Shamag

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BSU marks 110th Founding Anniversary, highlights community-centric innovations and partnerships



September 4, 2026—Benguet State University celebrated its 110th Foundation Anniversary with the theme, "Flourishing in Excellence through Community-Centric Innovations and Partnerships." This was celebrated alongside the 126th Philippine Civil Service Anniversary with the theme "Bawat Kawani, Lingkod Bayani: Puso, Dangal, at Galing Para sa Bayan."

The double-celebration was launched after the Flag Raising Ceremony on September 7, 2026 where VP for Business Affairs Josel M. Florentin led the Pitik with rice wine. Pitik is an Igorot ritual to pray for protection and guidance before the start of an occasion or a journey and to pay respect to ancestors.

This was followed by the signing of the Lingkod Bayani Commitment Wall by BSU employees as a pledge on the display of puso, katapatan, dangal at galing sa paglilingkod (heart, honesty, honor signifying collective responsibility and a sense of community).

The 110th BSU Foundation Anniversary and the 126th Philippine Civil Service Anniversary were celebrated with various activities that focused on employee well-being and BSU advocacies in support of the university vision, mission, goals and the Sustainable Development Goals. These activities include parades, sports activities, annual physical examination for employees, trainings, conferences, forums, tree planting and rearing activities, extension activities, an ecumenical thanksgiving service, and alumni homecomings.

The celebration culminated with a cultural parade and program on September 30, 2026 highlighting the diversity of Cordilleran culture. The program following the parade was attended by CHED-CAR OIC Regional Director Serafin L. Ngohayon. On behalf of CHED Chairperson Shirley C. Agrupis,

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> **"A partnership becomes meaningful when the community also helps shape the question, shares in the work, and benefits from the answer."**
>
> **SERAFIN L. NGOHAYON**
> Officer-in-Charge of the Office of the Director IV, CHED Regional Office-CAR

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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 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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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 supports the Sustainable Development Goals



AACCUP conducts preliminary survey visit of BS Math and BS Crim programs

September 21-25, 2026—The Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACCUP) evaluated two Benguet State University degree programs during the online Preliminary Survey Visit. The event aimed to assess the readiness of the Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and the Bachelor of Science in Criminology programs for Level 1 accreditation.

During the opening meeting on September 21, 2026, VP for Academic Affairs Janet P. Pablo delivered her welcome remarks, quoting William A. Foster: "Quality is never an accident. It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, intelligent direction, and skillful execution." She reminded everyone that quality does not happen by chance, but is something consciously pursued, continuously developed, and proactively sustained.

She further emphasized that accreditation is not simply an evaluation, but an opportunity to learn.

"We should look forward to gaining from the expertise, experiences, observations, and recommendations of our accreditors. We believe that every question can inspire reflection, every observation can reveal an opportunity, and every recommendation can guide us toward improvement," she said.

VP for Administration and Finance Richard H. Kinnud, representing BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan, began his message with the story of a scholar who cared for the poster of a fairy and did everything he could to preserve it until the fairy magically came to life. However, over time he grew busy and stopped doing the things that sustained the fairy. As a result, the fairy slowly faded and became just a poster again.

From the story, Kinnud pointed out that it is not enough to bring something beautiful to life; we must also continue doing the things that keep it alive — comparing the lesson to the university's accreditation endeavors.

"And perhaps, this is what the accreditation reminds us of. Here in the university, we are in love with excellence. We want excellent programs, excellent teaching, excellent facilities, and excellent graduates. But accreditation reminds us that excellence is not something that we simply display on a wall or document in a report. It is something that we must practice and sustain," he said.

He then asked: Can we sustain what accreditation asks us to become?

He noted that BSU's programs become excellent not because of a single accreditation visit, but with countless small acts of commitment performed every day by the faculty, staff, administrators, and students. He encouraged everyone to view accreditation as an opportunity to strengthen what BSU colleges have built.

