



Shamag

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BSU holds 2025 Student Achievement and Recognition Program to honor academic excellence



Benguet State University (BSU) held a two-day program to honor the outstanding academic performance of students from various colleges. The two-day event was held on May 22-23, 2025 at the BSU Gymnasium with the theme "Celebrating Excellence, Advancing Eco-Cultural Responsibility, and Serving with Commitment."

To streamline the event, the colleges were grouped into four clusters. Cluster I was composed of the College of Engineering (CE), College of Human Kinetics (CHK), College of Natural Sciences (CNS), and College of Nursing (CN). Cluster II was composed of the College of Agriculture (CA), College of Numeracy and Applied Sciences (CNAS), and College of Public Administration and Governance (CPAG). Cluster III was composed of the College of Arts and Humanities (CAH), College of Information Sciences (CIS), College of Social Sciences (CSS), and College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM). Cluster IV included the College of Forestry (CF), College of Teacher Education (CTE), and the Center for Culture and the Arts (CCA).

Each cluster began with a processional by the BSU Marching Band, followed by the Entrance of Colors by the ROTC Cadets, a doxology, and the singing of the Philippine National Anthem and the BSU Hymn by the BSU Glee Club and Marching Band.

In Cluster I, VP for Administration and Finance Richard H. Kinnud opened the program by congratulating the academic achievers.

"Your achievements bring pride not only to your families but to the entire BSU community," he said and also thanked the parents and benefactors of the students calling them 'the silent heroes behind the students' success.'

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

BSU supports the Sustainable Development Goals



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UNIVERSITY
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EDITORIAL BOARD

EDITOR

Jennyline S. Tabangcura

WRITERS

Ju-ann R. Banisa
Ellejohn A. Bawang
Elsie M. Bawayan
Jennyline S. Tabangcura
Brixan Gyle A. Tayaban

DESIGN

Elsie M. Bawayan

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Ellejohn A. Bawang
Elsie M. Bawayan
Prince Jheruel D. Gadang
Brixan Gyle A. Tayaban

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.

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Benguet State University

VISION

BSU as an International Smart University engendering graduates
to walk the intergenerational highways.

MISSION

BSU CARES to: **C**hallenge innovation, **A**dvance technology and facility, **R**evitalize administration,
Engender partnership, and **S**erve intergenerational role.

DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Goal I. Challenge Innovation in the four fold functions of the University

Objectives:

1. **(Instruction)** To provide quality education responsive to the needs of time;
2. **(Research)** To enhance research productivity contributing to sustainable development;
3. **(Extension)** To disseminate relevant research outputs and other scholarly activities consistent with BSU's mandated programs;
4. **(Production)** To promote sustainable and appropriate resource generation strategies for the implementation of development plans; and
5. **(Administration)** To advocate for resource management and effective energy efficiency in addressing the demands of climate change.

Goal II. Advance Technology and Facility by shaping the University become responsive to modern needs.

Objectives:

1. **(Instruction)** To use information and communication technology learning resources to sustain and enhance quality of alternative teaching - learning continuity endeavors;
2. **(Research and Extension)** To upgrade facilities and enable researchers/extensionists to conduct activities using specialized facilities;
3. **(Production)** To acquire and upgrade state-of-the-art facilities in the projects innovation; and
4. **(Administration)** To upgrade facilities and establish modern physical infrastructures.

Goal III. Revitalize Administration by harmonizing performance monitoring, information, and reporting systems.

Objectives:

1. To elevate the BSU PRIME-HRM to a level of excellence for good governance and efficient public service;
2. To reinforce transparency, integrity, and objectivity in the delivery of service;
3. To regenerate instruction, research, extension, production, linkages, governance, management, and policies; and
4. To streamline operations to be efficient, effective, and responsive to challenges and changes.

Goal IV. Engender Partnership by proactively strengthening linkages

Objectives:

1. **(Instruction)** To establish academic partnerships with local, regional, national, and international institutions providing educational opportunities for faculty, staff, and students;
2. **(Research)** To increase and sustain university relations with academe, industries, GOs, NGOs, and LGUs for research funding;
3. **(Extension)** To increase and sustain partnership with academe, LGUs, NGOs, Industries, and others; and
4. **(Production)** To comply with existing laws, policies and other requirements.

