. Rosario introduced the BSU officials. CA Dean Constantino T. Sudaypan Sr. introduced the local task force, while CHED-Office of Programs and Standards Development representative May de Mesa-Zapanta introduced the

CHED Technical Evaluators: Aimee Lynn B. Dupo and Adolfo C. Manuel Jr. CHED Regional Director Septon A. De La Cruz was represented by Abraham P. Os-osa during the evaluation.

Dupo then explained the mechanics of the visit, stating that each program
CHED Evaluators...continued on page 7

CNAS opens Academic Year with Faculty In-Service Training

The College of Numeracy and Applied Sciences (CNAS) kicks off the academic year with an in-service training for faculty members on July 29, 2025, at the Strawberry Hall. The event, titled "CNAS REWIRED V 25.1," led by CNAS Dean Ederson G. Bawang, featured sessions focused on institutional updates, research output and practices, and statistical methodologies.

The training began with a presentation by Gigy G. Banes, a member of the university's Gender and Development technical working group, who discussed the integration of the new vision, mission, goals, and objectives of the university, the sustainable development goals, and gender perspectives in the preparation of course syllabi. This was followed by an update from the university registrar, Julie A. Buasen, on the latest guidelines for preparing the Division/Department Performance Commitment and Review (DPCR) and the Individual Performance Commitment and Review (IPCR).

Research-related discussions were also a key part of the activity. Bretel B. Dolipas of the Physics Department presented findings from her study comparing the carbon footprints of CNAS faculty members. Meanwhile, Jovalson T. Abiasen, the newly appointed Advanced Studies Coordinator, shared insights on identifying suitable journals for research publication.

In the afternoon session, faculty members from the Statistics



The College of Numeracy and Applied Sciences faculty members during the In-Service Training on July 29, 2025 at the Strawberry Hall/NSibaen

Department shared statistical concepts and procedures they learned from recent trainings. Maria Azucena B. Lubrica discussed gender statistics in relation to the monitoring of sustainable development goals. Marycel T. Sajise, who participated in a teaching mobility program at Vytautas Magnus University in Lithuania, shared her international experience with the group. Additionally, Precious M. Valentin

and Freda Kate D. Samuel conducted demonstrations on statistical techniques—moderation and mediation analysis using JAMOV and non-linear regression analysis using Gretl, respectively.

The activity aimed to equip CNAS faculty with updated academic tools and practices in preparation for the new academic year.//NW.Sibaen

BSU aims COPC for all degree programs by Sept. 2025

Benguet State University (BSU) is pushing for 100 percent of its degree programs to obtain Certificates of Program Compliance (COPC) from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED).

This complies with the revised Joint CHED-PRC Circular No. 1 s. 2025, which requires all State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and Local Universities and Colleges (LUCs) to secure a COPC or other CHED-recognized quality assurance certification before offering board programs. Under this joint circular, SUCs and LUCs are given until September 9, 2025, to secure COPCs for their existing programs.

Aside from compliance with the joint circular, BSU's efforts to obtain COPC for all its degree programs are also in compliance with the previous memorandums on COPC released by the CHED, including the CMO No. 14 s. 2019 on Policies and Guidelines in the Issuance of COPC to SUCs and LUCs and the CMO No. 09 s. 2023 on the Revised Policies and Guidelines on the Issuance of COPC to SUCs and LUCs.

COPC is awarded to a program that has met the minimum standards set by CHED.

As of July 2025, 59 out of BSU's 100 undergraduate, master's, and doctoral programs have already obtained COPC certification from CHED. These degrees are offered in BSU's three campuses: La Trinidad, Bokod, and Buguias Campus.

In an interview with Office for Quality Assurance and Accreditation (OQAA) Director Joana I. Alafag, the University's all campuses have already submitted documents of degree programs with the CHED and are waiting for the results.

When asked about the BSU's efforts to comply with the joint CHED-PRC circular, "We are trying our best effort to have a closed communication with the Office of the VP for Academic Affairs, OQAA, and the colleges involved. So, we are having continuous communication, updating, and follow-up with these offices," said Alafag.//EBawayan

BSU hosts...from page 1

of the friendship urn, and the Oath of Sportsmanship. ASCU-SN President Silverio Ramon DC. Salunson then formally declared the games open.

