



## BSU gains highest ARTA rating among SUCs



BSU officials received the Anti-Red Tape Award on October 23, 2025 at the Conrad Manila Hotel in Pasay City. In photo are (L-R): VPRE Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres, VPBA Josel M. Florentin, University President Kenneth A. Laruan, PDO Director Allan C. Sacpa, and SAO Raymundo H. Pawid Jr. //

Benguet State University's commitment to public service was recognized by the Anti-Red Tape Authority (ARTA) during the 2024 Batch Report Card Survey (RCS) 2.0 – 1st Cycle Implementation Awards held on October 23, 2025 at the Conrad Manila Hotel in Pasay City.

The Anti-Red Tape Award is conferred upon government agencies that exemplify efficiency, transparency, and accountability in the delivery of public services. This recognition highlights BSU's successful implementation of ARTA's standards and its steadfast adherence to the principles of good governance.

BSU achieved a 29.50 percent institutionalization rating under Republic Act No. 11032, otherwise known as the Ease of Doing Business and Efficient Government Service Delivery Act, an overall survey score of 62.84 percent, and four percent external recognition for garnering two international and one national awards. These accomplishments resulted in an overall score of 96.34%, earning BSU a descriptive rating of "Excellent."

Representing the University in receiving the certificate and monetary award were University President Kenneth A. Laruan, VP for Business Affairs Josel M. Florentin, VP

for Research and Extension Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres, Supervising Administrative Officer and OIC-Chief Administrative Officer for Administrative Services Raymundo H. Pawid Jr., and Planning and Development Office Director Allan C. Sacpa.

In his acceptance speech, President Laruan expressed profound gratitude to BSU's collective effort and dedication.

"This recognition is not only for the Administrative Council, Executive Council, and Management Committee—it is for the dedicated men and women of BSU. It represents our shared commitment to

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

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

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## Benguet State University

## VISION

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

## MISSION

**BSU CARES** to: Challenge innovation, Advance technology and facility, Revitalize administration, Engender partnership, and Serve 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

# One for Education: BSU Personnel Join Benguet Teachers' Day Culmination



Benguet State University (BSU) joined the Benguet Teachers' Day culmination program at the Benguet Sports Complex on October 17, 2025. BSU personnel joined fellow educators, local officials, and community members who gathered to honor teachers and their invaluable contributions. The program also reaffirmed the role of teachers to nation-building.

The program opened with an inspiring message from Department of Education (DepEd) -CAR Regional Director Estela L. Cariño, who underscored the indispensable role of teachers in shaping learners and communities. She encouraged continuous recognition and appreciation for educators—not only on Teachers' Day but every day—setting a tone of gratitude and respect for the rest of the celebration.

A financial literacy lecture by Jake T. Altiyen followed, focusing on the importance of safeguarding teachers' financial well-

being. He cautioned attendees about the rise of fraudulent schemes and online gambling and urged them to remain vigilant, practice wise financial management, and rely on credible sources for financial information.

In a significant development, Benguet Governor Dr. Melchor D. Diclas announced plans to propose an ordinance granting free master's degrees for DepEd teachers. The initiative aims to support professional development, enhance teaching quality, and expand career advancement opportunities—reflecting the province's strong commitment to empowering its educators.

The program honored the Top 14 Feature Story Writers out of more than 40 entries submitted from across the province of Benguet. Notably, three finalists came from BSU's College of Teacher Education—Martes Dionisio, Johna Belardo, and Imelda Parcasio.

In her closing remarks, Vice

Governor Marie Rose Fongwan expressed heartfelt gratitude to teachers for their dedication and service. She emphasized the importance of unity among educators and stakeholders in advancing the province's educational goals and sustaining its tradition of excellence.

The day also featured indigenous games where BSU faculty members Dona Kalibangan and Martes Dionisio participated.

The Culminating Program for Benguet Teachers' Day stood as a meaningful tribute to the teaching community—celebrating their hard work, reaffirming their role as pillars of education, and strengthening the shared commitment to quality learning, cultural preservation, and professional growth. With BSU's active participation and contributions, the event embodied the spirit of collaboration and excellence that continues to define Benguet's educators.

