



Shamag

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Benguet State University is CHED EQUATE Awardee



BSU representatives, led by President Kenneth A. Laruan, pose with J. Prospero "Popoy" de Vera III (4th from left) and former CHED-CAR Director Demetrio Anduyan Jr. (3rd from right)//JBelardo

Benguet State University - La Trinidad (BSU-LT) was honored with Excellence in Quality Assurance in Teacher Education (EQUATE) Award by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) for elementary and secondary levels.

BSU is one of 33 teacher education institutions (TEIs) among 1,553 higher education institutions nationwide to receive this dual recognition. This award highlights

the university's commitment to maintaining quality standards in pre-service teacher education. BSU has consistently complied with CHED's requirements, obtained program accreditations, and achieved commendable results in the Board Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers (BLEPT).

The award was formally received by University VP for Administration and Finance Richard Kinnud on April 2, 2025, at the Manila

Hotel. He was joined by University President Kenneth A. Laruan; College of Teacher Education (CTE) Dean Divina Yango; Special Assistant to the Vice President for Academic Affairs Imelda Parcasio; and Early Childhood Department Chairperson Evelyn Angiwan.

"These awards were unexpected," Yango shared in her statement. Expressing gratitude to God and CHED for the recognition, *Benguet State...continued on page 6*

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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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Benguet State University

VISION

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

MISSION

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

DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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

Objectives:

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

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

Objectives:

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

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

Objectives:

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

Goal IV. Engender Partnership by proactively strengthening linkages

Objectives:

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

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

Objectives:

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

AdCo Action No. 03, s.2021

Quality Policy

Benguet State University is continuously committed to improve its Quality Management System, satisfy requirements of relevant interested parties and provide excellent service for quality education and innovative research aligned with sustainable development and client satisfaction.

Board Resolution # 2847 S.2016

BSU partners with Gokongwei Brothers Foundation and potato producers for PATTATTAS project



Benguet State University (BSU) signed a Memorandum of Agreement with the Gokongwei Brothers Foundation (GBF) and the United Potato Producers of Benguet and Mountain Province, Inc. (UPPBMPI) on April 10, 2025 at the Research and Extension Everlasting Hall.

GBF was represented by its Community Education Manager, Karla Ngitngit and UPPBMPI was represented by its Chairman, Basilio M. Copas.

VP for Research and Extension Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres thanked the GBF and the UPPBMPI for the partnership saying that it will not only advocate the relevance of research but will also have a positive impact to the community.

Lumbres added that the partnership is an opportunity for Benguet State University to extend its expertise

from conducting research for more than a decade. He emphasized that at the end of the day, the beneficiaries of research are the communities.

The MOA outlines a collaborative effort between BSU, GBF, and UPPBMPI to undertake the research, development and extension activities for the STEM Agri Community Project: Potato Advanced Technologies for Transfer and Adoption Towards Transformation and Agri-perineural Sustainability (PATTATTAS).

In the agreement, GBF shall provide financial and technical support and coordination with BSU and UPPBMPI for the planning, implementation, and evaluation phases of the project while the university will provide educational training for UPPBMPI farmers, conduct soil testing, evaluate land conditions, assist in farmer leader selection,

document the processes and management practices, and serve as additional manpower. UPPBMPI will lead on developing and enacting the community agreements and operations manual, identify capable farmer leaders and suitable farming sites, and provide data the project requires while assisting in monitoring, data gathering, and documentation of project activities.

GBF is a non-stock, non-profit education institution engaged in various education programs and charitable efforts and activities that support STEM-related research and community development projects. UPPBMPI is also a non-stock corporation of farmers which aims to develop the potato industry by encouraging the participation of potato farmers in promoting wholesome community life through continuous education and training programs.//EBawang

NPRCRTC, FSRIC grab major awards at 2025 CordINNOVATION

The Regional Research, Development and Innovation Committee (RRDIC), headed by DOST-CAR, has organized this year's Cordinnovation with the theme "Accelerating Sustainable and Innovative Solutions for an Inclusive and Progressive Cordillera", held on April 10 and 11, 2025 at the Paragon Hotel and Suites, Baguio City. The 2025 Cordinnovation showcased activities on Innovation Pitching Series wherein BSU was invited as one of the HEIs within the region to join and participate in the said activity.



