



# Shamag

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## BSU Marks 109th Foundation Anniversary and CSC Month by promoting stewardship and innovation

Benguet State University (BSU) celebrated its 109<sup>th</sup> Foundation Anniversary and the 125<sup>th</sup> Philippine Civil Service Anniversary on September with a vibrant lineup of activities highlighting the theme “Nurturing Roots, Growing Futures: A Legacy of Stewardship and Innovation.”

Throughout the month, the university came alive with academic, cultural, wellness, and community-centered events that underscored BSU’s enduring commitment to learning, service, and sustainability.

The celebration was formally opened during the flag-raising ceremony on September 1, 2025 led by the Human Resource Management and Development Offices. The ceremony featured an “Uggayam” by Center for Culture and Arts (CCA) Director Leonardo Samonte and a “Pitik” (rice wine ritual) led by University President Kenneth A. Laruan, symbolizing thanksgiving and blessings for the monthlong celebration.

### Wellness, Learning, and Leadership

Faculty, staff, and students actively joined the BSU Employees Wellness Activity (Zumba) on September 5, 12, and 26, held simultaneously at the BSU Gym, Elementary Laboratory School, Administration Building and Research and Extension Building. These fitness sessions were organized by the College of Human Kinetics and the Center for Sports Recreation and Wellness Development (CSRWD). Likewise, the BSU Government Employees Association organized a fun run on September 21, 2025 and a fun ride on September 26, 2025. The College of Forestry also

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## About Shamag

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 avenues for BSU to disseminate the programs, achievements, and advocacies to its stakeholders. Shamag aims to help the University advance its goals by establishing effective communication and partnership.

### EDITORIAL POLICY

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 space. Shamag follows the Associated Press (AP) style and journalistic standards.

### BSU QUALITY POLICY

Benguet State University is continuously committed to improve its Quality Management System, satisfy requirements of all 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

**VISION** A premier university in transformative education, innovative research, inclusive extension services, 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*

1. Formulate and implement affirmative action policies aligned with Free Higher Education
2. Ensure enrollment of disadvantaged students
3. Sustain grants and scholarships for undergraduate and advanced studies students
4. Develop learning continuity and student affairs services plan
5. Implement inclusive education strategies for diverse learners
6. Sustain optimal enrollment in all degree programs

#### **GOAL 2: (Instruction) Advance quality and relevant instruction to boost regional economies**

##### *Objectives*

1. Enhance instruction through a supportive and innovative environment
2. Continuously improve tertiary and advanced education standards

#### **GOAL 3: (Research) Develop pioneering science and gender- and culture-sensitive solutions to reduce regional vulnerabilities and boost socio-economic conditions**

##### *Objectives*

1. Strengthen policies, culture, linkages and support for research and development
2. Advance scholarly capabilities of faculty and staff through research-driven initiatives and activities
3. Conduct socially-responsive and impactful research

#### **GOAL 4: (Extension) Develop proactive extension programs for disadvantaged communities and vulnerable sectors**

##### *Objectives*

1. Enhance extension system environment for effective community development
2. Build capacity among extension service providers
3. Implement culturally-relevant and gender-sensitive engagement programs
4. Expand reach and diversity of extension initiatives
5. 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*

1. Develop human resource capabilities
2. Cultivate a culture of good governance and resource stewardship
3. Develop smart and green campus solutions
4. Establish sound financial policies and systems

#### **GOAL 6: (Business Affairs) Balance progressive resource development while maintaining existing fiduciary resources**

##### *Objectives*

1. Foster a supportive ecosystem for entrepreneurial ventures
2. Secure strategic and socially-responsible business partnerships
3. Strengthen capabilities in revenue-generating activities
4. Optimize existing income sources
5. Pursue green enterprises and growth opportunities

#### **GOAL 7: Strengthen and expand strategic partnerships**

##### *Objectives*

1. Build a dynamic and enabling environment for partnerships
2. Deepen engagement with alumni, government, and civil society
3. Strengthen multi-sectoral collaboration among academe, LGUs, industries, and communities

# BSU now a CPD provider for agriculture, veterinary medicine, and forestry

Benguet State University was recently accredited by the Philippine Regulation Commission as a provider of Continuing Professional Development (CPD) units for agriculture, veterinary medicine, and forestry.