//J.Belardo



## Together4Teachers: CTE-SG Celebrates Educators!

The College of Teacher Education Student Government (CTE-SG) capped the National Teachers' Month by expressing their gratitude to their teachers through a program.

CTE-SG Vice Governor Jessica G. Turcuato thanked CTE faculty members for their guidance. "Hindi lamang binabati, kundi pinaparamdam ang halaga ninyo!" she exclaimed. The program proceeded with a performance by the BSU Rondalla and tributes to teachers whom CTE-SG Governor Frederick A. Cachero dubbed as their "second parents." CTE Dean Divina M. Yango responded to the students by encouraging them to strive for success. //EBawang

# More of October in a nutshell...



## BSU Recognized for Excellence and Global Competitiveness by CHED-CAR

Benguet State University received the "Gawad Parangal sa Pandaigdigang Kahuksayan" on October 1 at Saint Louis University in honor of its 2025 rankings: THE Impact (801–1000), WURI (#172), Entrepreneurial Spirit (#17), Sustainability Funding (#11), and Infrastructure/Tech (#5).

Key contributors to BSU's rankings included apiculture programs, sustainable projects, and landslide early warning systems. VP for Research and Extension Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres and International Relations Office Director Rex John G. Bawang received the BSU's award.



[Read full story here:](#)

## BSU researchers attend Precision Agriculture Training and Tsukuba Conference 2025 in Japan

Benguet State University researchers Janet P. Pablo and Frevy T. Orendia attended a training-workshop on low-cost smartphone apps with deep learning models and the Tsukuba Conference 2025 at the University of Tsukuba, Japan, on September 29 to October 3, 2025.

The week-long training workshop aimed to create low-cost smartphone-based solutions to monitor plant health through the use of canopy imaging and a deep learning-based solution.



[Read full story here:](#)



## BSU undergoes ISO 9001:2015 first surveillance audit

Benguet State University underwent its first ISO 9001:2015 surveillance audit across its La Trinidad, Buguias, and Bokod campuses, ensuring adherence to quality management standards.

The three-day review by auditors John Francis Faustorilla, Jr., Jogina Mendiola, Rhene Rose Zara, and Hilario Capili involved document checks, personnel interviews, and class observations.

President Kenneth A. Laruan emphasized the audit's role in advancing BSU's vision of continuous improvement. Faustorilla noted effective policy compliance, with minor non-conformities and opportunities for improvement flagged for the next visit. Laruan thanked the team and staff, committing to address all recommendations.



[Read full story here:](#)

## Level II nurse learners receive orientation from partner agencies



BSU Level II nurse learners attended orientations by new affiliates of the College of Nursing (CN.)

Dr. Valentin C. Marcelo, a Chief Nurse of

the Luis Hora Memorial Regional Hospital in Bauko briefed the 194 nursing students on the hospital's VMGO, SOPs, DOH agenda, and ethical care, stressing cultural sensitivity and gender inclusivity. This was followed by Ilocos Sur Medical Center Chief Nurse Myra B. Gazmen. She also oriented the students on policies and standards.



[Read full story here:](#)

## CHED RQAT conducts CoPC onsite visit and evaluation at BSU Bokod



CHED Regional Quality Assurance Team (RQAT) conducted an on-site visit and evaluation regarding BSU Bokod's application for Certificate of Program Compliance (CoPC). The RQAT assessed program standards, facilities, and compliance to ensure quality delivery of education.



[Read full story here:](#)

## BSU Academics advances collaboration across three HEIs

Benguet State University's Academic Sector, led by VP for Academic Affairs Janet P. Pablo, visited Tarlac State University (Oct. 8), Central Luzon State University (Oct. 9), and Aurora State College of Technology (Oct. 10) for the "Institutional Scoping: Practices and Perspectives" initiative.

The benchmarking focused on micro-credentials, college structuring, advanced studies, admissions, faculty workload, curriculum design, and internationalization. BSU directors, deans, and staff engaged in discussions on best practices.



[Read full story here:](#)



## CAH holds Groundbreaking Ceremony for its Building

Benguet State University's College of Humanities (CAH) held a groundbreaking ceremony for its new building at the New CHET grounds on October 17, 2025.

