



Shamag

Official Newsletter of Benguet State University

ISSN 0118-0304

VOL. XXVII NO. 5

MAY 2026

BSU joins the nation in celebrating National Heritage Month 2026

With its commitment to cultural stewardship, Benguet State University participated in the celebration of the National Heritage Month (NHM) on May 2026 with the theme, "Roots and Horizons: Our Shared Heritage, Our Collective Future."

The celebration, under the banner title "Pangpanga ni Damdamot," aims to promote awareness, appreciation, and preservation of cultural heritage, with emphasis on indigenous identity, traditions, and creative expression.

BSU supported the national campaign by promoting public awareness of the celebration through posting and sharing NHM-related campaign and materials from the official National Heritage Month and the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) Facebook Pages on the BSU's official social media. The NHM campaign banner was also posted in a conspicuous location on the University campus.

Additionally, the University integrated cultural activities into its weekly Flag-Raising Ceremonies throughout the month supported by the BSU Administrative Order No. 0044, s. 2026.

During the Flag-Raising Ceremony on May 4, 2026, the BSU faculty and staff proudly wore indigenous attire to demonstrate their appreciation of the Cordilleran identity.

The BSU Center of Culture and the Arts Director Leonardo L. Samonte emphasized the significance of the Heritage Month as a reminder of the country's cultural roots.

To further deepen understanding, Samonte invited BSU Kontad to present and explain the significance of traditional Cordillera clothing. The demonstration provided insights into the symbolism, history, and craftsmanship behind these garments, reinforcing the importance of preserving indigenous knowledge and practices.

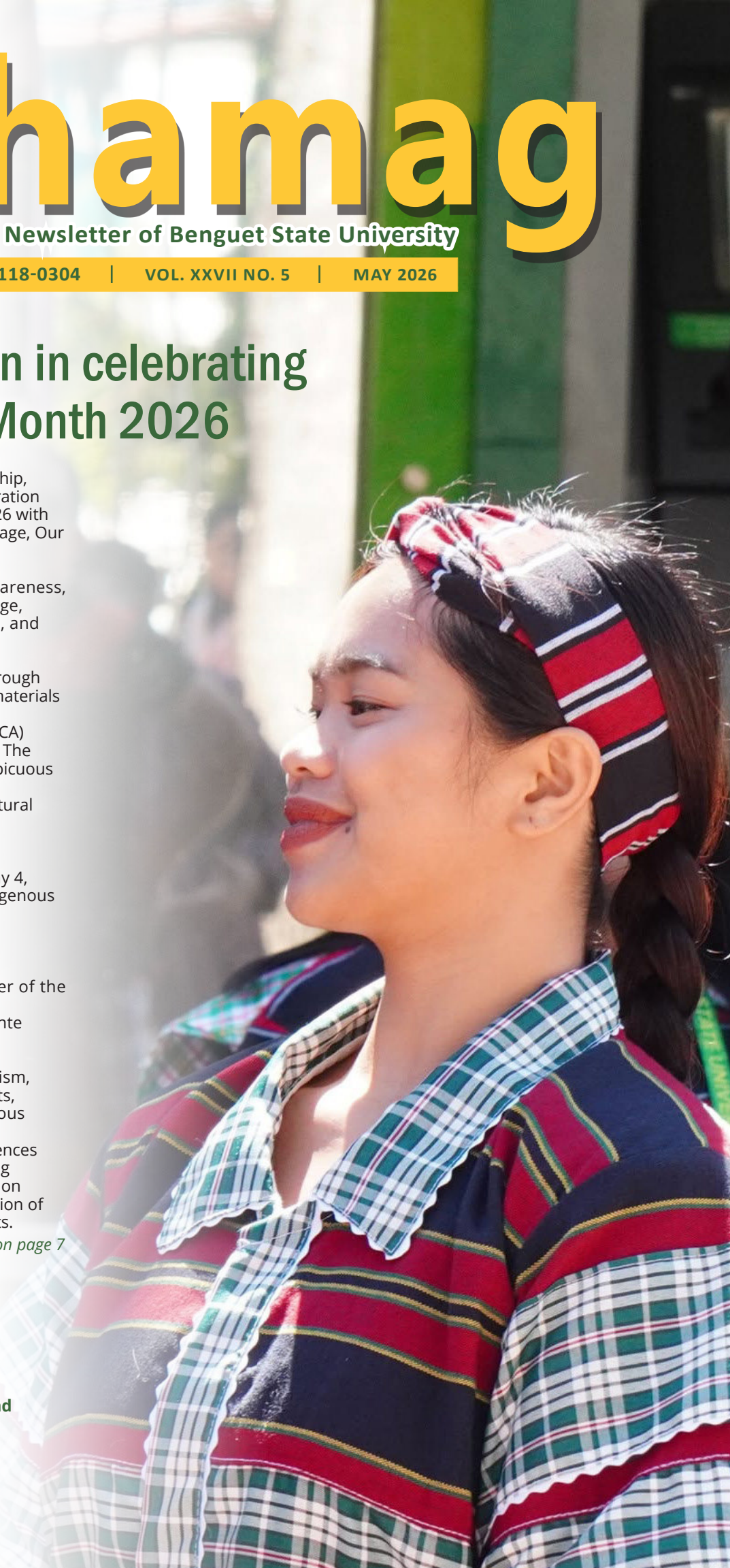
During the program, College of Social Sciences Dean Stanley F. Anongos raised concerns regarding proposed curriculum changes by the Commission on Higher Education, particularly the potential reduction of subjects in the humanities, social sciences, and arts.