This accreditation allows BSU to conduct and deliver professional development programs, such as seminars, workshops, and lectures, from which licensed

agriculturists, veterinarians, and foresters can earn the required credit units (CPD points) needed to renew their Professional Identification Cards (PICs).

According to BSU VP for Research and Extension Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres, the accreditation will maximize the benefits participants will gain when they attend trainings and seminars conducted by BSU. “Kasi sayang po, nag co-conduct ang BSU ng trainings for professionals, at the end of the day iyong certificates at knowledge lang ang

nakukuha ng participants so why not pati CPD points ibigay na rin natin sa kanila,” said Lumbres during the Kapihan sa BSU held on September 19, 2025. He shared that a marching order has already been made for the BSU colleges offering board programs to also apply for CPD provider accreditation.

“Later on, Cordillerans, even those from Northern Luzon, will no longer need to travel to Manila or even further just to get CPD points. Dito na lang po sa Benguet State University,” Lumbres added.//JST

## Foundation...from page 1

held a Forest Bathing activity on September 12, 2025. These activities held in partnership with the Gender and Development (GAD) Office served as a reminder of BSU’s holistic approach to well-being.

Academic and research pursuits also took center stage. On September 9, 2025 the Research and Extension Office hosted a Basic Research Ethics Training (BRET) at the Everlasting Hall, followed by “Unlocking the Power of the GIS Program and Its Application in Bamboo Mapping” on September 16-19, 2025 hosted by the Center for Geoinformatics. Both trainings reflected BSU’s growing emphasis on sustainable and ethical research innovation.

Student leaders were empowered through the “Nurturing Resiliency: Building Future Leaders” seminar organized by the Office of Student Services (OSS) on September 16, 2025 aiming to cultivate leadership grounded in compassion and purpose. Likewise, a hybrid webinar focusing on the vital theme of Inclusive and Culturally Responsive Teaching was organized by the College of Teacher Education (CTE) on September 19, 2025.

The Human Resource Development Office also held its 12<sup>th</sup> Multidisciplinary Discourse on September 25, 2025 showcasing the scholarly contributions of BSU employees who pursued advanced studies with the aid of BSU.

## Celebrating Community and Culture

The anniversary month showcased BSU’s cultural heart through the “Laro ng Lahi” organized by the Center for Culture and the Arts (CCA) on September 24, 2025. Earlier in the month, the “Kapihan sa BSU” held at the Strawberry Hall on September 19, 2025 offered a platform for open dialogue among

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BSU’s 109<sup>th</sup> Foundation Anniversary and CSC Month celebration was filled with learning and well-being activities such as the hybrid webinar for inclusive and culturally responsive teaching (above) and the Laro ng Lahi by the CCA (below).



BSU receives tourism award. The University was recognized for its significant contributions to the province’s tourism industry on September 26, 2025 during the Benguet Tourism Week Celebration. The awarding ceremony was held at the Gov. Ben Palispis Auditorium, Capitol, La Trinidad, Benguet. BSU was honored as the Cultural Tourism Ambassador for its proactive role in representing the Province of Benguet and supporting its tourism and cultural activities.//BSU-OP



## Seven degree programs evaluated by AACUP

Benguet State University (BSU) submitted seven degree programs for evaluation by the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACUP) during the hybrid Accreditation Survey Visit.

The assessed programs are composed of undergraduate and graduate programs offered at the College of Agriculture (CA), College of Engineering (CE), College of Human Kinetics (CHK), and the College of Numeracy and Applied Sciences (CNAS). The Bachelor in Physical Education and the Bachelor of Science in Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering were assessed for the 4th Survey Visit Phase 2, 2nd cycle. The BS in Statistics and the Master of Science in Agronomy were evaluated for the 4th Survey Visit, Phase 2. Likewise, the BS in Agribusiness, MS in Horticulture, and the Doctor of Philosophy in Horticulture were revisited for the 4th Survey, Phase 1.