Goal V. Serve Intergenerational Role by revitalizing the Spiritual, Physical, Economical, Cultural, Intellectual, Emotional, and Social (S.P.E.C.I.E.S.) state.

Objectives:

1. To offer programs that embody social, cultural, economic and developmental needs both for local and global markets;
2. To champion local culture and languages in the University context through research, extension, and academic programs;
3. To document best practices of the University.

AdCo Action No. 03, s.2021

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

National Commission for Culture and the Arts holds Comprehensive Rondalla Trainers' Training at BSU

Benguet State University hosted the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) comprehensive rondalla trainers' training on May 19-25, 2025 at the Dominador S. Garin Hall, College of Teacher Education. The training was part of the NCCA's project titled, "*DIWANG: Musika ng Rondalla, Musika ng Pagkakaisa* (Celebrating 20 Years of String of Unity, the International Rondalla Festival.)"



Participants, resource persons, and NCCA officials pose for a photo during the opening program of the Comprehensive Rondalla Trainers' Training on May 19, 2025 at the DSG Hall, College of Teacher Education/BSU Tayaban

The training was attended by rondalla trainers around the Philippines, including members of the BSU Rondalla headed by Alma Vida G. Gallardo.

In the opening program, BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan welcomed the participants and noted that May is the National Heritage Month. He emphasized that heritage is not only physical but also includes music. He mentioned that it is proper to train more faculty members and students to engage in rondalla as it is recreational and developmental activity better than spending time on social media.

Following Laruan's message, a brief overview of the "Strings of Unity" was presented, detailing the history of rondalla and how it thrived over the years.

In his message, National Artist Ramon P. Santos stated that 2025 marks the 21st anniversary of the International Rondalla Festival. He highlighted that the activities have reached the community, and the skills of the players have improved, meeting the demands of new pieces that have been composed and arranged.

Santos added that the Filipino rondalla has developed its own identity

to becoming a musical force. It not only plays folk music and accompanies folk dances but also serves as a medium for artistic expression.

"In the richness of the Filipino musical patrimony that has been cultivated through the years and throughout the process of nation-building, the rondalla stands out as a unique intangible heritage that socially represents the Filipino cultural identity in the global artistic arena," he said.

He further noted that the rondalla continues to grow as a formidable music *National Commission...continued on page 7*

Researchers equipped with data collection expertise in webinar series

The BSU-Higher Education Regional Research Center (HERRC) recently concluded a comprehensive seven-part webinar series focused on enhancing data collection skills for researchers. Titled "Navigating the Landscape of Data Collection: Tool Development and Validation Strategies," the series ran from April 7 to May 9, 2025, providing practical knowledge and best practices across a range of methodologies.

VP for Research and Extension Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres, in his opening remarks on April 7, underscored the vital role of robust data collection in research. HERRC Director Janet Lynn M. Balagtey outlined the series' rationale emphasizing that well-designed instruments are crucial

for reliable research outcomes. The series aimed to equip researchers with skills in both quantitative and qualitative approaches, as well as address technological, ethical, reliability, and validity considerations.

Balagtey's initial presentation detailed the design and development of tests and scales, distinguishing between tools that assess ability and those that measure attitudes. She outlined key steps in instrument development, from defining research objectives to pilot testing and finalization.

Subsequent sessions covered a variety of crucial topics. The April 14 session presented by Karryl Mae C. Ngina presenting on "Observation in Research," with a focus on naturalistic observation-collecting data in real-world settings without interference. She

explained its key components, strengths, and limitations, contrasting it with laboratory studies. Ngina provided examples and tools for observation in educational and environmental contexts, guidance on writing field notes, and the use of descriptive and interpretive methods. She stressed ethical considerations, observer bias, reflexivity, and positionality, offering strategies to ensure accurate and respectful data collection. The session concluded with methods for analyzing and presenting observational data, such as thematic analysis and evidence-based reporting.

The third session, presented by Virgo C. Lopez, addressed conducting interviews and focus group discussions to gain deeper qualitative insights. Lopez highlighted the differences between these methods and underscored the importance of advanced listening skills-such as active and empathetic listening-to capture rich, meaningful data. Practical tips on question *Researchers equipped...continued on page 7*

Research pitching event held to promote responsible and responsive research

The Office of the VP for Research and Extension (OVPRE) and the Office of Research Services (ORS) successfully held a two-day research proposal pitching titled "*Pan-ngangalatan: Fostering Responsible and Responsive Research.*" The activity was held on May 19-20, 2025 at the Research & Extension and Northern Philippine Root Crops Research and Training Center (NPRCTC) Buildings.