The Northern Philippines Root Crops Research and Training Center (NPRCRTC), represented by Myra Phine C. Bullan of the Niche Centers in the Region (NICER): Potato R&D Center team, secured first place in the AANR Category.

Two matured technologies of BSU-FSRIC were submitted as entries and were pitched under the AANR Category of the competition: "ELEVATECAR: Regional Technology Pitching Competition". To which, these two technologies of BSU-FSRIC bagged the second and third place under the said category, while grabbing the first place is the pitched technology by the BSU-NPRCRTC. With all top 3 entries coming from BSU, this validated the dominance of the University under the AANR Category. Further, the BSU-FSRIC team was also able to pitch an entry under the competition: "Advancing MSME Growth through Smart and Innovative Solutions Pitching Competition" and has successfully grabbed the second place under the Food Processing category.

The team, comprised of Lesley Dale G. Umayat, Manuel M. Dorado Jr., and Daena Mariele D. Dar, was able to effectively communicate the significance and potential impacts of the FSRIC matured technologies NPRCRTC, FSRIC...continued on page 4

BSU holds 8th Think Talk Series



Benguet State University (BSU) held the 8th installment of the Think Talk series titled “A Closer Perspective on Philippine Northern Languages: (Series 2) Ibaloy, Kalanguya, and Tuwali.” The webinar was conducted on April 8, 2025 at the Research and Extension Everlasting Hall and was also broadcasted live in Facebook.

VP for Research and Extension Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres represented by Higher Education Regional Research Center (HERRC) Director Janet Lynn M. Balagtey welcomed the participants and expressed how crucial it is to understand the culture, traditions, and values that shape the society.

“Language is not just a means of communication, it is a window of the history, customs, and world view of our people,” Balagtey said.

College of Arts and Humanities (CAH) Dean Ronda B. Tulay also greeted the participants and speakers with a message. Tulay mentioned that Think Talk became a platform to

further advance advocacies and promotion of local languages and literature.

“I believe that this Think Talk series will affirm and deepen our profound and essential role as speakers of these languages. We are custodians of rich cultural heritage entrusted with the responsibility of preserving, passing on, and nurturing the languages that define our communities,” Tulay said.

Institute of Social Research and Development (ISRD) Language, Literature, Arts, and Communication Division Chief Marilyn W. Macwes presented the activity's overview and

rationale. This was followed by the discussions from the key speakers of the activity.

This activity highlighted the insights and studies on the Ibaloy, Kalanguya, and Tawali languages presented by BSU VP for Administration and Finance Richard H. Kinnud, Ifugao State University – Tinoc Campus Professor Leticia D. Guinsiman, BSU International Language Center Director Jhordan T. Cuilan, and Macwes. The discussions provided information on the origins of these languages including the emphasis of how they are a big part of our identity within the region.

After each discussion, an open forum was conducted in order for the participants to ask questions and clarify what was discussed.

CAH Faculty Member Richard A. Giye presented the synthesis, a summary of all the discussions throughout the activity.

Finally, ISRD Director Ann Heather B. Kiwang represented by Macwes closed the activity expressing her gratitude towards the BSU executives, administration, speakers, organizers, CAH faculty, technical staff and interns and the participants for joining the activity.//EBawang



NPRCRTC, FSRIC...from page 3

and the potential R&D proposal during the activity. This served as a means of attaining the center's mandate in promoting agri-based circular economic innovative solutions towards addressing challenges in the industry that focuses on sustainability, productivity, and value-addition opportunities.