The AACUP team was led by Overall Coordinator Elsie M. Pacho from Don Mariano Marcos Memorial State University, who attended on-site. Other accreditors included Carlou G. Bernaldez from Negros Oriental State University; Manolo B. Loreto Jr. from Visayas State University; Alberto D. Yazon from Laguna State Polytechnic University; Adolfo C. Manuel Jr. from Cavite State University; Elizabeth H. Alonzo from Isabela State University; Ester L. Forlales from Romblon State University; Alberto C. Arellano from University of Southern Mindanao; Janice M. Baysa from President Ramon Magsaysay State University, and Cristina

R. Salvosa from Nueva Vizcaya State University. The survey visit began with an opening meeting on September 10, 2025. In her welcome remarks, VP for Academic Affairs Janet P. Pablo acknowledged the AACUP accreditors who attended on-site and online, saying they are the university's partners in ensuring quality education. She emphasized that BSU continuously commits to providing quality education and services guided by its quality policy.

"We need to do more in order for us to achieve quality services and quality education," urged BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan in his message.

This was followed by the introduction of the BSU officials by OQAA Director Joana I. Alafag and the introduction of the Local Task Force from different colleges by their respective deans, namely CA Dean Constantino T. Sudaypan Sr, CE Dean Alvin C. Dulay, CHK Dean Marlon S. Tabdi, and CNAS Dean Ederson G. Bawang.

Afterwards, Pacho shared the purpose of the accreditation and introduced her co-accreditors. "As we move forward with today's activities, let us keep in mind that this process is not just about compliance. Rather, it is more about reflection, growth, and our shared pursuit of excellence," Pacho said.

The three-day survey visit included evaluation of the programs on the areas: research; performance of graduates; community service; extension and community involvement; international linkages and consortia; and planning process. The accreditors also reviewed BSU's compliance report based on recommendations from previous visits.

At the closing program on September 12, 2025, Pacho presented their impressions, highlighting the evaluated programs' strengths and areas for improvement.

In response, Laruan expressed the University's commitment to addressing the AACUP accreditors' feedback to further enhance the programs.

The event concluded with closing remarks by Sudaypan, expressing gratitude to the support of the BSU administration and the colleges involved throughout the survey visit.//EBawayan

# BSU partners with YWCA and Transcending Institutions & Communities Inc.

Benguet State University (BSU) has officially partnered with the Young Women’s Christian Association of the Philippines Inc. (YWCA) and the YWCA of Benguet, La Trinidad, Itogon, Sablan, Tuba (BLIST). The Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed virtually via Zoom.

The partnership aims to empower young people and break the stigma around menstrual health, particularly in rural and Indigenous communities. Signatories: The MOA was signed by BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan, YWCA of the Philippines Inc. National President Marcia Suzanne O. Bicomong, and YWCA of BLIST President Asuncion Villacorta Gundran.

YWCA leadership emphasized the partnership's role in helping young people "embrace hope," promoting sustainable and healthy practices, and ensuring young women can "live with strength, dignity, and confidence." They noted that this effort includes men, who are crucial in fostering support and respect.

On the other hand, the partnership between BSU and Transcending Institutions and Communities Inc. (TICI) will implement tobacco control policies and create a smoke-free environment around the campus. The collaboration was formalized through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) signed at the Office of the President. BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan and TICI President Roger L. Nafianog signed the document, aiming to protect BSU students and staff from the dangers of second-hand and third-hand smoke exposure.

The signing was witnessed by BSU College of Nursing (CN) Dean Mark U. Gayas, CN Faculty member Jude L. Tayaben, and TICI Project Team Leader Ma. Cecilia C. Agpawa.



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university stakeholders—strengthening ties across administration, faculty, students, and the general public.

Still to engage with the public, the Institute of Highland Farming Systems and Agroforestry opened its doors and showcased coffee production from the farm to the table on September 16-19,

2025. The College of Social Sciences student government also organized “A Walk to Remember” on September 15-19, 2025. The activity showcased the historical value of various buildings and sites in BSU. The College of Information Sciences also organized a poster competition where participants interpreted the new BSU slogan visually.

The Ecumenical Service and Foundation Anniversary Parade on September 30, 2025 brought the BSU community together in gratitude to the Creator for all of BSU’s milestones.

## Celebrating Stakeholders

The PRAISE EVERLASTING Awards and the Alumni Awards and homecoming are staple activities every Foundation Anniversary and Civil Service Month. For this year,

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*Awardees of the Search for Outstanding Alumni in various fields with BSU and BSUAAI officials during the Alumni Homecoming on September 27, 2025*

# BSU Joins 'Ridge-to-Reef' Cleanups, Tree Planting to Combat Climate Crisis

Benguet State University (BSU) students and staff participated extensively in regional cleanup and environmental drives throughout September 2025, emphasizing the "ridge-to-reef" principle connecting mountain ecosystems to coastal health. The university's efforts coincided with the observance of the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) 2025.

