



# Shamag

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## 2,344 graduands conferred at BSU's Centennial Commencement Exercises

Benguet State University (BSU) held its 100th Commencement Exercises at the BSU Gymnasium, with the theme "Celebrating Excellence, Advancing Eco-Cultural Responsibility, and Serving with Commitment."

The two-day graduation ceremony honors the academic accomplishments of doctoral, master's, and undergraduate students across various disciplines. The event is organized into four clusters, two held on June 26, 2025 and two more on June 27, 2025.

The first cluster, held from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. on June 26, conferred graduands from the College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM), College of Agriculture (CA), College of Human Kinetics (CHK), and College of Numeracy and Applied Sciences (CNAS). The second cluster held from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., conferred graduands from the College of Arts and Humanities (CAH), College of Forestry (CF), College of Information Sciences (CIS), and College of Nursing (CN).

The third cluster, held on June 27 from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m., conferred graduands from the College of Natural

Sciences (CNS), College of Social Sciences (CSS), College of Teacher Education (CTE), and the Open University (OU). The fourth cluster from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. conferred graduands from the College of Engineering (CE), College of Home Economics and Technology (CHET), and the College of Public Administration and Governance (CPAG).

Each program began with a procession led by the BSU Marching Band and the entrance of colors by the ROTC Cadets.

After being conferred, the graduates received their diplomas from BSU officials led by President Kenneth A. Laruan. Members of the BSU Board of Regents also attended the ceremonies.

The valedictory address for Cluster 1 was delivered by Jackie-Lou L. Cariño, a Bachelor of Science in Statistics graduate. "Whatever path we take, may we

*2,344 graduands...continued on page 4*

## BSU retains place at Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2025

Benguet State University (BSU) has once again demonstrated its commitment to global sustainability by retaining its position in the recently announced Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2025. Globally, BSU falls within the 801-1000 band, placing it 4th among all Philippine Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) included in the 2025 rankings and 2nd among HEIs in the Cordillera Administrative Region.

BSU was ranked across 12 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), showcasing its broad impact:

- SDG1: No Poverty (301-400)
- SDG2: Zero Hunger (401-600)
- SDG3: Good Health and Wellbeing (401-600)
- SDG4: Quality Education (1001-1500)
- SDG5: Gender Equality (401-600)
- SDG8: Decent Work and Economic Growth (1001+)
- SDG10: Reduced Inequalities (401-600)
- SDG11: Sustainable Cities and Communities (401-600)
- SDG13: Climate Action (401-600)
- SDG15: Life on Land (401-600)
- SDG16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions (601-800)
- SDG17: Partnership for the Goals (601-800)

BSU's journey in the THE World Impact rankings began in 2023, where it was ranked in four SDGs among 1,591 HEIs. In 2024, BSU was ranked in 10 SDGs among 1,963 HEIs. This year, BSU was ranked among 2,318 HEIs, marking continued progress.//

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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](mailto: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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## 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 advanced studies 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



## BSU welcomes AGRI-TECT team; Promoting international opportunities



AGRI-TECT Team from Taiwan and De La Salle University pose for a photo with the BSU officials and the BSU Kontad during the CULtural Welcome held on June 25, 2025 at the IRO Function Hall//EBawayan

Benguet State University (BSU) welcomed the AGRI-TECT Team with a cultural welcome dinner held at the IRO Function Hall on June 25, 2025. The event served not only as a moment of fellowship but also as a vibrant showcase of the rich cultural heritage from Northern Luzon.

Twelve visitors composed the delegation from Taiwan – Asia University (AU), National Central University (NCU), Yuan Ze University (YZU) from Taiwan, and De La Salle University (DLSU) from the Philippines.

In his welcome remarks, IRO Director Rex John Bawang expressed his gratitude to the visiting delegation. Stating that projects brought in by this partnership help in the innovation of agricultural practices especially on semi-temperate crops. He also introduced the Cordilleran culture and contextualized the overview of the performances.

KONTAD Cultural Dance Troupe captivated guests with traditional dances representing the diverse heritage of the province of Abra and Ifugao.

On behalf of BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan, VP for Research and Extension Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of sustained collaboration and encouraging strong partnership between the institutions involved in the AGRI-TECT Project.

