



Shamag

Official Newsletter of Benguet State University

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BSU celebrates National Women's Month with university-wide advocacy and outreach

Benguet State University celebrated the National Women's Month this March 2026 with the sub-theme "Lead like the Babaylans, Filipinas!" The celebration kicked off during the Flag Raising Ceremony on March 2, 2026, followed by a series of university-wide activities held across the La Trinidad, Bokod, and Buguias campuses.

In BSU La Trinidad, the BSU Gender and Development Office (GAD) held a seminar on March 6, 2026, to promote the "GAD to Know" campaign, an initiative of the Philippine Commission on Women. This was participated in by SLS students.

During the activity, Guest Speaker Cheryl L. Daytec-Yañgot, OIC Regional Director of the Department of Migrant Workers-CAR, shared poignant stories from her experiences handling cases of violence against women (VAW), rape, and other GAD law violations. She underscored the significance of Women's Month by explaining key Philippine laws protecting women and children (VAWC), as well as international legal frameworks and global human rights issues.

A photo essay competition titled "Naila Mi Naadal Mi: Showcasing Women's Creativity, Leadership, and Contributions to Community" was also held from March 23, 2026, and will conclude in April 2026. This was organized by Gigy G. Banes of the College of Social Sciences, Dame Estravilla-Estigoy of the College of Arts and Humanities, and the GAD office.

In line with Gender and Development, the College of Public Administration and Governance (CPAG) launched a ribbon-cutting ceremony titled "CPAG Aruga" with its theme "Sentro ng Pag-aaruga at Suporta para sa Ina at Bata" on March 31, 2026. The center is dedicated to providing care, compassion, and support for mothers and their children within the academic community.

The launch marks a significant step in advancing the institution's commitment to inclusive development, gender sensitivity, and community welfare. The facility is designed to assist both faculty members and students who are parents, particularly mothers, by offering a safe and nurturing

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We are very grateful that we were chosen to be given the opportunity to have a Child Minding Center where our children can safely stay. This is a huge help for us, especially for us working mothers.”

- JULIE BINALDO-VELASCO, CPAG Dean



EDITORIAL BOARD

EDITOR

Jennyline S. Tabangcura

WRITERS

Rosciel Yapeng Batalier
Elsie M. Bawayan
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Jonalyn Esco
Prince Jheruel D. Gadang
Danica Paydowan
Notfri Sudaypan
Samantha Tipayno

DESIGN

Elsie M. Bawayan

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Elsie M. Bawayan
Ellejohn A. Bawang
Wellhymn Marcos
Jonalyn Esco
Prince Jheruel D. Gadang
Danica Paydowan
Notfri Sudaypan
Samantha Tipayno

CONTRIBUTORS

BSU Buguias & International Relations Office

CIRCULATION

UPAO Staff
Records Office and Archives

CONSULTANTS

Kenneth A. Laruan
Janet P. Pablo
Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres
Richard H. Kinnud
Josef 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.

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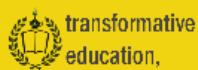
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BSU VMGO

BSU BOR RESOLUTION No. 183, s. 2025

VISION: A premier university in



transformative education,



innovative research,



inclusive extension,



sustainable development,



and stewardship of culture and the environment

MISSION

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

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

GOAL 1 (Instruction) Ensure equity in accessing quality higher education
Objectives
• Formulate and implement affirmative action policies aligned with Free Higher Education
• Sustain enrollment of disadvantaged students
• Sustain grants and scholarships for undergraduate and graduate studies students
• Develop learning continuity and student affairs services plan
• Implement inclusive education strategies for diverse learners
• Sustain optimal enrollment in all degree programs

GOAL 2 (Instruction) Advance quality and relevant instruction to boost regional economies
Objectives
• Enhance instruction through a supportive and innovative environment
• Continuously improve tertiary and advanced education standards

GOAL 3 (Research) Develop gender and culture-sensitive solutions, innovative and transformative research and technologies to reduce regional vulnerabilities and boost socio-economic activities
Objectives
• Strengthen policies, culture, linkages, and support for research and development
• Advance scholarly capabilities of faculty and staff through research-driven initiatives and activities

GOAL 4 (Extension) Develop proactive extension programs to sustain livable and resilient communities prioritizing disadvantaged areas and vulnerable sectors
Objectives
• Enhance extension system environment for effective community development
• Build capacity among extension service providers
• Implement culturally-relevant and gender-sensitive engagement programs
• Expand reach and inclusivity of extension initiatives
• Evaluate and amplify the impact of extension programs and projects