On Sept. 20, BSU's BS Environmental Science and BS Forestry students partnered with the Department of Environment and Natural

the 12th Balili River Day celebration and associated cleanup activities. On Sept. 19, the BSU General Service Office and fourth-year BS Environmental Science students joined the Municipality of La Trinidad's Balili River Cleanup Drive. The university, recognized as a stakeholder and steward of the Balili River System, participated in the cleanup that supported SDG 14 (Life below water) by protecting marine ecosystems from plastic pollution. The event highlighted the spirit of volunteerism and binnadang (mutual help) among various local organizations.

Earlier, on Sept. 16, BSU joined the main Balili River Day Celebration in Sablan, Benguet. Balili River is a designated Water

Inc., at the Mirador Heritage & Eco-Spirituality Park.

The bayanihan effort supported the initiatives for sustainable eco-tourism and the National Environmental Awareness and Education Act. The tree planting specifically supports SDG 15 (Life on Land) by preserving biodiversity and preventing erosion, and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) by mitigating the urban heat island effect and improving the city's climate resilience. //J.Balangen & MBSabelo

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the PRAISE EVERLASTING Awards was held on September 30, 2025 while the Alumni Awards and Homecoming by the BSU Alumni Association, Inc. was held on September 27, 2025. These activities highlighted the accomplishments, passion, loyalty and dedication of the Alumni, employees and various offices.

## Innovation and Service Beyond Campus

Innovation met community service through a series of R&E-led activities. The BSU Sa Barangay: Techno-Caravan and Innovation Technology Pitching at the R&E Compound demonstrated the university's role as a knowledge hub extending its expertise to local communities.

On September 22-23, BSU partnered with DA-ATI-CAR and CorCAARRD for the Farmers Forum, promoting agricultural advancements and farmer engagement in the Cordillera. Meanwhile, the Community Service: Free Spaying and Neutering Program and the by the College of Veterinary Medicine on October 9-10, 2025—brought the celebration's impact to the wider community.//



Resources—Cordillera Administrative Region (DENR-CAR) for a River Cleanup Drive along the Agno River in Itogon, Benguet. The drive, themed "Clean Seas Against the Climate Crisis: Tayo ang Solusyon," highlighted that waste from upstream communities, like those in Benguet, inevitably flows downstream to the ocean, threatening marine life and exacerbating climate impacts. DENR-CAR stated that the ICC is a data-driven movement aimed at promoting behavioral change rooted in the 4Rs: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, and Respond.

### Focus on the Balili River

BSU's commitment to inland waterways was evident during

Quality Management Area (WQMA). DENR-EMB-CAR OIC Regional Director Jean C. Borromeo stressed that protecting the river is a shared responsibility that must continue. The celebration was capped by the ceremonial planting of bamboo propagules, with BSU's participation supporting SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 13 (Climate Action), and SDG 15 (Restoring Land and Biodiversity).

### Tree Planting for Sustainable Cities

The month's environmental activities concluded on Sept. 27 with a tree planting and cleanup activity in Baguio City.

BSU student volunteers from the College of Natural Sciences and College of Forestry participated in the Luntiang Marikina: Cordillera Clean Up & Tree Planting Activity 3.0, facilitated by the La Liga Mariquina,

# BSU-GAD receives recognition for effective budget utilization



The Philippine Commission on Women recognized Benguet State University (BSU) Gender and Development (GAD) office as a top performer in utilizing its GAD budget for fiscal year 2024. The awarding ceremony was held at the Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria on September 25, 2025.

BSU ranked second among State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) in terms of the highest organization-focused GAD budget expenditure. It also ranked eighth for the highest organizational-focused budget allocation and ninth for the highest total GAD budget expenditure among SUCs nationwide.

GAD Office Director Jude L. Tayaben, along with GAD Office staff Feljorie D. Afidchao and Hylinn B. Pawid, received the certificate of recognition.

This accomplishment reflects BSU's active role in promoting gender mainstreaming and inclusive governance. It contributes to the welfare and empowerment of its academic community and stakeholders while continuing to uphold its dedication to gender equality as an integral part of its institutional development and public service.