AGRI-TECT Taiwan Team Leader Professor Chih-Yang Lin from NCU, expressed his admiration for the Cordilleran climate and their interest in conducting researches with BSU and DLSU. He ended his speech with presenting tokens to the other project partner institutions.

Project Partners Professor Chi Wen Lung from AU and Professor Isack Farady from the YZU also gave their messages of

thanks for the warm welcome organized for them.

DLSU Project proponent Ronnie S. Concepcion II, shared his ongoing collaborative efforts with BSU on several project on agricultural innovation including the E- Asia Project involving partners from Philippines, Japan, and Thailand. He is committed to continuing the partnership between BSU and DLSU for future collaborations.

The Department of Science and Technology – CAR Assistant to the Regional Director for Technical Services Pepita S. Picpican, expressed her appreciation for involving the regional office in international projects like AGRI-TECT.

Concluding the event, BSU Project Proponent Jesson Del-amen expressed his gratitude for the continued partnership and support received from DOST regional office and the BSU community.

To represent unity, the institutions concluded the welcome program exchanging institutional tokens as a symbol of camaraderie and collaboration.

### Partners Promote Respective Universities

Additional to the event, representatives from the partner institution promoted international opportunities and research programs. Continuing the networking part of the event, representatives from the foreign universities took the opportunity to introduce their institutions.

Starting the discussion, Professor Chih-Yang Lin introduced the Department

of Mechanical Engineering of the NCU. He also discussed the role of their department in the AGRI-TECT project giving support to the Artificial Intelligence (AI) development of the project.

AGRI-TECT project staff and MECO-TECO scholar Andy Desman delivered a presentation on the AGRI-TECT project and its components. Discussing how AI determines plant growth and electromagnetic signals. And the ways forward of the AGRI-TECT project.

YZU Professor and AGRI-TECT proponent Isack Farady introduced the YZU and the College of Electrical and Communications Engineering.

Lastly, AU Professor Chi Wen Lung presented on his researches in Product Design and the Taiwan Experience Education Program (TEEP) that his university offers through their Office of International Affairs. Encouraging the students to apply in this cultural immersion in Taiwan.

The Agricultural Thermoelectric Plant Patch Integration for Pathogenic Disease Resiliency and Computational Intelligence – Embedded Decision Support System through Internet of Living Things (AGRI-TECT) project aims to create a smart farming system that can monitor plant health in real-time, predict disease outbreaks, and provide automated data-driven recommendations for disease management.//SGVictorino & LMWan-aten, BSDC IRO Interns



# College of Veterinary Medicine holds first hooding ceremony



Imposition of hood on one of the graduands by the University President Kenneth A. Laruan and CVM Dean Dr. Maureen Theresa P. De Vera//PGadang

Benguet State University – College of Veterinary Medicine (BSU - CVM) held its first hooding ceremony for the graduands of batch 2025 - *Veritas Lux Mea* (The truth is my light). This significant milestone in the college's history was held on June 25, 2025 at the Hotel Supreme, Baguio City.

The program started with an opening remarks by Dr. Charles N. Gaerlan of CVM. After Gaerlan's remarks, Jeo Crisjan Serjie M. Galino, one of the graduands, delivered a message reminiscing their batch's journey as students of veterinary medicine.

"Imagine, from young guys and gals laughing loudly in all corners of the college, to now ladies and gentlemen – wearing togas and ready to be hooded. We then loudly say, we lived. We lived batch *Veritas Lux Mea*" he proclaimed.

Dr. Loretta C. Romero, faculty member of the Department of Basic Sciences shared the ceremony's significance and history. Romero explained that the ceremony is a time honoring tradition and it is a powerful symbol that marks the transitioning of the students to doctors. She also applauded the students for finishing what they have started and recognized the people who paved their way to success.

The ceremony was highlighted by the imposition of hoods on the graduands by the University President Kenneth A. Laruan, VP for Academic Affairs Janet P. Pablo, and CVM Dean Dr. Maureen Theresa P. De Vera.

In his message, Laruan emphasized the transitioning of the graduands from students to professionals. He added that they make use of the learning and experiences as tools in decision making. He also shared the acronym ARISE:

Adaptability, Resilient, Inspire, Sustain, and Elevate that he related to their student and professional journey.