GOAL 5 (Administration and Finance) Promote integrity-based governance and efficient management of resources
Objectives
• Develop human resource capabilities
• Cultivate a culture of good governance and resource stewardship
• Develop smart and green campus solutions
• Establish sound financial policies and systems

GOAL 6 (Business Affairs) Balance progressive resource development while maintaining existing biophysical resources
Objectives
• Foster a supportive ecosystem for entrepreneurial ventures
• Create strategic and socially-responsible business partnerships
• Strengthen capabilities in revenue-generating activities
• Optimize existing income sources
• Pursue green enterprises and growth opportunities

GOAL 7 Strengthening and expanding strategic partnerships
Objectives
• Build a dynamic and enabling environment for partnerships
• Deepen engagement with alumni, government, and civil society
• Strengthen multi-sectoral collaboration among academe, IGUs, 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

AACUP evaluates 11 BSU programs

In pursuit to academic excellence, Benguet State University submitted 11 degree programs for evaluation by the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACUP) in two separate survey visits on March 2026.

During the hybrid survey visit on March 10-12, 2026, four degree programs were evaluated for Level IV status. These programs included the Bachelor of Science in Environmental Science, Bachelor of Science in Information Technology, Master of Science in Forestry, and the Master of Arts in Mathematics.

The Accreditation Team was led by Carlo F. Vadil from Nueva Vizcaya State University, who joined the evaluation onsite.

After the three-day survey visit, Vadil gave impressions on the evaluated programs, highlighting the programs' strengths and recommendations for further improvement.

In response, VP for Business Affairs Josel M. Florentin, representing BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan, expressed the University's continued commitment to quality education and expressed gratitude to the accreditors for their time, expertise, and dedication in evaluating the BSU programs.

"Accreditation is not a finish line- it is only a starting point. We will not rest on the laurels of these ratings and recognition. We will use this as a

springboard to strengthen our academic programs, improve our research outputs, deepen our community engagement, and enhance our facilities and services. The standards set by AACUP shall serve as our benchmark, and we will endeavor not just to meet them- but to exceed them," he said.

Likewise, seven degree programs were assessed in the online first survey visit on March 16-20, 2026. The programs evaluated were: Bachelor of Arts in Communication, Bachelor of Arts in English Language, Bachelor of Arts in Filipino Language, Bachelor of Science in Exercise and Sports Science, Bachelor of Science in Biology, Bachelor of Physical Education, and Bachelor of Technical Vocational Teacher Education.

At the closing meeting on March 20, 2026, AACUP Accrediting Team Coordinators Christopher S. Vicencio and Isidro L. Duran shared their impressions, highlighting the strengths and offering recommendations for further improvement.

In response, VP for Administration and Finance Richard H. Kinnud, representing President Laruan, expressed the University's commitment to quality education and gratitude to the accreditors.

"We reaffirm a stronger and more comprehensive commitment, not only to sustain what has been achieved but to elevate it further," he said.

“

Regardless of the outcome of this accreditation activity, let us view it as an inspiration, a developmental opportunity, and a normal academic exercise-a way of life in the academe. Let us remain committed to embracing quality and excellence."

-CARLO F. VADIL, AACUP Team Coordinator

He also likened the accreditation process to the tale of the shoemaker, where beautifully crafted pairs of shoes were made with the help of unseen helpers.

"Like the tale of a shoemaker, let us be reminded that excellence is not achieved alone," he added.

The survey visits included document verification, interviews, and virtual campus tours. 🗺️📷 E. Bawayan, P.J. Gadang



Fourth Survey Visit on March 10-12, 2026



First Survey Visit on March 16-20, 2026



BSU INTRAMURALS: One BSU, One Purpose: Sports for Excellence and Sustainability

The Benguet State University Intramurals, with the theme "One BSU, One Purpose: Sports for Excellence and Sustainability," was held on March 9-13, 2026, participated by students and employees.

During the opening program on March 9, 2026, University President Kenneth A. Laruan highlighted the values that sports teach us. He emphasized that discipline, teamwork, perseverance, camaraderie, and respect for one another, whether winning or losing, are what truly matters.

"Let us all enjoy the games, cheer for one another, and celebrate the spirit of sportsmanship," Laruan added.