...continued on page 7

“

Heritage is not frozen in the past; it lives in our stories, our language, and the wisdom passed down through generations. When we protect indigenous literature and the humanities, we protect memory, identity, and the future of our people."

-KAREN O. LAKING, Faculty Member, College of Arts and Humanities



EDITORIAL BOARD

EDITOR

Jennyline S. Tabangcura

WRITERS

Elsie M. Bawayan
Ellejohn A. Bawang
Prince Jheruel D. Gadang
Christian Dion De Guzman
Wellhymn Marcos
Notfri Sudaypan

DESIGN

Elsie M. Bawayan

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Elsie M. Bawayan
Ellejohn A. Bawang
Christian De Guzman
Wellhymn Marcos
Notfri Sudaypan

CIRCULATION

UPAO Staff
Records Office and Archives

CONSULTANTS

Kenneth A. Laruan
Janet P. Pablo
Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres
Richard H. Kinnud
Josel M. Florentin

Shamag, first published in 1996, is the official newsletter of Benguet State University. It was named after the Ibaloi word for news. It is one of the platforms for BSU to disseminate the programs, achievements and advocacies to its stakeholders. *Shamag* aims to help the University advance its goals by championing effective communication and partnerships.

Articles, pictures, comments, suggestions, reactions, and letters to the Editor may be submitted to the BSU-Public Affairs Office at publicaffairs@bsu.edu.ph. However, the *Shamag* staff reserves the right to edit submitted materials for mechanics and ethics. The *Shamag* is guided by the Associated Press (AP) style and journalistic standards.

For a complete view of articles and photos, visit www.bsu.edu.ph

and

fb.com/BenguetStateUniversityOfficial

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



BSU VMGO

BSU BOR RESOLUTION No. 183, s. 2025

VISION: A premier university in



transformative education,



innovative research,



inclusive extension,



sustainable development,



and stewardship of culture and the environment

MISSION

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

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BSU GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES
BSU BOR RESOLUTION No. 304, s. 2025



BSU CORE VALUES: Integrity, Resilience, Innovation, Stewardship, Service, and Excellence
BSU BOR RESOLUTION No. 304, s. 2025

Shaping Minds, Transforming Communities, Shaping Futures

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 records 100 percent passing rate in engineering board exam, exceeds national rating in LEPT

Benguet State University (BSU) recorded a 100 percent passing rate in the April 2026 Registered Electrical Engineer Licensure Examination, with all 12 of its examinees successfully qualifying for professional practice. This BSU's performance surpassed the national passing rate of 57.49 percent.

The university also exceeded the national averages in the March 2026 Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers (LEPT).

At the elementary level, BSU listed a 66.67 percent passing rate higher than the 56.08 percent national passing rate. Meanwhile, the university achieved an 86.92 percent passing

rate at the secondary level, surpassing the national average of 73.14 percent.

The success of the examinees reflects the effectiveness of the university's engineering and education curricula and the consistent academic preparation provided by the College of Engineering and the College of Teacher Education.

The university administration and faculty recognized the hard work of the BSU passers as they join the ranks of licensed professionals in the electrical engineering and the teacher education sectors.