Following the messages, Office for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Director Joanna I. Alafag introduced the BSU officials and the AACCUP accreditors. College of Numeracy and Applied Sciences Dean Ederson Bawang and Buguias Campus' College of Criminal Justice Education (CCJE) Dean Victor O. Delos Santos also introduced the Local Task Force from their respective colleges.

AACCUP Accreditors Domarjun S. Taguinod and Richard B. Osumo shared the purpose of the visit and provided an orientation on the accreditation process.

The five-day survey visit evaluated the programs in areas of Vision, Mission, Goals and Objectives; Faculty; Curriculum and Instruction; Support to Students; Research; Extension Community Involvement; Library; Physical Plant and Facilities; Laboratories; and Administration.

At the closing program on September 25, 2026, the accreditors shared their findings,

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> **"Together, let us continue to nurture a culture where quality is pursued, excellence is sustained, and every effort contributes to a better future for our learners and our institution."**
>
> **JANET P. PABLO**
> VP for Academic Affairs

BSU graduates excel in 2026 board exams

Benguet State University continues to demonstrate academic excellence as its graduates achieved outstanding performance in various national licensure examinations this year.

BSU achieved a 100 percent passing rate in the August–September 2026 Nurses Licensure Examination. It emerged as one of the top-performing schools nationwide among institutions with 100 or more examinees. All 301 BSU examinees successfully passed the board exam, with Bhea Laureen Dela Cruz Garcia securing the 8th spot nationwide.

University's first batch of Bachelor of Science in Psychology graduates also posted a remarkable performance in the September 2026 Psychometricians Licensure Examination. The university recorded a 97.94 percent passing rate, surpassing the national passing rate of 91.7 percent. Highlighting the batch's success, Zhaena Angelee T. Bailen earned a score of 92.60 percent to place in the Top 9.

In the September 2026 Librarians Computer-Based Licensure Examination, BSU's 25 examinees successfully passed. It achieved a 78.13 percent passing rate and outperforming the national passing rate of 74.95 percent.

BSU Foundation...from page 1

Ngohayon congratulated BSU on its 110th Foundation Anniversary. He reflected on the University's beginnings as the La Trinidad Farm School, which started with Grade 5 pupils, and its development into an institution serving thousands of students.

He emphasized that the growth of higher education institutions carries a corresponding responsibility to provide students with quality education, adequate support, relevant programs, and opportunities that enable them to contribute to their communities.

He also highlighted the importance of BSU's anniversary theme, particularly its emphasis on community-centric innovations and partnerships.

Ngohayon noted that partnership goes beyond sharing knowledge, emphasizing the importance of working with the community to develop solutions that create lasting value. By listening to local voices, fostering collaboration, and translating shared insights into action, the partnership strengthens its commitment to meaningful and sustainable community development.

In the afternoon, the PRAISE Everlasting Awards was held at the Gymnasium to honor employees whose dedication, accomplishments, and years of service have helped shape the institution.

E. Bawang, EBawayan, CD. De Guzman, P. Gadang, W. Marcos, D. Paydowan, N. Sudaypan, & Ba'diw ya Binnadang Media Production Team



Fun Run, September 19, 2026

Cultural Program, September 30, 2026





Launching of 110th Foundation Anniversary Service Anniversary (PCSA) celebration. Se

Bloodletting Activity, September 28, 2026





Launching of Aduyon Store, September 29, 2



Bike Ride, September 18, 2026



Health is Wealth: The BSU Employee's Annual Physical Examination, September 8, 2026



Ecumenical Thanksgiving Service, September 28, 2026

Serafin L. Ngohayon, CHED-CAR OIC Regional Director, graces the Cultural Program on September 30, 2026





BSU Internal Guarantee System Qualifying Course, September 21-25, 2026



Tree Planting, September 16, 2026



y and the 126th Philippine Civil ptember 7, 2026



BSU Ba'diw ya Binnadang for Sustainable Development: A Dialogue for Unity, September 24, 2026



BSU Alumni Homecoming and General Assembly, September 26, 2026



2026



PRAISE Everlasting Awards, September 30, 2026



HOODING Training, September 14-16, 2026



Free Legal Aid, September 29, 2026



Color Fun Run and Fun Walk, September 29, 2026



Finance sector holds workshop on 2027 Receipts and Expenditures

September 17, 2026—To align, validate, and reconcile submitted figures with each sector's targets, projections, and planned activities, the Administration and Finance sector spearheaded a Workshop on the Reconciliation and Validation of Projected Income and Internal Operating Budget (IOB) for the Program of Receipts and Expenditures (PRE) 2027.