Adaptability is how they would adapt to future endeavors just like how they've adapted during their academic years; Resilience is how they continued with their degree program despite the hardships; their Inspiration was the encouragement they received from their families, faculty, and alumni; the support given to them Sustained and encouraged them; and Elevate is their commitment to consistently give their best performance in what they do.

To further inspire the graduands, Department of Paraclinical Sciences Chairperson Dr. Stephen S. Ballog introduced the guest speaker, Dr. Syeda Aisha Dy Hussain, a CVM alumna.

Hussain congratulated the graduands and shared her experiences as a student in the university.

"I hope that you walk in faith because that's what sustains you when your strength runs out. No one is a failure, remember that. You just have different timelines and that's okay. Tiwala lang," she urged.

The ceremony continued with the alumni pledge led by the CVM Alumni Association Public Information Officer Dr. Edlyn Mae N. Ciano, followed by an intermission and the giving of special awards to students.

Gabrielle Ericka C. Anievas, delivered a tribute to the parents and guardians for the support given to them. Evangeline D. Cabello, representing the parents delivered the response emphasizing that graduation is also a testament to the students' strength, character, and dedication.

A tribute to the faculty members was also delivered by Cassandra Jane R. Oyan expressing her gratefulness and admiration to their profession as educators. Oyan added the importance of the life lessons they learned under the supervision of their instructors.

The tribute was responded to by Dr. Samantha P. Aquino a faculty member of the Department of Basic Sciences. Dr. Aquino reminded the graduands that if they ever have the feeling of being incomplete, they should always remember that they came from something that once seemed impossible.

As part of the ceremony, the pinning of the senior clinicians to their junior clinicians followed, symbolizing the passing of responsibility and mentorship.

CVM Dean, Dr. De Vera then delivered the closing remarks and commended the CVM family. De Vera congratulated the graduating batch of 2025 and encouraged them to pursue their board exams. She also reminded them to find their niche in the veterinary world.//DJPaydowan

2,344 graduands...from page 1

always carry the values this university instilled upon us: to serve with commitment, to do our work not just for promotion or pay but for purpose, to serve our families with gratitude, our communities with integrity, and our country with sincerity," said Cariño. The pledge of loyalty was led by Bryan N. Donglasan, a Bachelor of Science in Exercise and Sports Sciences graduate.

In Cluster 2, Jude Bradley M. Raza, a Bachelor of Library and Information Science graduate, gave the valedictory address.

"Graduation is not reserved for the fastest finishers alone; it is for all the finishers like us. Let us make every moment count as we move together, supporting one another and giving our one hundred percent best," Raza said. Ethan Aiden A. Mayyam, a graduate of the same degree, led the pledge of loyalty.

For Cluster 3, Jessie James S. Alawas, a Bachelor of Secondary Education major in English, addressed the graduates.

"Excellence is a process, not merely a result. We are the centennial graduates, this landmark is a testament to our university's enduring legacy," he said. The pledge of loyalty was led by Martes D. Dionisio Jr., a Doctor of Philosophy in Educational Management graduate.

Hanna Lei C. Pacito, a Bachelor of Science in Entrepreneurship graduate, delivered the valedictory address for Cluster 4.

"As we move forward, let us not forget that we have the power and opportunity to help others achieve their dreams. Let us serve in commitment and commit to serve," Pacito said. The pledge of loyalty was led by Rhesaline B. Belino, a Bachelor of Science in Tourism Management graduate.

All graduates were formally inducted into the BSU Alumni Association by Ben David S. Luis, president of the Benguet State University Alumni Association, Inc. (BSUAAI).//ABGayagay-UPAO Intern

## MOA CORNER

## Benguet State University and Taiwan's National Chung Hsing University renews MOU for academic and research initiatives

Benguet State University (BSU) and National Chung Hsing University (NCHU) of Taichung, Taiwan renewed their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) after five years of ties.

The MOU, signed by BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan and NCHU President Fuh-Jyh Jan, covers any academic, cultural, skills training, research agenda, or other pursuits that will contribute to the development of the mutual relationship between the two universities.