The activity aimed to provide a platform for meaningful academic dialogue and proposal improvement. According to ORS Director Ruth S. Batani, the proposal pitching is an exchange of ideas.

"*Pan-ngangalatan* is a Kankanaey word that means 'conversation', like let's talk about what can be doable, what can we do to further to enhance research or on the other way around, the proponent would also be asking questions from the evaluators," Batani said. She added that the proposal pitching is for research proponents to enhance their proposals based on the evaluators' feedback.

The program began with an opening ceremony at the Everlasting Hall. VP for Research and Extension Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres welcomed the participants and encouraged the development of a culture of research with real world impacts.

"So hopefully po, let's increase or let's improve the research and extension culture of Benguet State University... that's our dream and of course huwag po natin kakalimutan iyong mga stakeholders po natin, community natin, habang nag i-increase ang research culture natin, nag i-improve din sana yung ating community na umaasa sa Benguet State University," said Lumbres.

BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan also expressed his hopes that more faculty members will participate in research noting that in the Cordillera Administrative Region's Regional Development Agenda, the low participation of faculty members in research and extension was noted as one of the challenges. He also reminded the participants to take the comments from evaluators positively to improve their research proposals.

Following Laruan's message, Data Processing Division Chief Freda Kate D. Samuel gave an overview of the event and informed the participants that the activity

is meant to be helpful, not to intimidate. She stressed the importance of making research useful to others.

"The most important part of research is always the recommendation. How will our research outputs be utilized? Not simply by our university, but our community as well," said Samuel.

Afterwards, Paul Joseph A. Nuval gave a presentation titled "Responsible Use of AI in Research," where he emphasized the proper and efficient use of Artificial Intelligence in research.

The 114 proposals presented were divided into three major clusters: 30 in the Technical Cluster, 46 in the Social Science Cluster, and 38 in the Education Cluster. Each researcher was given 10 minutes to present and the panel was given 15 minutes for their comments.

The pitching sessions were held simultaneously in five venues: Solibao Hall for the Technical Cluster, Igorota and Ganza Halls for Education Clusters I and II, and Everlasting and Carnation Halls for Social Clusters I and II. Each session concluded with the awarding of certificates.

The panel of evaluators for the Technical Cluster are Darwin A. Basquial, Jones T. Napaldet, Ana B. Mendoza, Lesley Dale G. Umayat, and Mark Jenesis E. Laory. Education Cluster was evaluated by Janet Lynn M. Balagtey, Kara S. Panalong, and Freda Kate D. Samuel and the Education Cluster II by Apler J. Bansiong, Nick W. Sibaen, and Elizabeth A. Lascano. For Social Cluster I, the evaluators are Beverly C. Sa-ao, Paul Joseph A. Nuval, and Ruel G. Revilla. Social Cluster II had Ruth S. Batani, Stanley E. Anongos Jr., and Marilyn W. Macwes.

Batani shared in an interview that BSU's research outputs are becoming more impactful. She noted that products such as food innovations are now being



VP for Research and Extension Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres delivers his welcome remarks during the research proposal pitching activity held on May 19, 2025 at the Everlasting Hall, Research and Extension Building/EBawang

commercialized, while policy papers are influencing ordinances. She also expressed her appreciation for the growing involvement of the BSU campuses in Buguias and Bokod.

Looking ahead, the pitching event is just the first step in BSU's research process. Batani mentioned that proposals that pass the internal review will proceed to the Agency In-House Review stage and may be selected for presentation to the Regional Review. The outstanding studies

could eventually be featured at the National Research Forum, bringing BSU's innovations to a broader stage.

Batani also emphasized the importance of passion and collaboration in research. "Research entails so much passion, aside from training and exposure," she pointed out.

She encouraged aspiring researchers to work with experienced mentors, even in assistant roles or as *saling pusa* to gain valuable learning and experience. //JRBanisa

BSU holds...from page 1

commended the students for their hard work in his inspirational message saying that the recognition reflects not just academic success but resilience and time management. He thanked the parents and faculty members for their support.

Laruan urged the students to use in real life the same strategies they applied in complying with academic requirements.

Next, CNS Dean Sherlyn C. Tipayno, introduced the guest speaker Cranep C. Udan, Environmental Management Officer at Aboitiz Power, Hedcor Group.

In her address, Udan encouraged the student achievers to pursue purposeful excellence and live out the 3P's: People, Power, and Profit.

"Excellence is defined by impact, by what you do know with what you know," she said. "Don't forget to enjoy the journey. Make time for yourself, your loved ones, and even to stop and smell the flowers," said Udan.

Following her speech, Andrea Pawit Gabo, a Bachelor of Physical Education student with a GWA of 1.10, delivered her response and reminded fellow achievers to be proud of their hard work and to thank those who helped them. "You are here today not because you are always the best, but because you tried. Effort never betrays results," she stated, encouraging students to keep striving, stay grateful, and honor those who helped them along the way.

Subsequently, the awarding of academic achievers and year's best awardees was conducted by the University President, VP for Academic Affairs Janet P. Pablo, and the respective College Deans.

To conclude the Cluster I recognition program, CN Dean Mark U. Gay-as delivered an inspiring message titled "Stay on the Line." He reminded students to remain focused on their purpose with faith, family, BSU holds...continued on page 6

MOA CORNER

DOST-PCAARRD and BSU partner for AGRI-INNOVATE program

Benguet State University (BSU) formalized its partnership with the Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (DOST-PCAARRD) through the signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on May 21, 2025 at the BSU-Office of the President.

The collaboration will implement the program titled, “AGRI-INNOVATE: Development and Piloting of Supply/Value Chain Solutions of Excess Supply and Resource Recovery of Vegetables in the Cordillera Administrative Region.” Funded by the DOST-PCAARRD, the program aims to develop and pilot a supply chain management system and value chain solutions for excess supply and resource recovery of vegetables in CAR. BSU will take the lead in implementing the said program.

The AGRI-INNOVATE program has four components, including Project 1: Development and Piloting of Supply Chain Coordination for Vegetables in the Cordillera Administrative Region; Project 2: Development and Piloting of Waste to Value Agriculture to Manage the Excess Supply of Vegetables; Project 3: Development of Pre and Postharvest Protocols for Selected Highland vegetables to improve Quality and

Reduce Losses; and Project 4: Development and Piloting Nutrient Return Program – An Innovative Solution for Managing Vegetable Wastes and Excess Supply.

The MOA was signed by BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan and DOST-PCAARRD Executive Director Reynaldo

V. Eborra. This was witnessed by Ernesto O. Brown, DOST-PCAARRD-Socio Economics Research Division Director, and BSU Project Leaders, including Janet P. Pablo, Cheryll C. Launio, Madeline S. Kingan, and Jemma Rose M. Kilakil.

Also present during the MOA signing are VP for

Research and Extension Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres and Darwin Basquial, R&D Cluster Coordinator Cordillera Consortium for Agriculture, Aquatic, and Resources – Research and Development R&D Cluster Coordinator.// EBawayan



BSU collaborates with Government agencies and LGU to advance community welfare

With the aim to strengthen linkages among academe, industries, Local Government Units (LGUs), other government agencies, and the community, the Benguet State University (BSU) established partnerships with various government agencies and an LGU by signing usufruct agreements on May 27 and May 29, 2025.

The initial set of agreements, signed on May 27, 2025, at the BSU RDC Hall, includes BSU's partnerships with the Bureau of Fire Protection – Cordillera Administrative Region (BFP-CAR); the Department of Education – Schools Division of Benguet (DepEd-Benguet); LGU – La Trinidad; and the Department of Science and Technology – Philippine Textile Research Institute (DOST-PTRI). The usufruct signing was led by Kenneth A. Laruan, BSU President; Robert M. Pacis, OIC Regional Director of BFP-CAR; Estela P. Leon-Cariño, DepEd-CAR Regional Director; Hon. Romeo K. Salda, Mayor of La Trinidad

Mayor; and Julius L. Leaño Jr., Director IV of DOST-PTRI.