The activity was held at the DSG Hall, participated by members of the Budget Committee and concerned personnel involved in the preparation of their respective budget proposals.

The workshop commenced with the overview of the PRE 2027 Budget Preparation and the workshop objectives, delivered by VP for Administration and Finance Richard H. Kinnud.

Kinnud outlined the issues identified during the review conducted by the Finance sector, which included the Budget Preparation Form 100 (BP 100) reconciliation, tuition fund programming, new IGP projections, continuing 2026 projects, and the self-liquidating balances.

University President Kenneth A. Laruan, delivered a brief message urging the participants to cooperate in resolving the issues on the IOB and finalize their respective budgets.

The morning session featured different presentations regarding the submitted IOBs.

Sheila Mary Basquial from the Budget Office presented the summary and consolidated budget proposals of the different operating units starting with the 2027 receipts summary, fiduciary fees, and internally generated income of the university, including Bokod and Buguias campuses.

Budget Office Head Estrellita M. Daclan highlighted some observations from the submitted IOBs to be fixed such as FHE and revenue alignment, student projection data, and cash balances.

Accounting Office Head Imelda B. Galinato presented the targets and projected income under the Free Higher Education allocation. Galinato noted some discrepancies between the initial budget proposals submitted to the Department of Budget and Management in April 2026 and the updated PRE in August 2026, highlighting that budget projections must constantly evolve and must be updated to reflect current data, historical performance trends, and revised targets like the FHE allocation.

Procurement Management Office Head (PMO) Arsenia L. Bayawa presented the unprocured items of the different sectors for the 2026 PPMP under the Internal Generated Fund. She also introduced the PMO - Procurement Electronic Management System (PMO-PEMS), a web application developed for procurement monitoring purposes to provide easy and convenient access to digitized purchase orders.

Afterwards, the participants had their workshop activity to reconcile and refine their respective IOBs, assisted by the personnel from the Finance sector.

The activity concluded with a message from Galinato, who expressed her gratitude to the participants and reminded them of the deadline for submitting their finalized IOBs.

D.Paydowan

PALT-BSU Nat'l Conference and Convention 2026 concludes at BSU-CTE

September 11-12, 2026—The Philippine Association for Language Teaching, Inc. (PALT), in cooperation with Benguet State University, successfully held the 2026 National Conference and Convention on September 11–12, 2026 at the Dominador S. Garin Hall, College of Teacher Education.

Anchored on the theme "Advancing Literacies Through Language Education: Bridging Foundations, Functionality, and Innovation in Basic and Higher Education," the two-day convention gathered more than three hundred language educators, researchers, and education leaders from across the country and Southeast Asia.

The event opened with remarks from BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan, followed by an inspirational message from Editha M. Atendido, PALT President.

Conference Convenor Stephenie O. Busbus presented the conference rationale and objectives, emphasizing the need to strengthen language literacies across educational levels.

International and national experts enriched the discussions through keynote and plenary sessions. Kornwipa Poonpon of Khon Kaen University, Thailand, and President of the Thai Association for Applied Linguistics, delivered a session on Decoding Assessment in EMI Classrooms. Felina Espique, VPAA of SLU and CHED TP for Teacher Education, followed with insights on Reframing Language Assessment for Responsive and Responsible Classrooms.

A panel discussion on education stakeholders' perspectives featured Margarita Consolacion Ballesteros (DepEd), Aurelio Vilbar (UP Cebu), Camilla Vizconde (UST), Rommel V. Tabula (ISPSC), and Rex Wallen Tan (Princeton Assessments and Training, Inc.), offering diverse viewpoints on advancing language literacies in basic and higher education.