Collaboration between the two universities began as early as 2019. The NCHU-College of Agriculture and Natural Resources saw the need for trainings on English as Medium of Instruction for professors and teaching assistants since Taiwan is implementing a bilingual education program. Thus, NCHU invited College of Arts and Humanities Faculty Members Kara S. Panolong, Ronda B. Tullay, and Jhordan T. Cuilan as resource speakers for English as a Medium of Instruction (EMI) seminar-trainings. This progressed into a series of webinars and face-to-face trainings in the following years as the participants expanded from NCHU faculty members to teaching assistants and staff members.

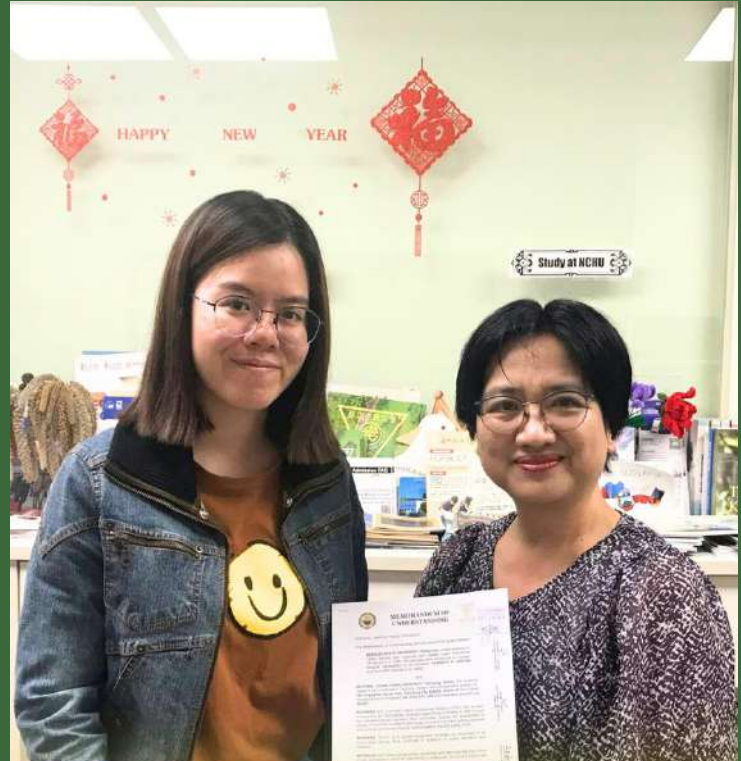
This year, NCHU offered Professional Communication in English, a two-unit credit course, with Panolong and Tullay as visiting professors. The culmination of this course was the Interdisciplinary Symposium on Agriculture, Forestry, Fisheries, and Environment

(ISAFFE), held on June 5, 2025. This symposium served as the practical output for the course with President Laruan as one of the plenary speakers.

BSU is looking to include more participants to this collaboration as NCHU offers expertise on different specializations- Agriculture, Natural Resources, Forestry, Engineering, Chinese Language, and others. International Relations Office Director Rex John G. Bawang expressed his hopes that the partnership will soon involve more faculty members from BSU to experience cultural and academic exchange.

"Generally, all partnerships should boost joint research initiatives, faculty, staff and student mobility, and if possible, establish dual degrees. It can also market the degree programs of BSU to international students," Bawang added.

This was supported by Panolong saying "if BSU will be aggressive in its internationalization programs especially on the development of policies regarding this, there will be more opportunities for BSU in instruction, collaboration with researchers, cultural exchange, and exposure of both faculty and students. In fact, we were hoping to deploy OJT students in the Bachelor of Arts in English Language program but our program has not yet reached Level 2 status so the



College of Arts and Humanities Dean Ronda B. Tullay hands over the signed MOU to National Chung Hsing University//

other degree programs can actually explore this. Several scholarships are also possible for both the undergraduate and Advanced Studies students in the different specializations."

The MOU is set to take effect from the date of its signing and will remain in full force for five years, subject to change, renewal, or termination at any time by mutual consent between the parties.

The collaboration is a testament to both institutions' commitment to global academic exchange and research advancement, promising to open new avenues for academic growth and cross-cultural understanding for their respective communities and also contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals, specifically #SDG17// JStabangcura

## BSU holds 9th University Student Research Congress

Benguet State University (BSU), through the Office of the VP for Research and Extension successfully held the 9th University Student Research Congress themed *Pan-aamta-an: Shaping Global Scientist and Citizens through Excellence in Research*. The activity was held on June 10-11, 2025 at the Research & Extension Building and Northern Philippines Root Crops Research and Training Center.