Throughout the festival, delegates competed in various sporting events, including basketball, volleyball, athletics, and badminton, among others. It also showcased diverse cultures through dances, visual arts, photography, and video editing.

The event concluded on July 18, 2025 with a closing program. BSU VP for Academic Affairs Janet P. Pablo encouraged attendees to reflect on the goals of the event and thanked everyone for their participation. Pablo expressed her gratitude to everyone who attended and looks forward to the future activities the association will be conducting.

BSU VP for Business Affairs Josel M. Florentin delivered the closing message, reflecting on the perseverance of the athletes and the impressive talents displayed. He emphasized that beyond the awards, the festival's true success was in the connections made and the friendships strengthened.

"We have strengthened friendships, created memories, and proven once again that the ASCU-SN region produces not just excellent students but exceptional human beings," he stated.//EBawayan&PGadang

CHED Evaluators...from page 6

coordinator would present the highlights of their respective programs. Each presentation should include the faculty profiles and curriculum, indicating the curriculum map, study plan, and program outcomes.

Next, CA Advanced Studies Coordinator Mary Arnel D. Garcia, presented the common areas of the programs. Among the areas were the accreditation levels of each program and the approval from the board.

The presentation of each program followed. The Doctor of Philosophy in Agronomy program was presented by Esther Josephine D. Sagalla, the Doctor of Philosophy in Horticulture by Leila Mary A. Ayban, and the Doctor of Philosophy in Rural Development by Sudaypan.

For the Master of Science in Agribusiness Management, it was presented by Jenifer P. Domolog; Master of Science in Agronomy by Jake L. Galian; Master of Science in Animal Science by Leo S. Laruan; Master of Science in Entomology by Gemma S. Das-ilen; Master of Science in Horticulture by Alma A. Amado; Master of Science in Plant Pathology by Judith G. Lawilao; Master of Science in Soil Science by Arlene G. Wayet; and Master of Science in Agroecology by Lynn J. Talkasen.

After the presentations, Dupo and Manuel shared their findings based on the documents submitted. Areas for improvement were identified and discussed, emphasizing the commitment to enhancing the quality education.

In conclusion, Laruan expressed his commitment to ensuring that all departments comply with the recommendations and necessary submissions to uphold the university's educational standards.//BTayaban

BSU employees participate in 38th Cordillera Day celebration

Benguet State University proudly participated in the 38th Cordillera Day celebration held on July 15, 2025 in Baguio City. A delegation, primarily composed of faculty members from the Colleges of Arts and Humanities and the Social Sciences, joined the parade in alignment with this year's theme, "Securing the Future of a Unified Cordillera." This occasion underscores the university's commitment to its new vision of cultural and environmental stewardship, as we honor the rich heritage and diverse cultures of the Cordillera Administrative Region.



BSU VP for Administration and Finance Richard H. Kinnud led other officials and faculty members from the College of Social Sciences and College of Arts and Humanities in the 38th Cordillera Day Commemoration Parade and Program on July 15, 2025 in Baguio City//JCuilan

BSU-GAD hosts Workshop on Gender and Development Integration

BSU faculty and staff members gathered for a workshop focused on integrating Gender and Development (GAD) best practices into curriculum, instruction, and student services on July 18, 2025. The activity titled "Sharing of Best Practices of Integrating Gender and Development in Curriculum and Instruction Including Student Services," was organized to enhance understanding and implementation of GAD principles within academic institutions. The activity aimed to promote a more inclusive and gender-responsive educational environment by equipping attendees with practical strategies for GAD integration.

Imelda G. Parcasio, Special Assistant to the Office of the VP for Academic Affairs welcomed the participants. She described the activity as a significant step in equipping the faculty and academic units with the knowledge, strategies, and perspectives necessary to mainstream gender awareness into their respective disciplines- be it in the sciences, humanities, education, technology, or professional programs. She added that academic excellence must go hand with social relevance and responsiveness, and GAD is at the core of that mission.

Afterwards, Jude L. Tayaben, Director of the BSU-GAD Office introduced the resource persons and the rationale behind the activity. The morning session was highlighted with the "Sharing of SLU Best Practices of Integrating GAD in Student Services" by Triceayn Marie D. Prestousa, Office of Student Affairs Director at Saint Louis University, Baguio City and a lecture on GAD integration in instruction by Parcasio who stands as GFPS TWG member and a Resource Pool Member of the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW).