Plenary sessions continued with Ma. Milagros Laurel (UP Diliman) who discussed Enhancing Literacies, Critical Thinking, and Creative Expression, and Wallen Tan, who presented Global Language Policies: CEFR and the Philippine Context in 2025.

The afternoon sessions of Day 1 and the entirety of Day 2 featured parallel workshops, panel discussions, and research presentations, showcasing innovative practices, emerging studies, and classroom based research in language education.

CD. De Guzman

PARTNERSHIP FOR THE GOALS

BSU and Mt. Carmel Montessori sign partnership for inclusive education advocacy

September 9, 2026—Benguet State University (BSU) signed a five-year institutional partnership with Our Lady of Mount Carmel Montessori (OLMCM), Inc. to advance inclusive education and enhance student support services.

The Memorandum of Agreement was signed by University President Kenneth A. Laruan and OLMCM President Dona Digna S. Rosario. This was witnessed by College of Teacher Education (CTE) Dean Divina M. Yango, CTE faculty members, University Library and Information Services Director Lauren P. Kipaan, Office of Student Services Director Erlyn Honeylette C. Marquez, and Office of Extension Services Director Cheryll C. Launio.

Through this joint venture, BSU experts will provide technical guidance, capacity-building, and professional mentorship to OLMCM staff in guidance counseling and library management, helping the private school meet its PEAC Re-certification standards.

The core function of this partnership focuses on advancing inclusive learning environments. Both institutions will pool resources to build a dedicated center for learners with special needs within BSU. Additionally, OLMCM will contribute specialized instructional materials, including Braille books, to enhance accessibility for visually impaired students.



The agreement opens doors for broader inter-institutional efforts moving forward, creating opportunities for joint scientific research, student internships, and community outreach projects.

E. Bawang

BSU AND THE COMMUNITIES

Chemistry Educators empower Benguet inmates with livelihood training on Teacher's Day

The Chemistry Department marked Teacher's Day on September 25, 2026 by stepping outside the traditional classroom to conduct a dishwashing liquid production for Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDL) at the Benguet Provincial Jail.

The afternoon activity was organized under the department's registered extension initiative, "Project CHEm: Chemistry Helps to Empower". It was held in coordination with the Philippine Institute of Chemical Engineers Baguio-Benguet Chapter (PIChE BB), which provided the financial assistance necessary to purchase the workshop materials.

Kenneth Aroco emceed the event, which commenced with an opening prayer led by faculty member Saly Joye Sibuma. Benguet Provincial Warden Peter Tip-Ac delivered an inspirational message, welcoming the organizers and expressing gratitude for the livelihood opportunity.

Department Chairperson Elvira Bolinget then provided an overview of the initiative, noting that the department has been sharing these skills and offering this livelihood training both within and outside La Trinidad for nearly five years. Faculty member Peter Murphy Guitelen spearheaded the technical instruction, detailing the basic components of soap, essential safety procedures, and the step-by-step soap-making process.

The inmates were subsequently divided into eleven groups to actively produce their own dishwashing liquid during a practical session. To ensure precise, personalized guidance, each group was assisted by a designated faculty member. The facilitating educators included Kate Laine Bacasen-Anitap, Kenneth Aroco , Yvonne Bolayo, Elvira Bolinget, Rhea Contada, Zaidy Martin, Saly Joye Sibuma, Rodolfo Tabangin Jr., Samantha Tipayno, Grail Ann Vicente, and Hilarae Villena.

To ensure the inmates could successfully monetize their new skills, Guitelen followed up the practical exercise with business-focused lessons on proper packaging, labeling, and product costing.

The program's impact was immediately felt, with one inmate expressing deep appreciation for the opportunity to learn a new avenue for earning an income. Warden Tip-Ac affirmed this enthusiasm, stating his intent to have the inmates immediately apply their training right away to produce and retail the dishwashing liquid. The empowering event officially concluded with the awarding of certificates to the dedicated volunteer trainers.