This year's USRC showcased a total of 122 research papers presented by undergraduate and graduate students under the Science and Technology Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources (S&T AANR), S&T Food, Industry, Energy, and Emerging Technologies (FIEET), Social AANR, Social Non-AANR, and Education categories.

In his welcome remarks, VP for Research and Extension

Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres reminded students of the purpose behind their academic work saying, "Research is an avenue for the students to share scientific and cultural stories."

BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan urged graduating students to apply a scientific mindset in their future careers. He reminded them that they are actually being shaped to become scientists who help improve communities through research.

"Carry with you the experience of presenting your research... and of course what it can do for the community," he added.

The keynote speaker, retired UP Professor/Scientist I, Erlinda Castro-Palaganas reminded BSU students of the values every good researcher must have which includes curiosity, ambition, enthusiasm and passion, resilience and hard work, discipline, confidence, and

humility. Castro-Palaganas who is a key member of the Cordillera Regional Health Research and Development Consortium was introduced as a leader who "not only teaches in the classroom, but also transforms communities."

She encouraged students to stay curious, ask questions like a toddler, have ambition that uplifts others, and pursue their work with passion. Her favorite value, she said, is *BSU holds...continued on page 8*



## UBA holds weaving and tailoring skills training

The University Business Affairs (UBA) Office organized a two-day workshop titled “*Habi at Tahi: Skills Training for Women and Men – Exploring Livelihood Opportunities in the Apparel Industry.*” The training took place on June 23-24, 2025 at the College of Home Economics and Technology (CHET) Weaving Room and the Benguet State University Garments Project.



This training aimed to enhance participants' capabilities in weaving and garment construction, while also exploring entrepreneurial and livelihood opportunities within the apparel and weaving sectors.

Attendees included staff from the Garments Project, faculty members from CHET, and instructors from the College of Teacher Education.

On the first day, Garments Project Manager Jeffree B. Pinos-an formally opened the session with a warm welcome to all participants and resource speakers in the CHET Weaving Room. A hands-on weaving workshop was facilitated by Rosalina Salifad, a specialist from Chayos Woven Products.

The second day shifted focus to garment sewing. Primitivo Vilorio of Prevo Enterprise guided participants through comprehensive tailoring techniques at the BSU Garments Project.

Wrapping up the workshop, Income Generating Projects Director Rashid B. Lokines delivered the closing remarks. He expressed gratitude to all participants and host facilities. //EBawang

## College of Nursing holds 30th Pin and Ring Ceremonies

The College of Nursing (CN) held its 30th Pin and Ring ceremonies to celebrate and honor the 153 members of the CN Class of 2025 on June 20, 2025. With the theme “*Sinag: Illuminating Paths, Embracing Compassion, Becoming Everlasting Nurses of Tomorrow,*” the ceremony marked the transition from students to professionals.



The event commenced with the blessing of the pins and rings officiated by Rev. Sam B. Galino, invoking faith and purpose as these emblems were prepared for the graduates. This was followed by the welcoming remarks by the Chairperson of the Department of Clinical Instruction, Dominador B. Abad Jr., who acknowledged the efforts of faculty members and the support of families.

“To our dedicated faculty members, you have not only taught them knowledge and skills, but also inspired them to lead lives of compassion and integrity,” said Abad. He emphasized that the pin and ring are not merely symbols of completion, but emblems of dedication and service and reminders of the oath that they are about to carry into the world.

BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan, in his inspirational message, reminded students that their education is a foundation,

not a finish line. He urged them to uphold the virtues of a true nurse using the acronym NURSE: Nurture learning, Understand others, build Relationships, Scan their past to guide their future, and pursue Excellence in all they do.

“Doing your best is the basis of your performance, and your performance is always the basis of your promotion,” he added.

After the message of President Laruan, the students received their pins and rings from CN Dean Mark Gay-as, assisted by the Chairperson of the Department of Academic Instruction, Jocelyn W. Angeles and Keverne Jhay P. Colas, adviser of Batch *Sinag*.