BSU hosts 2026 Aspulan Futsal Invitational Cup-Ladies' Open

May 2, 2026 — Benguet State University (BSU), through its College of Human Kinetics (CHK) and in partnership with the BSU Football Club (BSUFC), hosted the 2026 Aspulan Futsal Invitational Cup – Ladies' Open at the university Covered Court.

This flagship initiative of BSUFC since 2010 and part of CHK's extension program brought together 12 teams from Benguet, Baguio City, Pangasinan, and Ilocos Norte, highlighting the growing competitiveness of grassroots women's futsal in the region.

Beyond the competitive aspect, the Aspulan series maintains a strong community service presence, noting this year's Invitational was held for a cause with proceeds benefiting the BSU community.

"Through the extension program titled Sports for All, we try to promote and develop sports to improve the athletic program of Benguet which intends to help members and alumni who need assistance," said Maria Lourdes B. Obidos, CHK Faculty Member and Tournament Facilitator.

Obidos added that the event served as a bridge between academic excellence and grassroots sports development.

Participating teams included Benguet Palaro Team, BSU ELS, BSU SLS, BSU Varsity A and B, Benguet High Team, Baguio Griffins, Sibol FC, Titas, GenZ-Alumni, Lipit FC (Pangasinan), and Amazonas (Ilocos Norte).

Showcasing each team's skills, teamwork, and sportsmanship, GenZ-Alumni emerged as the champion, followed by BSU Varsity A finishing first runner-up and Sibol FC placing second runner-up.

Individual recognitions were awarded to Regina Aliping of GenZ as Most Valuable Player, Jemayka Cher Galvez of BSU Varsity A as Best Defender, and Keriszha Antonio of GenZ as Best Goalkeeper. Amazonas received the Fairplay Award.

“

Natutunan po namin ang sportsmanship and iyong kindness at hindi rin po mawawala iyong respeto sa mga bagong nakasalamuha namin and makakatulong din po ito sa training namin."

-IYA MENDOZA, Lipit-FC Pangasinan Team Captain

Lipit-FC Pangasinan team captain Iya Mendoza expressed her gratitude, sharing the values gained through the competition.

The Aspulan Cup highlights BSU's continuing efforts to advance sports development, experiential learning, and community engagement through inclusive athletic programs.

  P. Gadang, E. Bawang





BSU-UPAO, ICT hold lecture-workshop on graphic design, video, web content

May 19, 2026 — Benguet State University, through the University Public Affairs Office (UPAO) and the Information and Communications Technology Office, spearheaded a hybrid Lecture-Workshop on Basic Graphic Design, Canva, and Cinematography at the ICT Hall and via Zoom.

The activity, attended by BSU Information Coordinators and other interested individuals, aimed to enhance the visual communication competencies of BSU employees through training in graphic design principles and the use of Canva. It is also intended to develop participants' practical skills in creating and updating critical content, including website inputs aligned with the BSU's institutional standards.

In her written message, VP for Academic Affairs Janet P. Pablo emphasized that the workshop equips participants to turn ideas into visuals that inform, inspire, and connect.

Beyond design skills, Pablo stressed the importance of content substance, noting that Information Coordinators play a vital role in bringing office stories, updates, and achievements that deserve to be known.

UPAO Director Jennyline S. Tabangcura began the session by presenting the historical eras and movements of graphic design. In her presentation, she emphasized the critical role of "white space" in providing visual breathing room. Her discussion also covered considerations in design, such as color theory, semiotics, purpose, harmony, and various technical elements.

UPAO Staff Member Christian Dion De Guzman followed with a discussion on design elements and principles. He also introduced various design tools, including Canva, Microsoft, and Adobe software, and shared a practical guide and visual review of design.

At the end of his presentation, De Guzman showed how AI can assist in the creative process. However, the speakers reminded the participants not to be overly reliant on AI.

Tabangcura said that AI cannot push boundaries like humans do but will only regurgitate what is uploaded into it.

Following these lectures, Information Officer 1 Prince Jheruel D. Gadang demonstrated the versatility of Canva, guiding participants through its

...continued on page 5

North Luzon Coffee Quality Competition Second-Phase Sensory Assessment held at BSU

May 6-7, 2026 — Sensory assessment of 63 Arabica and Robusta coffee entries for the second phase of the North Luzon Coffee Quality Competition was held at the Benguet State University Institute of Highland Farming Systems and Agroforestry. The first phase, held on April 29 and 30, 2026, focused on the physical grading of green coffee beans.