With this achievement, the FSRIC team expresses its heartfelt gratitude to the BSU Administration for the opportunity to represent the University on the said activity and for the unwavering support extended to the team. The team also extends its appreciation to the DOST-CAR, through the RRDIC, for providing

FSRIC the opportunity to showcase the center's potential contributions to the socio-economic advancement of the Cordillera Region. Furthermore, these awards would not have been possible without the valuable support of Dr. Ruth Diego of the BSU-ATBI/IC and BAPTC, particularly in providing key insights on technology

commercialization and sharing significant statistical data records on vegetable trading that meaningfully enriched the presented pitch decks. For this, the team extends their sincere appreciation.

The successful participation of BSU-FSRIC on the 2025 Cordinnovation highlights a significant step towards strengthening further the Center's ways of generating sustainable RDE-driven solutions for strong engagement in technology development, transfer, and commercialization as fundamental components in driving sustainable and progressive growth in the Cordillera Region.

As winners, NPRCRTC-BSU and FSRIC-BSU will represent the Cordillera Administrative Region at the North Luzon Innovation and Technology Summit, set to take place on April 23–25, 2025 in Baguio City.//NPRCRTC&MDoradoJr



BSU College of Social Sciences intercultural activity showcases Cordillera foods, dances, and songs

The College of Social Sciences (CSS) spearheaded the activity titled “*Naila Mi, Naadal Mi: Understanding Gender and Sociocultural Heritage of the Cordilleras through Intercultural Exchange.*” The event was held on April 22, 2025 at the College of Social Sciences Open Grounds.

In his opening remarks, CSS Dean Stanley F. Anongos Jr. encouraged the participants to continue honoring and recognizing their own heritage. He also shared the struggles in integrating the Cordillera heritage into the curriculum and thanked the Commission on Higher Education for their initiative.

Soraya T. Faculo, Schools Division Superintendent of Baguio City, then shared the Department of Education’s experiences in integrating cultural activities into the curriculum. She also highlighted

to the participants that they attended the event to learn and showcase their experiences in cultural exchange.

Faculo shared three insights into understanding the Cordillera culture and heritage. The first insight emphasized the importance of knowing the context behind the beliefs, customary law, and dances. She encouraged the participants to learn deeper about the history and the meaning behind these practices. The second insight centered on the participants to continue investigating and immersing themselves in the

culture. She acknowledged that the event was the first step in appreciating the culture being studied and encouraged the participants to continue learning. The third insight focused on appreciating the variations of culture. She hoped that the participants would see the different variations of culture and uniqueness in the event.

Gigy G. Banes, CSS Extension and Gender and Development Coordinator, then shared the rationale of the activity. She mentioned that majority of the participants were from the lowland areas,

who accepted the challenge of learning the Cordillera culture, and hoped that the students would effectively present what they had gathered. Banes also said that the activity is an avenue for intercultural exchange and an avenue for cultural expression.

The messages were followed by the presentation of Cordillera indigenous songs, dances, and foods by Bachelor of Secondary Education and Doctor of Veterinary Medicine students. Indigenous games and a community dance was also held in the afternoon.// BTayaban

DOST-FPRDI launches e-library at BSU



The DOST-Forest Products Research and Development Institute (DOST-FPRDI) launched its e-library at the Benguet State University library on April 29, 2025. The digital library is an output from the “*From Page to Pixel: Digital Transformation of the DOST-FPRDI Library*” project, funded by the DOST-PCAARRD. //Photos and text from the DOST-FPRDI Facebook Page

BAPTC convenes stakeholders for General Assembly and Consultative Meeting



The Benguet Agri-Pinoy Trading Center (BAPTC) successfully held its Stakeholders' General Assembly cum Consultative Meeting at the BAPTC STB 1 Function Hall on April 29, 2025. The event brought together stakeholders, including farmers' groups, market facilitators, lessees, and traders, for a day of updates, discussions, and collaborative planning.

The program commenced with registration, followed by an opening prayer. Mildred Licangan, Human Resource Management Unit Officer I, acknowledged the attendees and provided an overview of the day's activities.