Florence C. Cawaon, the Founding Dean of the CN, delivered her keynote address reminding students of the historic roots and present-day demands of their profession.

“Wear the ring and pin with pride. Cherish these articles and take care not to do anything malicious that will smear the honor and prestige that these objects represent,” Cawaon said.

She emphasized the core values that define the profession: commitment to caring, devotion to duty, and service to humanity, reminding graduates that it is their gentle touch, kind words, and sincere smile that truly heal.

The ceremony became even more significant when the students paid tribute to their parents and guardians, and their mentors.

A turnover and acceptance of the Key of Responsibility followed, representing the transition of leadership and legacy from the graduating class to the succeeding batch. Maria Dimple Genon of Batch *Sinag* shared a message to aspiring nursing students.

“Marami talagang uncertainties, tapos maraming hirap. Pero fight lang, kase there is no gain when there is no pain, sabi nga nila. Laban lang (There are so many uncertainties and hardships. But keep fighting, because there's no gain without pain, as they say. Just keep going).”

The adviser of Batch *Sinag*, Keverne Jhay P. Colas, reminded the graduates that as “rays of light” they are now bearers of hope in a world in need of compassion and courage. He emphasized that the nursing pin and ring are not just symbols of academic success but marks of honor, accountability, and lifelong commitment to healing. He urged them to serve bravely, live honorably, and let their light continue to shine in the field of healthcare.

The event ended with the singing of the batch's graduation song titled, “*Sinag*”. The song was composed by Bryant L. Sarol, highlighting themes of growth, gratitude, and perseverance. Sarol is a member of Batch *Sinag*. //ABGayagay-UPAO Intern



# BSU promotes men's health through a seminar



In celebration of the International Men's Health Week, the Benguet State University - Gender and Development (BSU - GAD) office hosted a seminar titled: Information Drive on Men's Health and Cancer Awareness on June 30, 2025.

GAD Director, Jude L. Tayaben delivered the opening remarks highlighting that the seminar is a way to seek awareness and promote a culture of openness. Tayaben also added that the event aimed to reduce health gender anxieties by encouraging men to access health services without fear of stigma or discrimination.

Officer-in-charge of the Office of the President Allan C. Sacpa expressed his gratitude to the GAD office for hosting the event and appreciated the participants for attending. Sacpa encouraged the

participants to seek medical help for early detection of illness for early prevention.

Next, Tayaben introduced the resource speaker Dr. Ruel G. Revilla, Dean of the College of Medicine. Dr. Revilla started his lecture by introducing the common conditions that can affect men's health such as Benign Prostatic Hyperplasia and Prostate Cancer. He discussed their possible causes, symptoms, and effects. Dr. Revilla also shared some treatments and procedures that can be done to detect such conditions.

He then urged the participants to take precautions on the alternative medicine and remedies being advertised. Questions from the participants were also raised and entertained by Dr. Revilla.

The event ended with a closing remark by GAD Technical Working Group member Freda Kate D. Samuel expressing her gratitude to the attendees.

"As we leave this room, may we carry with us not just the information but the commitment to take better care of ourselves," she said.//DPaydowan

## ISRD conducts mentoring for social researchers

The Institute of Social Research and Development (ISRD) conducted a mentoring activity for social researchers on June 17, 2025 at the Everlasting Hall, Research and Extension Building. This was in preparation for the upcoming Agency In-House Review.

In her opening remarks, ISRD Director Anne Heather B. Kiwang thanked the participants for attending the event and oriented them about the two parts of the activity.

Kiwang explained that the brown bag session is another term for workshop. She added that the term "brown bag session" is used because they want the activity to be relaxed and informal.

Additionally, she emphasized that the main purpose of the event is to improve the researchers' manuscripts so that they are credible enough for the Agency In-House Review. She also highlighted the criteria applied in the Agency In-House Review as well as the common questions and comments that panelists usually ask.

VP for Research and Extension Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres commended the ISRD for organizing the activity and urged the institute to continue working in order to create a nurturing environment for research.

The brown bag session followed where authors discussed their work with each other. The Lead Evaluators who facilitated the brown bag session were Beverly C. Sa-ao for Economics, Policy, and Advocacy; Maureen E. Gay-as for Food, Health, and Nutrition;

Matyline C. Talastas for Indigenous Studies; and Marilyn W. Macwes for Language, Literature, Arts, and Communication.