Organized by the Department of Agriculture–Philippine Rural Development Project (DA-PRDP) North Luzon Cluster in coordination with the Department of Trade and Industry, the Barista and Coffee Academy of Asia, and Benguet State University, the competition continues to highlight the growing coffee industry in Northern Luzon.

Now in its second year, the competition recorded a notable increase in participation, from 40 entries during its inaugural run to 63 in the current cycle.

The coffee samples came from growers and producers

across Region I, Region II, and the Cordillera Administrative Region, areas recognized as major coffee-producing zones in Northern Luzon. Through the competition, organizers aim to gather quality assessment data that may contribute to future programs and interventions supporting coffee farmers and producers in improving their harvests.

BSU will also integrate the evaluation results into its research and extension initiatives to help farmers, particularly those in rural communities, adopt data-driven approaches in improving coffee production. The competition also aims to strengthen farmers' technical knowledge and encourage them to manage their farms as sustainable enterprises. By improving coffee quality, organizers hope farmers can access better market opportunities, increase their income, and enhance their quality of life.

 P. Gadang, CD. De Guzman



BSU Admin and Finance Sector commemorates Open Government Week; Holds 2026 Mid-Year Financial Review

May 20-21, 2026 — Benguet State University through the Office of the VP for Administration and Finance (OVPAF) commemorated the Open Government Week and also convened BSU's 2026 Mid-Year Financial Review at the BSU Gymnasium. This was participated by university officials, staff, and faculty members from the La Trinidad, Bokod, and Buguias campuses.

For the Open Government Week, guests from the Department of Budget and Management - Cordillera Administrative Region (DBM-CAR) were invited to speak about Open Government. They acknowledged BSU as one of the first State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) in the region to meet national optimization and open governance standards.

"We are very pleased to inform everyone that BSU is among the first to comply with the certification of surrendering 20 percent of their allotment," said DBM-CAR Supervising Budget and Management Specialist and Acting Division Chief Israel B. Baguilat, during his talk about the Open Government Week and the 6th National Action Plan.

An open forum was later facilitated by DBM-CAR Director Marie Christine P. Andaya, allowing participants to raise questions and clarify matters related to governance and budgeting reforms.

In the afternoon session, the university proceeded with the 2026 Mid-Year Financial Review. The review aimed to assess the financial status of the university during the first half of the year, evaluate fund utilization and budget execution, and identify gaps in financial operations. It also aimed to strengthen transparency, accountability, and fiscal responsiveness.

University President Kenneth A. Laruan delivered his message, emphasizing the importance of the review in the financial management of the university.

The presentations started with updates on institutional development initiatives by Planning Unit Head Melvin John M. Aromin, covering the Land Use Development and Infrastructure Plan, BSU Green Campus Initiative, and the Smart Campus Development Plan.

Financial performance reports followed, Budget Office Head Estrellita M. Daclan presented the mid-year assessments, statements of allotment, and the obligations and balances. Accounting Office Head Imelda B. Galinato also reported the cash flow assessment and projected receipts report.

On the second day, reports continued with updates on procurement status presented by Jocelyn L. Mauting of the Procurement Management Office, followed by reports on the issuance of supplies by Supply and Property Management Office Head Ricky S. Polilen, and the repairs and maintenance plan presented by General Services Office Head Sheriff John La Madrid.

The reports were followed by a workshop on the Project Procurement Management Plan and modification, as well as projected expenses for meals, snacks, and tokens.

The activity concluded with the presentation of outputs per sector and other offices, followed by the closing message of VPAF Richard H. Kinnud.

  P. Gadang

BSU-UPAO, ICT...from page 4

key features and showing how to apply the design elements, principles, and tips discussed.

He encouraged the participants to explore Canva's features, while they were reminded that good design is a process. According to the speakers, a designer needs to internalize the information, identify its purpose, and carefully plan the layout.

Administrative Assistant II Ellejohn Bawang then tackled the foundations of videography and cinematography and composition techniques to enhance storytelling, along with camera movements and post-editing techniques.

Following the lecture series, participants transitioned into hands-on workshops where they applied the tips and concepts learned throughout the day.