The University and BFP-CAR's agreement grants BFP-CAR the temporary use of BSU land in Cabanao Balili, La Trinidad, for the construction of the Office of the Provincial Fire Director for Benguet Province. Another usufruct agreement was signed that grants the BFP-CAR to temporarily utilize the BSU land in Loo, Buguias, Benguet for the construction of the Buguias Fire Station.

On the same day, BSU and the BFP-CAR also signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to address the mental health needs of BFP personnel. The BSU's Human Resource Development Office will provide mental health and wellbeing treatment and intervention.

BSU collaborates...continued on page 8



and the support of BSU. "Excellence is defined by impact and purposeful service," he noted, encouraging students to turn careers into missions for people and the planet.

In the afternoon session, VPAA Janet P. Pablo opened the Cluster II program by honoring students who worked hard and went beyond what was expected. "This is not a finish line, but a milestone on a much greater journey," she mentioned, reminding students to face the future with purpose. She also thanked the parents and the BSU community for their support.

Once again, Laruan congratulated student achievers for their hard work. He encouraged them to stay balanced, saying, "Please do have time for the responsibilities you have at home and take care of your health."

He also thanked the faculty for their dedication and parents for their strong support, reminding the students to continue learning and growing.

Following Laruan's message, CHET Dean Jao-Jao A. Somyden introduced guest speaker Eleonor K. Bugalin-Ayan, Nutritionist Dietician III, Supplementary Feeding Division Department of Social Welfare and Development-CAR.

During her speech, Bugalin-Ayan shared how she rose from being called "*Baka*" (stupid) in Japan to being recognized as "*Ichibang*" (number one) through hard work and heart.

"Excellence comes by not merely using the mind but by weaving the heart too," she stated.

She encouraged the students to show kindness, respect parents and teachers, care for others, and protect culture and the environment. "You are here as future leaders. Serve with commitment," she added.

Due to health reasons, Bachelor of Science in Mathematics student Erica A. Payangsi with a GWA of 1.13, did not attend the event. Nevertheless, her message was read by Kent Depayso, one of the cluster's Master of Ceremonies. In her message, Payangsi expressed gratitude to God, her professors, and family for their support throughout the academic year.

She acknowledged the challenges faced, including long nights and tough moments, but celebrated the strength and determination that led to success. "To all BSU students, be proud, keep surviving, and never stop learning," she said.

Afterwards, the awarding of academic achievers and year's best awardees was carried out by the University President, VPAA, and College Deans.

To close the Cluster II program, CA Dean Constantino T. Sudaypan Sr. offered a warm and reflective message: "*Naimbag, Naragsak, ken Nagasat nga malam tayo amin.*" *Naimbag* (good), because the achievers and year's students have done well to reach where they are now. *Nagasat* (lucky), because the parents and guardians are lucky to have such good children. *Naragsak* (happy), because BSU is happy and thankful that the parents allowed their children to study at the university.

On the second day, during the Cluster III program, VP for Research and Extension Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres welcomed

everyone with an encouraging message. "Today, we keep the spotlight on those who have shown remarkable achievement," he said, reminding the students that success comes from dedication.

He also honored the support of parents and concluded with a powerful message: "Great knowledge comes with great responsibility. Serve your country and community with commitment."

Following this, Laruan delivered another inspirational speech, acknowledging the hard work and perseverance of students. "Today's program is a testament to your persistence and desire," he said. "It recognizes not just academic accomplishments, but also your resilience in facing challenges."

Laruan shared a personal story about his own struggles as a student, encouraging achievers to keep growing and striving for excellence. "There are painful and unpleasant events along the way, but these help you grow," he added.

Afterwards, CVM Dean Maureen Therese P. De Vera introduced the guest speaker Mennie M. Alicap, a proud BSU alumna and a Small Animal Practitioner and Entrepreneur-Veterinary Virtual Assistant.

In her address, Alicap delivered a heartfelt message congratulating the achievers and thanking parents, teachers, and friends for their support. "Excellence isn't about being the best. It's about learning from failure and trying again," she said.

She reminded students to stay humble, grateful, and committed as they continue their journey. "Success comes step by step. Honor those who helped you by rising with purpose."