A key segment of the assembly features informative presentations. Ruth C. Diego, General Manager of BAPTC, presented on the "Potential Farmers' Representative to the Project Steering Board (PSB)", highlighting opportunities and processes for farmer involvement in the center's operation and management. This was followed by a presentation on the "Stakeholders' Directory and Accreditation" by Octavia S. Ablos, Institutional Development and Extension Services Unit Officer II & Officer-In-Charge of the Trading Operations Division, emphasizing the importance of a comprehensive stakeholder network.

The meeting then transitioned into a crucial "Reiteration of Policies" session. Raymart C. Tarasi, General Services Unit Officer II, reviewed the "Solid Waste Management Guidelines", underscoring BAPTC's commitment to environmental sustainability. During a working lunch break, Juancho C. Cruz, Assets and Amenities Division Chief, elaborated on the "Existing BAPTC Facilities and Parking Policies & Guidelines", ensuring clarity and adherence to operational policies. Tarasi provided additional insights on these policies.

Looking ahead, Elsie W. Gis-it, President of the Highland Vegetable Festival Association, Inc. (HVFAI), shared the history of the festival and insightful

event details about the upcoming "7th Highland Vegetable Festival", fostering anticipation and encouraging stakeholder participation. Details will be finalized at an anticipated meeting.

Kenneth A. Laruan, President of Benguet State University (BSU), delivered an insightful message, setting the tone for the open forum that followed. The afternoon session provided a valuable "Open Forum", allowing stakeholders to directly engage with BAPTC management to address their concerns, ask questions, and offer suggestions. The meeting concluded with closing remarks by Mildred A. Licangan and a prayer by a participant.

The BAPTC's Stakeholders' General Assembly cum Consultative Meeting served as a vital platform for communication, collaboration, and strategic planning. The active participation of stakeholders underscores the collective commitment to the continued growth and success of BAPTC as a pivotal agricultural trading center in Benguet. The discussions held and insights shared are expected to contribute significantly to the center's future initiatives and its ongoing efforts to support the farmers and the agricultural industry in Benguet and other neighboring provinces.//BAPTC



BAPTC General Manager Ruth Diego discusses during the Stakeholders' General Assembly cum Consultative Meeting at the BAPTC STB 1 Function Hall on April 29, 2025//BAPTC

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she emphasized that excellence should be a way of life. "With or without the award, our commitment is consistently demonstrated through strong administrative support, the high dedication of our faculty, and the exemplary performance of our students. This aligns with our cycle of continuous improvement," she added.

The EQUATE Awards serve as a testament to BSU's dedication to quality assurance and educational excellence. This recognition reinforces the university's role as a leading institution in the field, consistently working towards innovation.//JBelardo



Three College of Engineering programs undergo COPC evaluation

Three programs from the College of Engineering (CE) at Benguet State University underwent the Certificate of Program Compliance (COPC) evaluation, conducted by the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Technical Panel and Regional Quality Assessment Team (RQAT). The evaluation took place on April 10-11, 2025 in the CE Audio Visual Room.

The programs evaluated were the Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, the Bachelor of Science in Industrial Engineering, and the Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering. The document review for these programs was held on April 10, 2025.

The program's evaluation continued on April 11, 2025 where VP for Academic Affairs Janet P. Pablo welcomed the RQAT. She thanked the quality assurance team for their commitment to help the university ensure continuous improvement and excellence in the engineering programs.

"As we subject our degree programs to the quality assurance processes such as COPC, it emphasizes our institution's commitment to quality education and academic integrity," said

Pablo. She also stated that the evaluation is not just an assessment but an opportunity for learning and sharing of practices to improve the programs.

University President Kenneth A. Laruan acknowledged that the programs were developed in response to community requests for more offerings but emphasized the importance of complying to CHED standards.

"The efforts or the resources that we are putting just to comply with the COPC is actually a prerequisite to make sure that we are offering a degree program that is of standard and of course that is recognized and qualified based on what is stipulated by CHED," he said.

President Laruan also mentioned that to provide quality education, the university must ensure that it has the necessary resources, facilities, and other requirements.