Dean Ronda B. Tullay highlighted the facility as a "cradle of creativity, critical thought, and cultural engagement" aligned with BSU's VMGO. President Kenneth A. Laruan and Faculty President Imelda O. Degay led the time capsule burial, with Allan C. Sacpa officiating the dedication.

BSU Officials, faculty members, staff, students, and former college heads attended the event.



[Read full story here:](#)

## CCDC and BSU Partners for Excellence in Teacher Education



Benguet State University (BSU) and Cordillera Career Development College (CCDC) formalized their partnership through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signing on October 16 at CCDC's campus.



[Read full story here:](#)

The agreement unites BSU's College of Teacher Education with CCDC's Graduate School and College of Teacher Education for academic cooperation, joint professional development, and instructional material exchanges to strengthen regional teacher preparation.

## BSU hosts 46th National Conference on Local and National History

Benguet State University's Department of History and Philosophy (College of Social Sciences), with the Philippine National Historical Society, hosted the 46th National Conference on Local and National History themed "History and Identity."

The two-day event featured 24 papers on local histories, Cordilleras, Bangsamoro identity, and Philippine cultural heritage.



[Read full story here:](#)

## BSU students present studies in national statistics convention



Benguet State University's Department of Statistics (College of Numeracy and Applied Sciences) joined the 16th National Convention on Statistics on October 1-3.

at the Manila Hotel. Organized by the Philippine Statistics Authority, the convention was themed "Accelerating the SDG Pace of Progress: Mobilizing Data for All."

The triennial event featured sessions on economic progress, poverty, health, AI tools, and survey design.



[Read full story here:](#)

## BSU celebrates the United Nations Day

Benguet State University celebrated the United Nations Day through various activities organized by the BSU Supreme Student Government (BSU SSG) in coordination with the International Relations Office.



[Read full story here:](#)

The event featured a Parade of Flags with colleges representing nations, followed by Pasikatan cultural performances, Mr. and Ms. United Nations contest showcasing global attires and Q&A, and a UN Variety Show of dances, music, and dialogues. Additional highlights included Chalk Art for Sustainability and an Advocacy Video competition.

# BSU receives Certificate of Recognition from Baguio City Jail



Benguet State University (BSU) was honored with a Certificate of Recognition by the Baguio City Jail during the celebration of the National Correctional Consciousness Week (NACOCOW). This was received by VPAAs staff Leo A. Olmano on October 23 2025 at the BJMP-Baguio. The recognition was conferred in acknowledgment of BSU's

unwavering support for the implementation of the College Education Behind Bars Program, a collaborative initiative with the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP).

Through this program, BSU provides Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL) with the opportunity to pursue college education through alternative learning modalities. The university's active involvement in this

initiative exemplifies its commitment to inclusive education, rehabilitation, and the transformative power of learning—extending its academic mission beyond the confines of the classroom and into correctional institutions.

The Certificate of Recognition underscored BSU's role as a vital partner in promoting the welfare and development of PDLs, and its continued engagement in BJMP-led programs and activities reflects its dedication to community service and social responsibility.

Celebrated annually during the last week of October, NACOCOW aims to raise public awareness on the rehabilitation and reintegration of PDLs, while honoring institutions and individuals who contribute meaningfully to this advocacy.

BSU remains steadfast in its mission to build lives and communities through education, and continues to forge meaningful partnerships that uphold dignity, opportunity, and hope. //LAOlmano & ADBCauan



## BSU kicks off 2nd UBA Week

The University Business Affairs (UBA) sector launched its 2nd UBA Week on October 27, 2025, at the RSDC Hall, under the theme "Innovate, Collaborate, and Grow: Unlocking SUC's Potential Through Sustainable Income-Generating Projects."

Director of Business Operations and Business Development Services Rashid B. Lokines delivered the opening remarks, acknowledging officials, employees, and guests while providing an event overview.