Following her speech, Jezer Dhane P. Pacateo, a Bachelor of Science in Psychology student with a GWA of 1.21, delivered a response. "Before any success, there is only silence—a quiet struggle," he began. Pacateo recalled his journey through the admissions process to the joy of being accepted. "Psychology had opened another 50 slots, I was over the moon the moment my form was signed. Everything just felt so beautiful the door, the windows, my classmate's handwriting."

He encouraged fellow students to stay resilient. "Never lose hope even in the most difficult moments because the moment you lose it, you lose everything."

The awarding of academic achievers and year's best students by the University President, VPAA, and respective College Deans followed.

CSS Dean Stanley F. Anongos Jr. concluded the program with a powerful reminder to the awardees. "We urge you to continue that intellectual capacity. We want you to be always exceptional. Second, we would also want you to use your intelligence and skills not only for yourself, but also for your family, and most importantly for the Philippines."

He urged students to uphold the spirit of *iskolar ng bayan* by contributing meaningfully to society, noting that their education is funded by the people.

VP for Business Affairs Josel M. Florentin opened the Cluster IV recognition program with an inspiring message. He praised the students for their passion,

persistence, and achievements, reminding them that success comes from hard work and resilience.

He encouraged them to use their talents for good and urged them to stay kind, humble, and committed to excellence.

Laruan congratulated student achievers, recognizing their resilience and academic excellence. "You have better preparation, better strategies, and a better way of managing your academic life," he said.

He encouraged them to use those same strategies beyond college. "Hold on to those strategies and use them to find solutions to challenges outside the university." He also thanked parents and faculty members, emphasizing that the recognition is not just for students but also for those who supported them along the way.

Next, CTE Dean Divina M. Yango introduced guest speaker Mary Grace S. Manangan, highlighting her roots and achievements. Manangan is the College President of Polytechnic College of Botolan in Zambales.

Manangan shared her pride in returning to her alma mater with a heartfelt message for the awardees. She began, emphasizing that excellence is not just about high grades, but about "pushing boundaries, embracing challenges, and lifting others along the way."

She encouraged students to be stewards of the environment urging them to advance agricultural responsibility and protect both nature and our cultural heritage.

Finally, she called on awardees to lead with heart: "Serving with commitment transforms personal success into meaningful contributions to society."

Hazel A. Danga, a Bachelor of Secondary Education student, spoke on behalf of the awardees.

"The recognition we received today is a testament to the countless hours of hard work, discipline and perseverance." She thanked the guest speaker for her inspiring message and reminded fellow students that "setbacks are never the end of our journey."

The awarding of academic achievers and year's best students by the University President, VPAA, and College Deans followed.

CF Dean Nova D. Doyog concluded the program by acknowledging those behind students' success parents, faculty members, mentors, and peers. She reminded the achievers that their awards are not the end but "the beginning" of greater responsibilities and impact.

To the graduating awardees, she posed a challenge, "Will this be the last certificate that I may be receiving?" encouraging them to continue striving for excellence.

"Be proud of how far you've come, be excited for where you're going, and be thankful to those who helped you along the way."

Through the recognition of students who excel academically, BSU is directly contributing to #SDG4 as it motivates and promotes a culture of learning to students.// JRBanisa

BSU student leaders, organizations recognized at OSShayao

The Benguet State University - Office of the Student Services (BSU-OSS) spearheaded the OSShayao to recognize the exemplary performance of BSU student leaders and organizations across various aspects of organizational management. The event was held on May 16, 2025 at the BSU Gymnasium.



In her opening remarks, OSS Director Erlyn Honeylette C. Marquez acknowledged the passion and dedication of the student leaders and student organizations and lauded their significant contributions to the students and the BSU community.

BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan, in his message, cited a quote from former US President Franklin D. Roosevelt, emphasizing the university's role in developing youth for the future. While acknowledging the primary function of the University in providing basic skills, knowledge, and attitudes through academic coursework, he stressed that these alone are insufficient for the students to become resilient and adaptive to the ever-changing world. He then recognized the role of the BSU-OSS in guiding students as they stay at the University.

Laruan also emphasized the skills gained through involvement in student organizations, saying that these experiences often give graduates an edge in the job market. He mentioned that skills such as leadership, decision-making, managerial negotiation, and resource generation can be developed through organizational participation.