After President Laruan's address, Office of the Quality Assurance and Accreditation Director Joanna I. Alafag introduced the BSU officials. CE Dean Alvin C. Dulay presented the Local Task Force.

The Technical Panel, RQAT members, and CHED officials were also introduced.

Next, Peter M. Ureta, Chairman of the Technical Panel, presented the mechanics of the evaluation. A breakout session followed, in which the Technical Panel, CHED-CAR, and RQAT members engaged in discussions and interviews with the program's chairperson.

The findings and recommendations by the CHED-CAR, RQAT, and Technical Panel were presented during the closing program on April 11, 2025.

In a message, VP for Administration and Finance Richard H. Kinnud thanked the technical panel for their clear and constructive recommendation regarding facility improvements, laboratory upgrades, and human resource development.

"We recognize that these insights are very timely and very necessary and we view them as vital opportunities for growth and development within the university," he stated. He also committed that the university will take the necessary actions, not just for compliance but for elevating BSU's academic standards and serve the community and students with excellence.//BTayaban



BSU holds Benguet voters' forum



Benguet State University (BSU) hosted a voters forum titled “The Future in Focus: A Forum on Leadership, Vision, and the Future of Benguet Province” on April 24-25, 2025. The event was held at the University Gymnasium and was attended by BSU students of voting age, faculty and staff members, and members of the Benguet community.

In his welcome remarks, University President Kenneth A. Laruan stated that the event aimed to educate participants on liberalism and to promote educated decision-making in selecting candidates for the upcoming selection. He also encouraged the participants to maximize the opportunity of knowing the candidates better through the forum.

Following Laruan’s message, board member candidates for District 1 and 2 presented their visions, goals, and

objectives. The candidates who attended the event are Frenzel A. Ayong, Jim G. Botiwey, Joel B. Tingbaoen Jr., Alexander C. Castañeda, Thorrrson M. Keith, Alexander T. Fianza, Thomas K. Wales Jr., and Lison G. Latawan Jr.

BSU studies on informing policy and practice including “Benguet IK on Governance” by Jhordan T. Cuilan, “Pasada: Implications of the Public Utility Vehicle Modernization Program” by Matyline C. Talastas, “Leadership During the Pandemic Era: The Local Government Unit Experience” by Gretchen Gaye C. Ablaza, “The Tongtong System within the Indigenous Cultural Communities in Benguet” by Caroline B. Gano, and “Benguet Votes: A Testament to Local Democracy in the Philippines” by Julie B. Velasco were also presented in the forum. The second day of the forum started with the message from Atty. Vanessa M. Roncal,

Concurrent Acting Provincial Election Supervisor for Benguet and Director III of the Commission on Election-Cordillera Administrative Region. She emphasized that the forum was more than just a political engagement but a call for citizens especially the youth to choose wisely and think critically. “We gather here not only to hear the candidates speak and listen to the forum but to reflect to the kind of leadership, governance, and the future we envision for the province of Benguet,” she said.

Roncal emphasized that the real leadership is not about the popularity, posters, or jingles but it is about the service to the people. She also included that politics should not be a battleground but about finding common grounds and solving problems.

Next, the resource speakers presented their vision, mission, goals, and objectives. The speakers were divided into three categories: Panel A for congressional candidates, Panel B for gubernatorial candidates, and Panel C for vice gubernatorial candidates.

The congressional candidates who attended are Ericson L. Felipe and Jerome E. Wakat. The gubernatorial candidates present are Ruben E. Poad and Johny D. Waguís while the vice gubernatorial candidates are Nelson C. Dangwa and Samson C. Paran.

A question and answer session was held after the presentation of each candidate. Then a poll survey was made through Google Forms. The survey was conducted as an integral part of the voters' education forum. It was accessible online to all participants who attended the forum. The poll aimed to gather insights and perspectives that would reflect participants' takeaways in the forum's discussions and outcomes.

The forum was organized through the collaboration of various BSU offices and colleges led by the College of Public Administration and Governance.//BTayaban