After the brown bag session, the researchers presented their work while the evaluators and co-researchers shared their insights, comments, and suggestions for improvement.

In her closing remarks, Sa-ao thanked the researchers for participating in the brown bag session. She hoped that more researchers would join in the next activity and urged everyone to expedite their research preparations for the upcoming Agency In-House Review.//BTayaban







Retired UP Professor/Scientist I Erlinda Castro-Palaganas (3rd from L), who served as the keynote speaker during the 9th University Research Congress, receives a certificate of recognition from BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan (2nd from L). They were joined by other BSU officials including VP for Research and Extension Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres, ORS Director Ruth S. Batani, OES Director Cheryll C. Launio, and IPRO Director Cynthia D. Garambas (L-R)/JBanisa

#### BSU holds...from page 5

humility "Be like the bamboo. The higher it goes, the deeper it bows."

Afterwards, the mechanics and criteria for evaluation were presented, and the evaluators were introduced. Student researchers presented their papers simultaneously under different categories.

Ivy Jane V. Miguel, co-chair of the USRC documentation team presented a synthesis during the closing program. She stated that evaluators reminded students to "close the loop," meaning research findings should be shared with relevant institutions for input, feedback, or policy-making, emphasizing that "research should not end in journals, it must lead to action."

Likewise, VP for Academic Affairs Janet P. Pablo encouraged students to pursue research with purpose, saying, "True excellence in research is measured not just by the gaps, problems that you answered in your research, or questions of our evaluators that you just have answered, but by the community problems that it solves and the lives that it touches."

One evaluator from each category shared their feedback and appreciation to the presenters commending the students' efforts and dedication. Also, the presenters under each category shared insights gained throughout the event and their research endeavors.

This was followed by the awarding of winning papers from various categories announced by Intellectual Property Right Office (IPRO) Director Cynthia D. Garambas.

Finally, Office of Research Services (ORS) Director Ruth S. Batani ended the event by commending students for their dedication and research excellence. She was also inspired by the high school students.

She emphasized that all participants were already winners by joining the event and thanked faculty advisers, evaluators, and university leaders for their support.

"Let's nourish this, let's flourish as future researchers," she said, encouraging continued growth in research and academic pursuits.

The winning papers are:

#### S&T AANR - Graduate

1st BEST PAPER: Mt. Data National Park: Assessment of Spatiotemporal Land Use and Land Cover (LULC) Change, Tree Species Diversity and Socio-Economics Drivers by

Aldrin V. Baniaga, College of Natural Sciences (CNS)

2nd BEST PAPER: Organophosphate Degradation and Plant Growth-Promoting Activity of Soil Bacteria Isolated from Vegetable Farms in Benguet, Philippines by Jayson D. Komicho, CNS

3rd BEST PAPER: Agronomic Performance and Physiological Responses in Inbred Rice (RC 512) Using Drone Seeding Technology by Randy T. Soriano, College of Agriculture (CA)

#### S&T AANR-Undergraduate

1st BEST PAPER: Bioremediation Potential of Heavy Metal and Pesticide Tolerant Poaceae Endophytes from an Open Pit Mining Area in Luneta, Itogon, Benguet by Natasha C. Cayaban, Desiree F. Padkiw, and Geraldine P. Tica-a, CNS

2nd BEST PAPER: Isolation and Characterization of Rice Rhizosphere Bacteria in Kapangan Benguet with Antagonistic Potential on Brown Spot of Rice (*Cochliobolus miyabeanus*) by Mikaela F. Abelan, CA

3rd BEST PAPER: Blue Carbon Stock Assessment of Mangroves in Barangay Tinib, Casiguran, Aurora through Remote Sensing and Machine Learning Regression Techniques by Mitzi Isabel T. Rodriguez, Shientany San C. Roque, & Vasheka C. Sito, College of Forestry (CF)

#### S&T FIEET-Graduate

BEST PAPER: Iron (Fe)-Treated Activated Carbon (FeTAC) from Coffee Wastes: Characterization and Nitrate Adsorption by Edelyn B. Padsuyan, CNS