"And beyond that (skills), it builds your adaptability, your ability to adjust in particular situations. Why? If you are inside an organization, you are not just simply dealing with your classmates, but you are dealing with other students who are coming from different localities, and who are coming from a different socioeconomic background. And so, you are adjusting to these kinds of classmates that you have," he said. He added that adaptability is also crucial in future workplaces.

The University President also expressed alarm over instances of students using social media such as Facebook to rant about issues. He cautioned them that this could be an inappropriate avenue to address organizational issues and could lead to a negative impact. He then advised the students that issues are better resolved internally within the organizations.

"Freedom of speech is always accompanied by responsibility," he stated.

Invited speaker, Ana Marie T. Andaya, former BSU Federation of Supreme Student Government Chairperson and Former Student Regent, started her inspirational talk by redefining leadership as service and influence.

She challenged the student leaders emphasizing that their boldness extends beyond organizing events or fundraising.

"You are bold students. You are bold to set the standard to unite change and to empower others," she said.

Sharing her experience as a former student leader at the university, Andaya admitted initial hesitations and lack of confidence. However, the encouragement of her peers, teachers, and co-officers empowered her to overcome challenges. She expressed gratitude for the opportunity to serve and thankful for the lessons learned that she now applies in her professional life. She then urged the student leaders to persevere despite failures.

"Don't lead just to fulfill your dream, lead to have a legacy," she challenged them. She further encouraged them to "lead with boldness, lead with heart, and lead with vision."

The event concluded with closing remarks delivered by Sarah M. Palaw-ay, Head of the OSS-Student Organizations and Activities Unit. She congratulated the awardees and thanked the BSU administration, colleges, student organization advisers, and officers for their contributions to the success of the event.//EBawayan

Scan QR code below to access list of OSShayao awardees:



National Commission...from page 3

and encouraged the continuation of honing talents to meet the demands of the time. "There is a need to continue matching the ever-growing challenges of the different repertoires that have recently emerged. It is not only the technical aspects that we need to learn but also the different forms, theories, and meanings of the music themselves and how we can translate this understanding into practical manner," said Santos.

He added that this event aims to provide opportunities to refine performance techniques and learn how to study, understand, interpret, and teach music. He commended all participants and hoped that they would gain new knowledge and skills not only in rondalla but also in creating music.

The discussion and learning session followed, featuring Nelson Espejo, Reinnard Christian Merano, and Fides Topico as the resource speakers. The learning session was divided into two modules, which were discussed for a week.

Among the topics discussed were the history of rondalla, positions and postures, common strokes and open strings, note introduction, and strings lessons. The BSU Rondalla also served as the laboratory class throughout the training.

The wrap-up activity was held on the seventh day. The participants were also given the time to ask questions and clarifications from the speakers. BSU was also recognized for hosting the event.//BTayaban

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formulation and fostering open, honest communication were shared, emphasizing that attentive listening is key to unlocking valuable participant perspectives.

In Session 04, Mark Preston S. Lopez discussed data triangulation as a strategy to enhance research validity by using multiple data sources and methods.

He outlined its goals-reducing bias, enriching data, and confirming findings-and described seven types of triangulation. Lopez also shared strategies to ensure data trustworthiness and practical tips for applying triangulation throughout the research process. He noted limitations, including its time-consuming nature and the fact that it does not guarantee validity, stressing that triangulation strengthens research by integrating diverse perspectives while guarding against bias.

Session 05 presented by Johna G. Belardo discussing how technology improves data collection by making it faster, more accurate, and cost-effective. She introduced popular survey apps such as Google Forms and SurveyMonkey, highlighting their features, advantages, and limitations, including internet dependency and privacy concerns. The session emphasized leveraging digital tools to enhance data quality and efficiency while being mindful of their challenges.

In Session 06, Freda Kate Samuel covered the importance of reliability and validity in developing research instruments

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BSU hosts conference with UBA partners



Benguet State University – University Business Affairs (BSU – UBA) office held its first trade conference titled “*Taripnong 2025: BSU-UBA Partners Convergence*” with the theme “Building a stronger alliance for a more progressive community” on May 26, 2025 at the BSU Backfilled Parking Area, Strawberry Farm, La Trinidad.

The program began with a prayer led by Chief Administrative Officer Matias C. Angiwan Jr. followed by the singing of “*Pilipinas Kong Mahal*” conducted by UBA staff Cindy N. Pallay.