University President Kenneth A. Laruan followed, emphasizing the vital role of Income-Generating Projects (IGPs). "IGPs are more than just sources of additional funds; they are instruments for the growth and development of our university, providing support for academic, research, extension, and administrative activities while serving as training grounds for students and sources of income for our community partners," he stated. Laruan thanked partners and urged continued support for the university's growth and community development.

The kickoff included a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the trade fair at the CAS-Annex Lawn, led by VP for Research and Extension

Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres, Lokines, and Betag Barangay Captain Monalisa D. Comila. The fair, held until October 30, showcased products from university partners.

The day's activities continued with a seminar on Disaster Risk Reduction Management (DRRM) and Values Restoration, attended by staff from various IGPs. Security Services Office Director Odelon C. Dulay presented DRRM principles, safety measures for work and home, and demonstrated the "duck, cover, and hold" technique for earthquakes. Rev. Matias C. Angiwan Jr. then discussed Values Restoration, focusing on workplace ethics, characteristics, morals, and values for a productive environment. Speakers received certificates and tokens.

UBA also hosted the two-day IGP Summit on October 28 to 29, 2025 at the College of Home Economics and Technology Function Hall and Strawberry Hall, RSDC Building. The event was attended by heads and VPs from state universities including Bataan Peninsula State University, Tarlac State University, Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology, Abra State

Institute of Science and Technology, Tarlac Agricultural University, Nueva Vizcaya State University, Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University, Bulacan State University, Kalinga State University, University of Northern Philippines, Isabela State University, and Quirino State University.

Day 1 featured lectures on IGPs and procurement. BSU Chief Accountant Imelda B. Galinato discussed financial sustainability, challenges, and solutions for SUC IGPs. Finance Chief Andres Arnold W. Lampacan covered procurement challenges, taxation types, and SUC concerns. Darlyn D. Tagarino shared IGP planning strategies, followed by a five-part workshop led by her husband, Leopoldo N. Tagarino.

"I challenge UBA to not just focus on [selling] products... but also the knowledge we generate," she expressed. The day ended with entrepreneur Michael del Rosario's inspiring talk on his journey from humble beginnings to business success.

Day 2 emphasized best practices sharing among SUC representatives, highlighting successful projects and ideas to foster improvement. An open forum followed, enabling questions, insights, and discussions on collaborations.//

# OCTOBER 2025 LICENSURE EXAMINATION PERFORMANCE



## TOP 5 Performing School

93.94% **FIRST-TIME TAKERS**      85.90% **BSU PASSING RATE**      71.62% **NATIONAL PASSING RATE**

## TOP 3 Performing School

92.86% **FIRST-TIME TAKERS**      81.37% **INSTITUTIONAL PASSING RATE**      74.42% **NATIONAL PASSING RATE**



### CHEMISTS COMPUTER-BASED LICENSURE EXAMINATION

50% **FIRST-TIME TAKERS**      50% **INSTITUTIONAL PASSING RATE**      73.22% **NATIONAL PASSING RATE**

### CHEMICAL TECHNICIANS LICENSURE EXAMINATIONS

83.33% **FIRST-TIME TAKERS**      87.50% **INSTITUTIONAL PASSING RATE**      83.88% **NATIONAL PASSING RATE**

### BSU Student Leader recognized as Top 5 Outstanding Leader

  
Andree Jaime D. Abuan, a former Supreme Student Government Leader at Benguet State University (BSU), earned recognition as one of the Top 5 Outstanding Student Leaders of the Philippines (OSLP) in 2025. This prestigious award highlights exceptional leadership among tertiary students nationwide. The ceremony occurred on October 3, 2025, at Venus Parkview Hotel in Baguio City, during the 1st OSLP and 5th Student Affairs and Services (SAS) National Convention.

Abuan also represented Benguet in the 13th National Youth Parliament held in Vigan, Ilocos Sur on November 17 to 21, 2025. He served under the Committee on Economic Empowerment and Global Mobility, which successfully sponsored two resolutions, one on youth economic empowerment and another on youth global mobility. Both resolutions were approved on the third and final reading of the Parliament and will be lobbied by regional convenors in their respective localities.

#### BSU ranks top 1...from page 1

efficiency, transparency, and excellence across all sectors: Academic, Research and Extension, Business Affairs, and Administration and Finance. This award inspires us to uphold the principles of ARTA—to serve with integrity, fairness, and genuine concern in all our services,” Laruan said.