To wrap up the activity, ICT Staff Member Julie Ann D. Tabdi conducted a one-on-one session with College of Nursing information coordinator Jonalyn S. Esco on how to navigate the backend of their college's page in the BSU website.

  E. Bawayan

BSU holds pitching and review of 2027 research proposals to strengthen responsive research and development

May 20-21, 2026 — In line with the mission to cultivate future-ready human capital through responsive research and development, Benguet State University convened faculty researchers and evaluators for the Pitching and Review of Research Proposals for 2027 Benguet State University Funding on May 20 to 21, 2026, at the Research and Extension Building and the Northern Philippines Root Crops Research and Training Center (NPRCRTC), under the theme, "PAN-NGANGALATAN: Fostering Responsible and Responsive Research."

The two-day activity served as a platform for faculty researchers to present and refine proposed studies for possible University funding in 2027, ensuring that research initiatives remain responsive to

emerging concerns and aligned with the institution's mandate of generating relevant, innovative, and development-oriented knowledge outputs.

Research proposals presented during the activity were aligned with the University's priority research agendas, namely: food security and poverty reduction; sustainable development and environmental stewardship; competitiveness through the improvement of existing production and post-production systems and the promotion of optimal utilization of selected commodities; research and development support to allied agricultural and forestry services; socio-cultural, economic, and environmental health concerns; gender and development; and education.

The pitching and review process provided an avenue for researchers to strengthen the quality, relevance, and feasibility of their proposed studies through expert evaluation and scholarly discussions. Through the activity, proponents were encouraged to ensure that their research initiatives address institutional, community, and sectoral needs while contributing to evidence-based solutions and sustainable development.

A plenary session was likewise delivered by Zenaida Brigida Hamada-Pawid, former chairperson of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, who shared valuable insights on responsible and responsive research. Her discussion emphasized the importance of culturally grounded, community-responsive, and ethically informed research engagements, particularly in strengthening inclusivity and social relevance in knowledge generation.

Anchored on the activity's theme, the activity underscored the University's continuing commitment to advancing research that addresses pressing societal concerns while promoting innovation, sustainability, and inclusive development.

📷 W. Marcos





PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS: BSU, La Trinidad LGU partner to enhance local governance through data management

May 4, 2026 — Benguet State University and the Municipal Government of La Trinidad entered into a formal partnership to enhance local governance through improved statistical capacity and data management. This was done through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed by BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan and La Trinidad Mayor Roderick C. Awingan.

The MOA establishes a framework for technical collaboration in the fields of basic and advanced statistics, data analytics, and community profiling. The partnership aims to empower local government personnel and grassroots stakeholders by providing them with the necessary tools for evidence-based decision-making.

Under the terms of the agreement, BSU will provide technical expertise through faculty resource speakers and the development of specialized training modules. These educational initiatives are designed to support various sectors, including agriculture, health, disaster risk reduction, and tourism. The University is also tasked with conducting data analysis and preparing terminal reports for completed community activities, ensuring that the research conducted translates into actionable insights for the municipality.

The Municipality of La Trinidad will support these implementation efforts by identifying program beneficiaries such as LGU personnel, barangay officials, and farmer groups. The local government unit also commits to providing the necessary venues, logistical support, and financial or in-kind resources to ensure the success of the approved activities. Both parties emphasized that all data collected during these community profiling activities will be handled in strict compliance with the Data Privacy Act of 2012 to protect the confidentiality of the involved stakeholders.

The MOA signing was witnessed by BSU VP for Research and Extension Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres, College of Numeracy and Applied Sciences Dean Ederson G. Bawang, Statistics Department Chair Precious M. Valentin, Municipal Administrator Franco G. Bawang Jr., Executive Secretary Delmar O. Cariño, and Administrative Officer IV Cristopher C. Bansan. The three-year collaboration underscores the commitment of both institutions to promoting a more informed and digitally literate community in La Trinidad.

National Heritage Month...from page 1

He further highlighted that cultural practices, such as wearing traditional attire like the bahag and tapis, embody the struggles, spirituality, and heritage of ancestors. Without proper education in history and culture, appreciation for these traditions may diminish.

In her message, VP for Academic Affairs Janet Pablo encouraged the BSU community to preserve cultural identity while embracing innovation, ensuring that heritage remains relevant and meaningful for future generations.