In his speech, VP for Business Affairs Josel M. Florentin welcomed BSU officials and business partners to the activity. “This is the first time that we are conducting this activity to bring together, get to know better, share visions, and collaboratively formulate an action plan for progress” Florentin said as he thanked all of the participants for coming.

Following the welcoming speech, Strawberry Farm Backfill Vendors Association (SFBVA) President Veronica Buya thanked BSU for organizing the activity and also thanked the partners who came. “We are happy and grateful that we are part of this wonderful event...It lifted our spirits and made us realize how we can be important as partners in the progress of this community,” Buya said.

BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan expressed his hope that the participants would raise their concerns and that the responses to those concerns would be acceptable to them. He further discussed the mandates of BSU as an

SUC and how the university came up with its income and resource generation.

After an intermission by representatives of the SFBVA, various plans, programs, and policies were presented by BSU Planning and Development Office Director Allan C. Sacpa, Office of Legal Affairs Director Reynante B. Basco, Special Projects and Partnerships Director Conrado C. Baoidang, La Trinidad Municipal Environment and Natural Resources Officer Arthur Pedro, and La Trinidad Tourism Officer Valred Olsim.

An open forum and discussions on ways forward was facilitated by BSU Sariling Sikap Association President Nelson Politchay. The participants sang the “*Tagumpay Nating Lahat*” by Lea Salonga as a form of commitment to what was discussed.

Chief Finance Officer Andres Arnold W. Lampacan made the closing remarks. He re-echoed the words of President Laruan and the VP for Business Affairs that BSU is open for conversations with the participants. He hoped that the dialogue will be sustained and will continue to clear concerns between BSU and its partners. The activity ended with a community dance.//EBawang

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Likewise, the BSU, DepEd-Benguet, and LGU La Trinidad's partnerships also allow DepEd-Benguet to temporary use BSU's old Institute of Public Administration building for the Alternative Learning System (ALS) program, with the support of the LGU La Trinidad.

BSU and DOST-PTRI's agreement also outlines the temporary use of the BSU land located at Sitio Tabangaoen, Barangay Balili, La Trinidad, Benguet by the DOST-PTRI for research activities.

A separate usufruct agreement was signed on May 29, 2025, at the College of Human Kinetics between BSU and the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office-CAR (DA-RFO-CAR) and DA-Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR)-CAR, represented by its Regional Director Lois June B. Fermin.

The agreement enables DA-BFAR-CAR the temporary use of BSU land for a proposed Technology Outreach Station dedicated to fish production and other fishery-related activities. This partnership aims to enhance the development of the fisheries sector in the region.

In return, these agencies will become automatic partners of BSU in terms of capacity building, student internships, research endeavors, and activities that promote linkages and harmonious relationships with the community and in all activities that aim to protect the environment, particularly the BSU land reservation.

During the signing ceremony on May 27, 2025, BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan looked forward to long-term engagements with the partner agencies, emphasizing the collaborations' contribution to the realization of BSU's mandates.

“We are looking for a long-term engagement with you in terms of the mandates of the university in research, extension, and of course in support of our academic programs,” the University President said.

Reynante B. Basco, Chief of BSU's Office for Legal Affairs, explained that these agreements are based on a standard template approved by the BSU Board of Regents and underscored the partners' shared responsibility in protecting BSU's landholdings.

“Apart from the partnership in terms of assistance by way of our academic research aspect, we would like also to emphasize that you are our partners in the protection of the issue land holdings,” said Basco.

After the usufruct agreements signing, representatives from the partner agencies expressed their gratitude to BSU and committed to strengthening these collaborative efforts. These partnerships are hoped to contribute to the advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals.//EBawayan

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that yield consistent and accurate data, directly influencing the credibility of findings. She explained that validity ensures an instrument measure what it is intended to, while reliability confirms consistent performance across time, raters, and contexts-both achieved through expert review, pilot testing, and statistical analysis.

Finally, Marina Sagandoy presented on “Ethical Considerations in Data Collection:

Best Practices for Researchers,” outlining core ethical principles and practical strategies for responsible research. Her discussion focused on informed consent, participant protection, and data confidentiality, using real-world case studies to emphasize transparency, fairness, and critical self-reflection to uphold participants' rights and maintain ethical integrity throughout the research process.//JSTabangcura