Prestousa highlighted SLU's best practices in promoting gender sensitivity and inclusivity, including initiatives by the GAD Committee, use of sex-disaggregated data, educational posters across buildings,



The resource speakers and the participants during the Workshop on Gender and Development Integration held on July 18, 2025//JSTabangcura

gender-inclusive restrooms, and an inclusive dress code. On the other hand, Parcasio emphasized on her lecture that the strategies to engender the curriculum may include gender audit of existing content, training of faculty members on gender sensitivity, and the integration of gender analysis in discussions and activities.

In the afternoon session, Tayaben introduced Ferdinand P. Gonzales, also an esteemed member of the PCW Resource

Pool. Gonzales shared best practices in mainstreaming GAD lens in instruction. He discussed that going back to the basics of Gender Sensitivity Training- by building a solid foundation in GAD and developing a deeper understanding of its concepts- can help achieve a strong GAD lens. All the sessions were followed by an open forum.

The workshop concluded with the awarding of certificates to the resource persons and closing remarks by Tayaben.//

BSU collaborates...from page 4

Assisting and Teaching Children and Household Members." Led by the BSU-CTE's Department of Elementary Education, this project aims to enhance the reading performance of pupils at the Balili Elementary School.

The specific activities planned under the CATCH project include reading assessments to identify areas for improvement; sharing of resources; conducting reading tutorials; providing expert services to train parents in supporting their children's reading development; and organizing seminars and forums on effective parenting strategies.

Likewise, BSU, through the CTE, formalized a partnership with ECALT that focuses on extension collaboration. Key areas of collaboration include professional services exchange, capacity building initiatives, shared use of facilities, and exchange of best practices in instruction, research, and extension.

In his closing remarks, BSU VP for Research and Extension Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres expressed gratitude for the new partnerships, emphasizing the importance of not only implementing extension activities but also ensuring that research findings and activities are shared with stakeholders and communities to maximize their impact.//EBawayan

BSU joins 2nd HEI-BPI Training of Trainers in Iloilo City

Benguet State University (BSU), represented by Alexandra Sad-ang, actively participated in the second run of the Higher Education Institution Brigada Pagbasa Initiative Training of Trainers (HEI-BPI ToT) held on July 7-9, 2025, in Iloilo City. The training was organized by the Philippine National Volunteer Service Coordinating Agency (PNVSCA) in partnership with Central Philippine University (CPU) and World Vision Philippines.

The event brought together faculty members, extension program and NSTP implementers, and volunteer coordinators from PNVSCA partner HEIs in Regions VI, IX, XII, XIII, and BARMM, alongside representatives from DepEd Region VI and local government and school board officials.

The training aimed to equip participants with the knowledge and tools to implement Brigada Pagbasa and/or the Bawat Bata Makababasa Project (BBMP) as institutional volunteering initiatives, provide a platform for HEIs to engage in structured literacy volunteerism, facilitate knowledge-sharing on volunteer-led reading programs, and strengthen the institutionalization of BP and BBMP in HEIs' extension and volunteer service programs.

This training is part of PNVSCA's broader response to the EDCOM II Year One Report, which highlights the urgent need for collaborative action to address challenges in the Philippine education system. In line with this, PNVSCA has forged partnerships with nearly 80 colleges and universities nationwide to promote volunteerism as a tool for education reform.

To support this movement, PNVSCA, through its Multi-Sectoral Advisory Body (MSAB), issued Resolution No. 01-2024, which approved the promotion of Brigada Pagbasa as a national volunteer platform for reading tutorials. This initiative seeks to bring together advocates and supporters of education to help improve Filipino children's reading abilities through collective and community-based efforts.

BSU also hosted the first HEI-BPI ToT on March 17-19, 2024. That training focused on building the capacity of HEI volunteers to implement effective reading interventions and promote a culture of literacy in their communities. The outcomes and highlights of the initial training were presented during the MSAB First Quarter Meeting on April 29, 2025. During the same meeting, the Department of Education's BBMP was endorsed as a priority program for nationwide volunteer engagement in literacy, emphasizing the need for coordinated efforts across all sectors to maximize impact.//JBelardo