The event successfully brought together cultural appreciation, academic reflection, and institutional commitment, demonstrating Benguet State University's dedication to preserving heritage while advancing toward a progressive and innovative future.

During the Flag-Raising Ceremony on May 11, 2026, Former National Commission on Indigenous Peoples Chairperson Zenaida Brigida Hamada-Pawid was invited for a talk. She emphasized the deep historical connection between BSU and La Trinidad, stating that the identities of the university and municipality are inseparable.

Pawid highlighted the university's evolution from a secondary farm school into the Cordillera's leading institution for agriculture, biological research, agroforestry, and home economics, describing these as part of the university's heritage or tawid.

Finally, College of Arts and Humanities Faculty Member Karen O. Laking gave a discussion on Philippine heritage during the University Flag-Raising Ceremony on May 18, 2026. She emphasized the vital role of culture, memory, and education in shaping the nation's future. She also highlighted the importance of heritage, indigenous literature, and the humanities in preserving culture and shaping responsible citizens.

Laking encouraged BSU constituents to continue protecting indigenous knowledge and humanities education in building a more reflective, inclusive, and culturally grounded society.



BAPTC celebrates 10th Founding Anniversary

May 15, 2026 — The Benguet Agri-Pinoy Trading Center (BAPTC) celebrated its 10th anniversary marking a decade of contributing to the development of the highland agricultural sector. Under the theme "BAPTC @ 10: Better, Together," the milestone event brought together farmers, BAPTC personnel, local government units, and esteemed guests to honor the center's journey.

Undersecretary Roger Navarro represented the Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel Jr. at the event. In his address, Navarro emphasized "working as one" as the core philosophy driving the center's longevity. He stated that progress relies on the steady unity and partnership among all stakeholders, particularly the farmers, porters, packers, and government units.

The anniversary highlighted the continuous improvement of post-harvest facilities, which remain critical to strengthening the supply chain and maximizing market opportunities for highland producers.

He also emphasized how BAPTC was originally conceptualized to serve only the province of Benguet but has significantly expanded its footprint over the last ten years. Today, BAPTC actively integrates and supports farming communities across Mountain Province and Ifugao as well.

In a moving testimonial, Brent Pasion, the farmers' representative, reflected on the challenging journey of market improvement and the inspiring growth of local farmers' organizations. Pasion shared his personal transition from working as a simple packer at the old trading post to now helping connect local farmers directly to major markets and institutions. He noted that highland farmers have transformed into agripreneurs capable of supplying their produce directly to major commercial

hubs in Manila, including Ayala Malls, Taguig, and various urban centers.

Pasion also highlighted how the DA's Kadiwa program effectively brought highland produce closer to urban consumers, sharing lighthearted anecdotes from the center's early days.

While vegetable production remains strong, Mankayan Mayor Cesar D. Pasiwen noted that the primary challenge moving forward lies in marketing and distribution rather than farming.

Mayor Pasiwen shared a bold vision for the future, expressing his dream to see local crops expand globally, "We dream that our repolyo (cabbage) will reach the Middle East, with other races eating our homegrown produce," Pasiwen said.

Recognizing that enriching farmers' lives requires safeguarding their physical well-being, the 10th anniversary also featured the official launch of the BAPTC Clinic.

This health initiative is driven by Project 4: Strengthening the Emergency Response and Health Promotion for BAPTC Stakeholders, led by Jude L. Tayaben of the Benguet State University (BSU) College of Nursing. The project operates in close collaboration with the University Health Services and the BSU College of Nursing Research and Innovation Center for Health (CN-RICH).

Richard Dumapis of the CN-RICH explained that the clinic aims to bridge existing health gaps, lower agricultural

occupational hazards, such as health risks associated with the overuse of synthetic pesticides, and regularly evaluate the general health status and quality of life of the thousands of stakeholders who utilize the trading hub.

As part of the celebration, the mayors of the 12 districts, together with other government officials and representatives from the Department of Agriculture, participated in a ceremonial signing of commitment. The activity symbolized their pledge of continued cooperation and dedication to strengthening the highland vegetable industry.

The anniversary celebration went on with a networking lunch, followed by games and socialization activities, and later concluded with awards and closing rites.

 CD. De Guzman, PJ. Gadang

“

Farmers are risk-takers, stewards of the land, and ultimate providers."

-BRENT PASIAN, Farmers' Representative