Rhys Ivan Pawid, the guest speaker of the event, shared the lessons and challenges he learned throughout the years. Pawid is a proud BSU alumnus and a Jail Chief Inspector of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology - CAR.

Pawid recognized that sports do not just require physical strength and mental toughness but also resilience after experiencing setbacks. He encouraged everyone to push through limits and stay strong even when tired and discouraged.

Afterwards, Zyra G. Bon-as, a College of Human Kinetics student and 2025 SEA Games gold medalist in women's 48 kg low kick kickboxing, led the Oath of Sportsmanship. The program continued with the lighting of the torch, unfurling of banners, and sashing of Mr. and Ms. BSU candidates.

Finally, VP for Administration and Finance Richard H. Kinnud officially declared the opening of the intramurals.

The event showcased the athlete's abilities and the sportsmanship of the competing teams. These include teams from the 14 colleges in BSU La Trinidad, the Secondary Laboratory School, BSU Bokod, BSU Buguias, faculty members, and non-teaching staff.

The College of Human Kinetics won the overall championship of the Benguet State University (BSU) 2026 Intramurals, marking their ninth

consecutive victory. The College of Engineering took second place and the College of Home Economics and Technology claimed third place.



E. Bawang, P.J. Gadang, D. Paydowan



When the games end, the celebrations die down, and the trophies and medals are gathered, what will remain is the discipline you built, the friendships you forged, and the courage you've discovered within yourself."

-RHYS IVAN PAWID, Guest Speaker



BSU and the communities

CN spearheads adolescent health program at Nawal Integrated School

The BSU College of Nursing successfully brought its MAAWIS TAKO program to Nawal Integrated School on March 2, 2026. This outreach initiative aimed to empower rural youth by improving health literacy and addressing the unique wellness challenges faced by adolescents in the region.

The outreach featured targeted educational sessions designed to address gender-specific health challenges.



BSU CN enhances community resilience through youth emergency response training in Kapangan

The BSU College of Nursing (BSU-CN) successfully conducted a series of community outreach activities in Kapangan, Benguet, reaching students at Datakan Integrated School on March 6, 2026, followed by Governor Bado Dangwa Agro-Industrial School on March 9, 2026.

The training focused on equipping Junior and Senior High School students with critical emergency response capabilities, focusing on Basic Life Support, Cardio Pulmonary Resuscitation and essential first aid interventions.



Chemistry Department promotes sustainable entrepreneurship among Bahong women

The College of Natural Sciences' Chemistry Department in partnership with the Bahong Women's Organization conducted a livelihood training in soap artistry and epoxy resin souvenirs. Held at the Bahong Barangay Hall on March 11, 2026, the specialized training provided participants with the chemical knowledge and creative tools to support local entrepreneurship. This is to bridge the gap between academic expertise and community livelihood.



BSU CN empowers youth through responsive health literacy

The Benguet State University (BSU) College of Nursing continues its mission to empower the youth of Benguet by conducting a comprehensive series of lectures and trainings on health literacy. These extension activities were recently held in various schools across the municipalities of Tuba and Atok.

On March 16 and 23, 2026, the nursing team visited Kiwas Integrated School (KIS) and Miguel Palispis Integrated

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Partnerships for the Goals

BSU signs two international MOUs

Benguet State University established two new international partnerships for physical education and economic development.

On March 14, 2026, BSU's College of Human Kinetics (CHK) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the YMCA College of Physical Education, India, at the Office of the University President.

BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan and CHK Dean Marlon Tabdi welcomed Principal-in-Charge Johnson Premkumar and the staff representative of YMCA College of Physical Education.

Laruan and the CHK faculty members discussed the college's programs and potential future collaborations. Premkumar also introduced YMCA College of Physical Education. He also presented the college's infrastructure, facilities, and equipment, faculty and staff, and the number of students.

Their discussion concluded with plans to propose exchange programs between the two institutions.

BSU signed another MOU on March 23, 2026, with Catalyste+ Canada. This collaboration, facilitated through the Cordillera Center for Animal Research and Development (CCARD) and the Cordillera Regional Apiculture Center (CRAC),

Catalyste+ is a Canadian economic development organization that provides mentorship and advisory services to strengthen local skills and organizational capacity across countries and Indigenous communities in Canada.

The MOU seeks to promote and strengthen relations between the Philippines and Canada through economic collaborations, contributing to the enhancement of the economic resilience of populations, particularly for women, sustainable agriculture and livelihood development, innovative leadership, and digital transformation programs.