President Laruan further reaffirmed BSU’s dedication to continually simplify its processes, embrace digital transformation, and enhance payment and service systems to ensure faster, more efficient, and responsive governance. He added that BSU’s top ranking in the 2025 ARTA RCS Awards among SUCs stands as a testament to the University’s pursuit of excellence and its enduring commitment to delivering efficient, transparent, and citizen-centered public service to the community. //MLangbis

## BSU hosts Thai partners for Technology Business Incubation



Benguet State University (BSU) partners from the Thailand Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research, and Innovation (MHESI), Maejo University, University of Phayao, and Mae Fah Luang University arrived at the University for a two-day formal visit.

On October 16, 2025, the Thai guests were welcomed by the Office of the University President represented by Executive Assistant IV Maridel P. Langbis and the Municipality of La Trinidad represented by Administrator Franco Bawang Jr.

Langbis delivered an inspiring message on the importance of global collaboration in advancing innovation, entrepreneurship, and sustainable growth. She also shared BSU's 2025–2030 strategic direction, which focuses on transformative education, innovative research, inclusive extension services, and cultural and environmental stewardship. Likewise, Bawang presented the vision of "Limitless La Trinidad" that encourages constituents to harness creativity and technology to drive community progress.

The Thai partners thanked BSU for the warm welcome emphasizing that 'Innovation does not begin in cooperation alone but in being genuine.'

To symbolize the friendship and

formalization of the partnership between the two parties, a Friendship Tree Planting was held followed by a friendship knot-tying and watering ceremony that symbolizes growth, unity, and sustainability.

The first day of the visit ended with a tour to the BSU IHFSA Coffee Farm, College of Nursing, College of Veterinary Medicine and to La Trinidad facilitated by BSU and the Local Government Unit (LGU) of La Trinidad.

A presentation of the Thai partners' various innovations was held on October 17, 2025. VP for Research and Extension Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres delivered the opening remarks highlighting the role of research collaboration in driving community-based growth.

Speakers from Thailand's leading institutions —MHESI, Maejo University, University of Phayao, and Mae Fah Luang University — shared their expertise in agricultural technology, sustainable development, and innovation management.

Plan and Policy Analyst, Senior Professional Level Division of Science, Sombat Somsak of MHESI presented Thailand's Regional Science Parks and Incubation Ecosystem. Following this, Director of Maejo Agro-Food Park Kal Kalayanamitra, of Maejo University

discussed the Maejo Agro-Food Innovation along with the Deputy Director of Maejo Agro-Food Park Panomporn Chalemwat, who also presented their university's Marketing processes. Director of Innovation and Technology Transfer Institute Santiwat Pithakpol of the University of Phayao, presented their university's Business Incubation Models from Agriculture to Social Enterprise; and Director of Mae Fah Luang, University of Science Park Chalida Thaninkullaporn, presented their university's Beauty Valley.

One of the speakers, Sombat Somsak of MHESI, emphasized Thailand's unified approach to higher education, research, and innovation to build a value-driven and sustainable economy.

A Thai Food Cooking Demo was also presented by Supathsara Bleriot, Head of Department of Technology Business Incubation and Ecosystem Development of Maejo University.

The session concluded with an engaging Q&A between BSU faculty, students, and Thai experts, followed by a closing message from Frevy Orenia, CIS Faculty Member, who summarized key insights and highlighted future collaboration opportunities.

//WL.Siblawan-BA History/UPAO Intern

## CVM provides free healthcare services for cats and dogs



The College of Veterinary Medicine (CVM) provided free spay and neuter services for cats and dogs in collaboration with the Clinicians' Club, Benguet Provincial Veterinary Office, La Trinidad Municipality Veterinarians, BSU-Veterinary Teaching Hospital, Baguio City Veterinary and Agriculture Office, and the CVM Alumni Association.

This was conducted in celebration of the 109th Benguet State University Foundation Anniversary and 125th Philippine Civil Service Anniversary as well as to commemorate the World Rabies Day 2025.//EBawang