#### S&T FIEET-Undergraduate

1st BEST PAPER: Enhancing Safety and Quality of Green Ice Lettuce (*Lactuca sativa*) Through a Cost-Effective Ultrasonication Method by Benly Braine T. Reynante & Abegail F. Modawan, CNS

2nd BEST PAPER: Optimizing Sweet Potato and Water Ratios for Enhanced Fermentation and Quality of Wine by Pamela T. Bosilo, Jean K. Comiles, & Abraham L. Linggon, College of Home Economics and Technology (CHET)

3rd BEST PAPER: Effects of Land Use and Land Cover and Elevation on Land Surface Temperature: A Multi-temporal Analysis in Baguio City, Cagayan De Oro, La Trinidad,

and Quezon City by Brillainne Mae R. Ballasio, Angelica S. Docayag, & Lawrence M. Ulao III, CF

#### Social AANR-Graduate

1st BEST PAPER: Economic Valuation of Forest Fire Damage in Ampucao, Itogon, Benguet by Maricel D. Paquitol, CF

2nd BEST PAPER: Elasticity of Demand for Commercial Rice Among Households in Camiling, Tarlac by Frederick R. Godoy, CA

3rd BEST PAPER: Agriculture and Fishery Technology Adoption Landscape: The Case of Fifth Class Municipalities in Benguet Province by Jeffrey D. Sotero, CA

#### Social AANR-Undergraduate

1st BEST PAPER: Carbon Storage and Perceived Ecosystem Services of an Urban Green Space: The Puguis Communal Forest in La Trinidad, Benguet by Loureenielle T. Alican, Crystal Jae L. Aniban, & Jeduthon M. Serrano, CNS

2nd BEST PAPER: Ecotourism Potential of Lubo Lake in Barangay Lubo, Kibungan, Benguet by Andrew G. Catayao III, Yvonne Danica D. Rollan, & Alpha May L. Palicos, CNS

3rd BEST PAPER: Correlation of Knowledge, Attitudes and Practices (KAP) of Poultry Farmers and Prevalence of Antimicrobial Resistance of *Escherichia coli* Isolated from Layer Poultry Farms in Tuba, Benguet by Cassandra Jane R. Oyan, College of Veterinary Medicine

#### Social Non-AANR-Graduate

1st BEST PAPER: Beki Nataraki: An Autoethnographic Study of Coming Out Journey as A Gay Cordilleran by Revin Xavier Lopate Ignacio, Open University

2nd BEST PAPER: Writing Cordilleran Creative Nonfiction Integrating Style Markers and Linguistics Innovations by Krystle Joy P. Coral, College of Arts and Humanities (CAH)

3rd BEST PAPER: Pagsipat sa Gawain ng Begnas Di Bauko: Batayan sa Pagbuo ng Tekstong Impormatibo by Melecio D. Palsaan, Jr., CAH

#### Social Non-AANR-Undergraduate

1st BEST PAPER: Ayari, Examining the Decline of Ba-diw among Ibaloy in Bokod, Benguet, Philippines by Jay Ralph G. Galunza, CAH

2nd BEST PAPER: Spatial Analysis of Road Traffic Accidents in Baguio City by Ralph Lloyd C. Gabudao, Kervin Kurt T. Pabinal, & Beverly Joy G. Quicho, College of Numeracy and Applied Sciences (CNAS)

3rd BEST PAPER: Forecasting the Monthly Dengue Cases in Baguio City Using SARIMAX Model by Gina V. Mapili, Josh Gabriel S. Roldan, Chelcy B. Wong, CNAS

#### Education Undergraduate

1st BEST PAPER: Development and Validation of FRACTION-Matiks; A Web-Based Application on Learning Fractions by Paul Mike S. Dominguez, Aaron T. Bayangan, Mark Kent G. Dela Cruz, Lucilene A. Mesa, & Maron Harvey Sanchez, College of Teacher Education (CTE)

2nd BEST PAPER: MAdjectives: Development and Validation of an Interactive Game on the Order of Adjectives in English by Darien Fe S. Bomowey, Jesper S. Licangan, Jemima D. Marinas, Sherilyn Salbino, Grace B. Taguba, & Roxanne I. Tawana, CTE//JRBanisa, UPAO Intern