The ceremonial signing was held in the presence of BSU President Laruan; CCARD and CRAC Director Ana B. Mendoza; VP

for Research and Extension Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres; International Relations Office Director Rex John G. Bawang; VP for Academic Affairs Janet P. Pablo; Jae Imai from Catalyste+ Canada; Ton Nu Thi Thanh Yen from Catalyste+ Vietnam; and representatives from BSU and Catalyste+ Philippines. 📷📸 R. Batalier and IRO

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environment for their children while they fulfill academic and professional responsibilities.

In her opening remarks, CPAG Dean Julie Binaldo-Velasco expressed her gratitude for the establishment of the Child Minding Center. She emphasized that the facility represents progress in recognizing and respecting the important roles of women in society.

Binaldo-Velasco noted that the center will be highly beneficial, especially for teachers and students who are mothers, as it provides a safe place where they can leave their children while attending to their responsibilities at work.

GAD Director Jude L. Tayaben highlighted that the establishment of the Child Minding Center is part of CPAG's response to the Magna Carta for Women. The initiative aims to empower women by enabling them to remain productive and engaged in their academic and professional pursuits.

The Juana Ride and BSU Unity Ride were also held on March 30, 2026, organized by the BSU Government Employees Association and VP for Administration and Finance Richard H. Kinnud, with participation from the BSU community and the public.

Likewise, the BSU Buguias held several activities, including an eco-walk and training in gong playing and other musical instruments, as well as livelihood and wellness programs, including pizza-making workshops, sports development activities, and mental health and wellness sessions.

In Bokod, the campus is scheduled to host its culminating activities and additional Women's Month programs in April 2026.

📷📸 E. Bawayan, E. Bawang, P.J. Gadang, N. Sudaypan, BSU Buguias

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School (MPIS) in Tuba. Following these sessions, the team traveled to Atok on March 23 and 24 to engage with students at Atok National High School and Camp 30 National High School.

The outreach focused on equipping high school and some elementary students with the knowledge necessary to become catalysts for health within their communities.



Jonalyn Esco, CN Information Coordinator
Samantha Tipayno, CNS Information Coordinator



BSU hosts RAISE training program in agripreneurship

The Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Council for Agriculture Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD), through Benguet State University, hosted a two-day training program titled “Regional Agripreneurship” with the theme “Building Your Agribusiness from the Ground Up” on March 10-11, 2026 at the RSDC Executive Hall, College of Home Economics and Technology building.

This training falls under Project 4: “Strengthening the Regional Agribusiness Hub in the Cordillera Administrative Region,” with the aim of providing participants with knowledge on entrepreneurship, innovation, and business development in the Agri-aqua sector.

During the opening program, RAISE Project 4: Agribusiness Hub (ABH) Project Leader Karen B. Gaerlan highlighted the DOST-PCAARRD funding as a government investment in regional partnerships, inviting State Universities and Colleges, Micro Small and Medium Enterprises, and communities to strengthen the area’s diverse agricultural heritage and resilient ecosystems into thriving businesses.

Gaerlan stressed transforming research outputs from institutions like Benguet State University into marketable, science-based products, aligning with the Philippine Development Plan’s push for Research and Development (R&D) commercialization.

“Let us embrace this opportunity to learn and grow with each other and help in the prosperity of the Cordillera administrative region” she said. The resource speakers then delivered their



Each agripreneur can transform challenges into opportunities and ideas into thriving enterprises or businesses, and also here in BSU, we are being challenged to transform our R&D outputs into commerciable products because the government is investing in making sure that the R&D activities of all state universities and government institutions are converted into thriving enterprises. We are looking forward to future successful agripreneurs.”

-KAREN B. GAERLAN, Project Leader

insights on Agribusiness management, marketing, and production.


On the last day of the training program, RAISE Project 4: ABH Study Leader and CHET Faculty Member Dalifer A. Gano closed the activity, summarizing the topics discussed during the two-day training program.

“I hope that all of you have been enlightened, and these trainings and discussions help you in your dream business venture in the future” Gano said.

 N. Sudaypan



Employees of BSU join Civic Parade

BSU employees, led by President Kenneth A. Laruan participated in the civic parade and main program of the Strawberry Festival in solidarity with the event on March 18, 2026. Under the theme “Limitless La Trinidad: Heart, Harvest, Harmony,” the civic parade featured coordinated contingents and marching bands, showcasing the municipality’s community spirit.  C. De Guzman and W. Marcos