S. Tipayno



BSU prepares for institutional accreditation through knowledge exchange with Pangasinan State University

September 18, 2026—Benguet State University, through the Office of Quality Assurance and Accreditation (OQAA), conducted the "Strengthening Quality Assurance: Best Practice Sharing with Partner SUC for Institutional Accreditation Readiness" at the DSG Hall. The activity gathered BSU personnel and quality assurance and accreditation experts from Pangasinan State University (PSU) for discussions on institutional quality, accreditation preparation, and continuous improvement.

The activity aimed to strengthen the University's preparedness for institutional accreditation through the sharing of practices, technical guidance, and mentoring across key accreditation areas.

OQAA Director Joanna I. Alafag presented the activity overview, reflecting on the lessons from the previous training workshop. She emphasized that institutional accreditation goes beyond meeting standards on paper, underscoring the University's commitment to continuously refining its teaching, research, extension, student support, and community service.

Alafag also highlighted the importance of the PSU delegation's participation in critically examining BSU's draft documents and preparations. The external perspectives and constructive feedback were presented as opportunities to challenge the University's task force, identify areas for improvement, and strengthen its efforts toward achieving the intended accreditation outcomes.

In his welcome remarks, BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan challenged participants to reflect on the University's strengths and areas for improvement, asking, "What are we doing well? And what, or where can we still improve?"

Laruan further emphasized the need for the University's systems, policies, and operations to adapt to the continuing changes in government policies and requirements. He underscored that quality assurance and institutional accreditation should be pursued as continuous efforts and shared responsibilities across the University.

This was followed by the presentations by the resource speakers from PSU.

In her presentation, VP for Quality Assurance Celeste T. Mercado shared approaches relevant to institutional accreditation readiness and sustaining quality beyond the accreditation process.

Director for Global Citizenship Cristeta C. Dulos also presented the PSU's best practices in institutional accreditation. Among the key concepts highlighted was PSU's accreditation policy: "The real success of accreditation is not the certificate on the wall, but the culture of quality that remains after the accreditors leave."

The principle emphasizes that accreditation should serve as a means of developing sustainable institutional practices rather than merely achieving recognition through certification. It places importance on ensuring that quality assurance systems remain functional, relevant, and integrated into the University's daily operations even after an external assessment has concluded.

The program proper featured three mentoring clusters facilitated by PSU Senior AACCUP Accreditors. The mentoring sessions provided a venue for discussions on institutional practices, accreditation requirements, and opportunities to strengthen the University's preparations across the identified areas.

During the wrap-up and impression, OIC Chief for Administrative Services Division of BSU Raymundo H. Pawid Jr. expressed hope that the feedback, evaluations, and recommendations from the activity would translate into actionable road maps.

The activity concluded with a message from BSU VP for Administration and Finance Richard H. Kinnud, who reflected on the accreditation journey as one that progresses from compliance and quality assurance toward institutionalization, innovation, and excellence. He emphasized the importance of developing systems that function effectively in the University's everyday operations rather than focusing solely on preparations for an accreditation survey visit.

W. Marcos

AACCUP conducts...from page 3

highlighting the strengths and opportunities for improvement of the evaluated programs.

In response, VPAA Pablo reaffirmed BSU's commitment to continuous excellence in education on behalf of President Laruan. Reflecting on VP Kinnud's opening story, she noted that even the most beautiful picture can slowly fade if it is no longer nurtured. Similarly, she stressed that excellence is something that is continually nurtured, strengthened, and sustained.

The event ended with closing remarks from CCJE Dean Delos Santos. He extended his gratitude to the local task forces of both colleges for their tireless preparations and the accreditors for their time, expertise, and patience in examining programs' documents. He emphasized that the accreditors' insightful observations and recommendations would serve as a valuable catalyst to strengthen BSU's mission of delivering transformative, high-quality education.

E. Bawayan