Former GAD Office Director Estrellita M. Daclan noted that

the award reflects efforts to integrate gender perspectives across programs. Daclan also thanked the university officials, Technical Working Group members, and GAD Office staff for their efforts and support.

She emphasized that gender and development is a shared responsibility rooted in respect and care for all, and she sees the award as motivation to further strengthen BSU's commitment to gender equality.

"This award inspires us because it shows that GAD is no longer questioned but accepted as a vital part of university operations, where gender perspectives must be mainstreamed in all programs and activities," Daclan said.

The event honored 123 government agencies, including National Government Agencies (NGAs), SUCs, and Government-Owned or Controlled Corporations (GOCCs), across various categories such as Highest GAD Budget Allocation, Highest Client-Focused Budget Allocation, Highest Organization-Focused Budget Allocation, Highest GAD Budget Allocations, Highest Client-Focused Budget Expenditure, and Highest Organization-Focused Budget Expenditure.

This annual event recognizes government agencies for their outstanding performance in effectively implementing gender-responsive programs and using the GAD budget with integrity and accountability to promote gender equality and empowerment. //P.Gadang



**BSU VP represents Philippines in APEC Convention.** BSU's VP for Academic Affairs, Janet P. Pablo represented the Philippines to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Convention together with Divina Amalin of the De La Salle University (DLSU) Institute of Biological Control. The convention was held on September 15-16, 2025 at the ICC Tainan in Taiwan. Amalin and Pablo delivered a talk under the session on AIoT Technologies for Pest and Disease Management in Rural Areas.

## Potato project to boost local production launched in Natubleng, Buguias



Benguet State University (BSU), in collaboration with Gokongwei Brothers Foundation, Shang Properties, Kerry Group Philippines Foundation, and United Potato Producers of Benguet and Mountain Province Inc. (UPPBMPI) launched the Potato Advanced Technologies for Transfer and Adoption Towards Transformation and Agripreneurial Sustainability (PATTATTAS) project. The inauguration was held on September 17, 2025 at Natubleng, Buguias, Benguet.

This features the construction of a new greenhouse, the first of three planned facilities in the municipalities of Buguias and Kabayan, Benguet.

In a message, BSU President Kenneth A. Laruan said that while Benguet is the top vegetable producer, the demands on production are changing. He emphasized that using technology would address production gaps and ensure the sustainability of potato production.

Gokongwei Brothers Foundation's Community Education Manager Karla E. Ngitngit recognized that Benguet is a high producer of potatoes. She then hoped that

through the new greenhouse would help farmers increase production and income.

Next, Benguet Provincial Agriculture Office representative Aser Berting thanked the sectors for their support, highlighting that the project would be a great help to farmers. UPPBMPI President Basilio M. Copas then praised the collaboration between the private sector, academe, and farmers. Copas stated that the project is a benefit for the farmers and the future generations, and it address the lack of high quality potato seeds in the province.

Following the messages, the ribbon cutting and the ceremonial planting of in vitro potato plantlets was held. The planting was assisted by Gabby K. Daoines, Arlene B. Bautista, and Jennie B. Balao of the BSU-NPRCRTC.

The event ended with a message from BSU College of Agriculture Dean Constantino T. Sudaypan emphasizing the importance of sustaining the project for future farmers. //BTayaban

### IPMO Director bags prestigious Ceferino Follosco Award



Cynthia Garambas, Director of the Intellectual Property Management Office (IPMO) of BSU, has been honored with the esteemed Ceferino Follosco Award for Products and Process Innovation. The award was presented at the Philippine Association for the Advancement of Science and Technology (PhilaAST) event held on September 12, 2025.

The Ceferino Follosco Award is one of the highest accolades given by PhilaAST, recognizing outstanding innovations that have demonstrated a tangible and real-world impact on science, technology, and society.



Dear BSU Community,

As we wrap up our coverage for the month, we want to give you a quick heads-up: while this publication strives to highlight the most significant moments from September, not all of the great happenings at BSU could be captured here!

September was a busy and vibrant month, overflowing with events, achievements, and important announcements across all colleges and units. If you're looking for a more complete picture of BSU life—you may explore our detailed stories and photo galleries at [www.bsu.edu.ph](http://www.bsu.edu.ph) [bsu.international](http://bsu.international) and at our official accounts in Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram.