

PNU POST 19TH EDITION

APRIL TO JUNE 2025



# PNU POST

THE OFFICIAL ONLINE NEWSLETTER OF THE PHILIPPINE NORMAL UNIVERSITY

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The Philippine Normal University Community ushered in the month of June 2025 with a series of activities that reaffirmed its commitment to innovation and continuous development

For years, the mandatory weekly flag ceremony was held at the university's quadrangle. With the recent completion of the gymnasium's upgraded ventilation system and the installation of new audio-visual equipment, the PNU community can now hold the ceremony in a more comfortable and technologically equipped space.



accomplishments and milestones from the past week.

Immediately after the ceremony, a blessing was held for various renovated structures and newly installed facilities. Rev. Fr. Rowen Carlos of Adamson University presided over the solemn rites, beginning with the LED wall in the gymnasium. This was followed by the blessing of the newly renovated covered walkway near the Finance and Orata Building, and concluded with the newly refurbished office of the Human Resource Management and Development Office (HRMDO).



Earlier today, the first-ever flag ceremony hosted inside the gymnasium was broadcast on the newly installed LED screen and livestreamed via PNU's official online platforms. The Campus Development Coordinating Unit, headed by Officer-in-Charge Mr. Ernest Dave A. Tenorio, facilitated this week's pilot hybrid flag ceremony.

Dr. Tuga also announced that another significant innovation, the Wall of Excellence, is set to be launched later this week, further underscoring the university's unwavering pursuit of excellence.



A highlight of the event was the inspirational message delivered by University President Dr. Bert J. Tuga, who emphasized the value of interdependence and shared key







More than 200 faculty members with the rank of Assistant Professor or higher from all Philippine Normal University campuses gathered for the second-quarter Academic Council meeting held on June 11, 2025, via Zoom.

The Academic Council, initially presided over by University President Dr. Bert J. Tuga and subsequently by Vice President for Academics Dr. Marilyn U. Balagtas, engaged in an in-depth discussion of various agenda items. These included the approval of additional candidates for graduation, the implementation of curricular programs, and the review and adoption of academic policies and guidelines.

Section 10 of Republic Act 8292, otherwise known as the Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997, stipulates that the Academic Council shall "review and recommend the curricular offerings and rules of discipline of the University subject to the appropriate action of the Board of Regents." The Council is chaired by the University President.

As part of its role as the National Center for Teacher Education, the Philippine Normal University co-organized two internationalization and extension engagements with its partner local colleges. Highlighting these endeavors is the significant involvement of PNU's current visiting professors.

PNU brought global perspectives to the City College of San Fernando, Pampanga (CCSFP) through a professional sharing session of Dr. Mekasha Kassaye Gobaw, a visiting professor from Addis Ababa University, Ethiopia. The event fostered rich discussions on global education systems as Dr. Gobaw presented a comparative analysis of the Ethiopian education system and the Philippine local university context. He highlighted structural, cultural, and pedagogical similarities and differences between the two countries, offering CCSFP education students and officials a broader understanding of international frameworks in teaching and learning. The session underscored the value of cross-cultural exchange in developing inclusive and future-ready teacher education programs.

Meanwhile, in another significant event, the City College of Calamba (CCC) welcomed Dr. Adrian Rodgers, another visiting professor from The Ohio State University, for a scholarly engagement aligned with CCC's ongoing partnership with PNU. Held in the historic city of Calamba, the hometown of Dr. Jose



Rizal, the session was themed "Using Backward Design as a Tool to Support Empowerment." Dr. Rodgers, a respected expert in curriculum and instruction, provided a practical and thought-provoking discussion on designing intentional, learner-centered curricula. His talk emphasized how aligning educational outcomes with meaningful learning experiences can lead to empowered educators and students.

Both extension activities exemplify PNU's mission to strengthen partnerships with local institutions, providing platforms for global dialogue and knowledge sharing.



The North Luzon and South Luzon campuses of Philippine Normal University hosted Dr. Adrian Rodgers, a distinguished visiting professor from The Ohio State University, for a series of academic engagements and knowledge sharing. The activity was organized in line with PNU's commitment to enhancing international academic collaboration and advancing research capacity across PNU campuses.

Kicking off Dr. Rodgers' engagement was his visit at PNU North Luzon on June 7, 2025. A campus tour introduced Dr. Rodgers to the facilities, academic units, and research hubs of the campus. He commended the university's efforts in promoting culturally responsive pedagogy and integrating indigenous knowledge into education.

The highlight of his North Luzon visit was a research lecture titled "Fundamentals and Innovations in Research Design: Building a Strong Foundation for Educational Research," delivered at the university auditorium. The session attracted faculty and both undergraduate and graduate students from various academic disciplines. Dr. Rodgers elaborated on key principles in aligning research questions with appropriate methodologies, distinguishing between qualitative and quantitative approaches, and addressing ethical considerations in research. The interactive nature of his presentation led to vibrant discussions and practical insights on crafting effective and relevant research proposals. An open forum followed the lecture, where participants raised questions about local research challenges,

interdisciplinary methods, and real-world application of theoretical frameworks.

The academic momentum continued June 18, 2025, in PNU South Luzon, where Dr. Rodgers delivered another insightful lecture on "Backward Design in Educational Research." Held at the campus in Lopez, Quezon, the session drew educators and researchers keen to learn more about outcome-based instructional planning and curriculum design. Dr. Rodgers emphasized the value of starting with learning goals and working backward to create more effective and meaningful educational experiences. Participants in the South Luzon lecture expressed deep appreciation for the intellectual stimulation and practical strategies presented by Dr. Rodgers.

Dr. Rodgers' campus visits to PNU North and South Luzon marked the staunch desire to champion a collaborative academic and research culture across PNU campuses. His lectures not only deepened participants' understanding of research methodologies but also reinforced PNU's role as a leader in teacher education.

The visiting professor will be culminating June with the continuation of his academic visit, this time on PNU's campus in Mindanao. He is then slated to visit PNU Visayas during the first week of July.





**TODAY @ PNU**

## **GCC-PHILIPPINES PUSHES FOR REGIONAL STRATEGIC COLLABORATION ON GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP EDUCATION IN GCC DIRECTORS' MEETING 2025**

The 2025 Global Citizenship Education (GCED) Cooperation Center Directors' Meeting took place from June 23 to 25, 2025, at Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia (UPI) in Bandung, Indonesia. The gathering brought together key representatives from Global Citizenship Centres (GCCs) throughout the Asia-Pacific region. Organized by the Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU) in partnership with the host institution, the meeting aimed to strengthen regional cooperation, align strategies, and share innovations in promoting GCED.

Representing GCC Philippines and Philippine Normal University (PNU), Director Dr. Rowena Hibanada and Deputy Director Assoc. Prof. Carl

Dellomos actively participated in the three-day conference. The event began with country presentations where each GCC representative shared updates and major initiatives from Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Philippines, Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Nepal, and Cambodia, with observers from SEAMEO Regional Centre for Sufficiency Economy Philosophy for Sustainability and UNESCO Office in Jakarta.

Deputy Director Dellomos delivered an engaging presentation highlighting both the achievements and ongoing strategic efforts of the Global Citizenship Education Cooperation Centre – Philippines (GCC Philippines). His talk provided a comprehensive overview of the center's diverse initiatives, focusing on capacity-building, content development,

and youth engagement. He explained how GCC Philippines has played a key role in enhancing educators' skills through nationwide professional development programs, including designing and implementing modular training packages that enable teachers to incorporate GCED principles into their teaching practices. These initiatives aim to equip educators not just with theoretical knowledge but also with practical tools and culturally relevant pedagogies that address the needs of Filipino learners and communities.

Throughout the event, participants actively engaged in detailed discussions on how to apply Global Citizenship Education (GCED) in different educational settings. A notable

moment was a special forum on the GCED Cooperation Centre (GCC) Core Curriculum, where different perspectives were shared on aligning curriculum content with global competencies and sustainable development goals.

Director Hibanada contributed significantly to these discussions by providing expert insights on curriculum development and the importance of integrating GCED principles into national teacher education programs. She highlighted the pioneering efforts of Philippine Normal University (PNU) in this area, citing ongoing initiatives that position the university as a leader in promoting GCED. Dr. Hibanada explained that these initiatives are not just supplementary to existing programs but are carefully designed and implemented within PNU's innovative frameworks, aligned with its vision, mission, and goals. She pointed out flagship programs such as capacity-building workshops for pre-service and in-service teachers, research collaborations on civic and global competencies, and the creation of instructional materials aligned with GCED. These efforts demonstrate PNU's dedication to developing globally competent, ethically grounded, and socially responsible educators who can promote peace, sustainability, and human dignity both locally and globally.

A significant part of the event involved individual consultations between APCEIU and selected GCCs, including

GCC Philippines. These sessions provided tailored feedback and fostered discussions on future directions and partnership opportunities, ensuring alignment with the overarching vision of the GCED network.

The meeting concluded with a summary session that synthesized the key insights and outcomes from the three days. Attendees reaffirmed their united commitment to advancing GCED at the national and regional levels, emphasizing collaboration, innovation, and knowledge sharing. A short closing ceremony was held before participants left for Jakarta, marking the end of a productive and motivating gathering.

For more information about the Global Citizenship Education Cooperation Centre-Philippines, please visit [www.gced.pnu.edu.ph](http://www.gced.pnu.edu.ph) or contact us at [gcc.ph@pnu.edu.ph](mailto:gcc.ph@pnu.edu.ph) or [ph@pnu.edu.ph](mailto:ph@pnu.edu.ph)



The Philippine Normal University (PNU) formalized a partnership with SeeMeSOL, Incorporated through the signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on June 19, 2025 at the Office of the President's Conference Room. The agreement elaborates on the goal of enhancing the monitoring of the employability and engagement of PNU's alumni.

SeeMeSOL is a company that specializes in the provision of Software-as-a-Service (SaaS) based talent and recruitment management solutions.

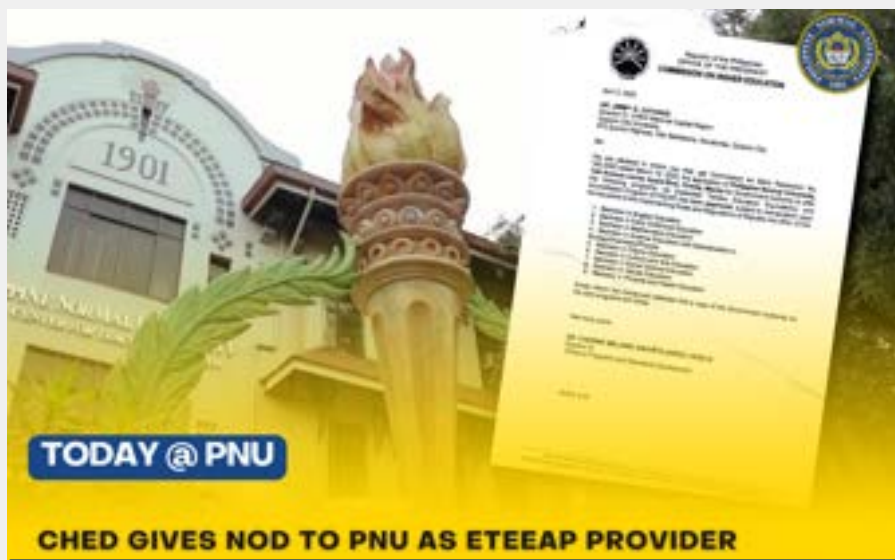
Under the agreement, SeeMeSOL, Inc. will provide SaaS solutions to support the university's efforts in talent development and alumni tracking. The partnership includes the deployment of a digital talent platform and the creation of an alumni employment database.

The platform is designed to give alumni improved access to career and recruitment opportunities, while also enabling the university to conduct alumni tracer studies that inform institutional planning and development strategies.

Representing PNU were Dr. Bert J. Tuga, University President; Dr. Denmark L. Yonson, Vice President for Student Success and Stakeholders Services; Dr. Ma. Glenda O. De Lara, Director of the Alumni Relations Office; Mr. Erwin R. Callo, Director of the Management Information System; and Mr. Bryan C. Dayuta, Director of the Linkages and International Office. Meanwhile, present during the ceremonial signing for the partner company were Mr. David Padgett, Founder and Chairman of the Board of SeeMeSOL, Inc., and Mr. Victor B. San Pascual, Jr., Business Development Manager.

This initiative underscores PNU's commitment to equipping future-ready graduates and reinforcing alumni relations through innovative, technology-enabled services.





The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) has given the green light to the Philippine Normal University (PNU) to offer programs under the Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program (ETEEAP). Through Commission en Banc Resolution No. 190-2025 dated March 10, 2025, PNU has been granted the authority to offer the following degrees via the equivalency program:

- Bachelor in English Education
- Bachelor in Early Childhood Education
- Bachelor in Mathematics Education
- Bachelor in Science Education with Specialization in Biology, Chemistry, or Physics
- Bachelor in Filipino Education
- Bachelor in Culture and Arts Education
- Bachelor in Social Science Education
- Bachelor in Values Education
- Bachelor in Physical and Health Education

The implementation of the program at PNU will be subject to reevaluation upon the issuance of the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Act No. 12124, also known as the Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program (ETEEAP) Act.

At PNU, the ETEEAP is managed by the College of Alternative and Lifelong Learning (CALL), under the leadership of its Dean, Dr. Celia M. Ilanan. It was also CALL that facilitated the ETEEAP recertification visit of PNU in June of last year. CHED Technical Panel members served as assessors during the said recertification.

Meanwhile, Dr. Ilanan served as a resource speaker during the Senate hearing on the bill that eventually became the current law governing the ETEEAP, sharing the institution's experiences as a deputized provider of the program.

To learn more about PNU's ETEEAP and other program details, you may send an email to [call@pnu.edu.ph](mailto:call@pnu.edu.ph).

The College of Teacher Development proudly launches FIBER-PNU, an innovative professional development program designed for faculty members with limited or no teaching experience in basic education. As part of this initiative, four seasoned PNU faculty members—Dr. Andrew Peña (FLL), Dr. Arthur Abulencia (FBESS), Prof. Nelson Garcia (FSTEM), and Prof. Malven Tabajen (FEIS)—have volunteered to be immersed as interns at the University's laboratory school. Over the course of several weeks, they will refine their skills in lesson planning, assessment design, and classroom instruction for both elementary and high school learners, under the dedicated mentorship of Dr. Annabelle Palmiery, Dr. Marivic Pimentel, Dr. Edwin Auditor/Prof. Daniel Day Aguilon, and Dr. Lorena Castro/Prof. Giselle Pauline Paraan.



In a heartwarming display of support, the faculty interns were personally accompanied by their respective Associate Deans to the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL)—much like proud parents bringing their children to school for the first time. The deployment program was further made special with the presence of Dr. Marilyn Balagtas, Vice President for Academics, and Dr. Gladys Nivera, Dean of the College of Teacher Development and Project Lead for FIBER-PNU, both of whom graced the occasion and offered inspiring words of encouragement.

Beyond its training component, FIBER-PNU also includes a strong research dimension, ensuring continuous program enhancement with each iteration. The research team is composed of Dr. Gladys Nivera, Dr. Rafael Panganiban, Dr. Alfons Jayson Pelgone, Dr. Dorothy Naval, and Dr. Victoria de los Santos.



The Philippine Normal University, together with other teacher education institutions, was formally awarded the Excellence in Quality Assurance in Teacher Education (EQUATE) Award during the recognition program held on April 2, 2025, at the Manila Hotel. A total of 120 higher education institutions offering exemplary teacher education programs were recognized for their commitment to upholding quality standards and nurturing excellent educators for the country. Among these institutions are the five campuses of the National Center for Teacher Education: PNU North Luzon, PNU South Luzon, PNU Visayas, PNU Mindanao, and PNU Manila.

PNU was ably represented by its University President, Dr. Bert J. Tuga, who was accompanied by the university's top officials, including the Vice Presidents, Executive Directors and Provosts, and the Deans for Academics and the Hubs. Also present at the ceremony was PNU Student Regent Hon. Janre V. Lachica.

Before the conferment ceremonies, a conference on teacher education was held, featuring talks from distinguished advocates of teacher education and quality. A key highlight was the keynote lecture delivered by Dr. Carlos Vargas-Tamez, Chief of the Teacher Development Unit of UNESCO Paris, through a pre-recorded video. Dr. Vargas-Tamez emphasized that the qualities of a good teacher—one capable of shaping the future of learners—must be learned. He also highlighted the equal importance of sound teacher education and training.

Capping off the morning session was a discussion on CHED's Strategic Directions in Philippine Teacher Education, led by Dr. Edizon A. Fermin, Chair of the Technical Panel for Teacher Education. Dr. Fermin regarded the inaugural EQUATE Awards as a recognition of the contributions of top-notch higher education institutions in reframing discussions on teacher education quality. He proceeded to outline CHED's strategic directions, summarized by the acronym GURO, which stands for Guaranteeing Quality, Upholding Synergy, Reframing Curricula, and Optimizing Pathways.

In the afternoon, the EQUATE Awards Conferment Ceremony was formally opened with a message from CHED Chairperson Dr. J. Prospero E. De Vera III. Chairperson De Vera reaffirmed that advancing teacher education and ensuring continuous professional development remain top priorities of the current administration, as these are considered key solutions in addressing the education crisis in the country.





Executive Secretary Hon. Lucas P. Bersamin also delivered an inspirational message, paying homage to teachers for their role in uplifting the nation. He described teachers as "the heart of any education system" and emphasized that teacher education is of utmost importance, as teachers are "the architects of our nation's future."

Education leaders and policymakers were also given the opportunity to share their insights. Hon. Mark O. Go, Chairperson of the House Committee on Higher and Technical Education, acknowledged the challenges in teacher education but highlighted significant strides in reforms, innovation, and quality assurance. He also shared recent advancements in the field of teacher education and professional development, describing them as affirmations of the collective commitment to strengthening the teaching profession. Hon. Go further encouraged the awardees to continue pushing boundaries to produce more educators for future generations.

Following these messages, the EQUATE Awards were formally conferred. PNU Manila and PNU Visayas received recognition for the Elementary Level, while all PNU campuses received individual recognitions for the Secondary Level. Additionally, PNU Manila and PNU Visayas were honored with special plaques for being dual awardees.

Chairperson De Vera then acknowledged the members of the CHED Technical Panel and the organizers from the Office of Programs and Standards Development for their contributions to the success of the event.

The program concluded with a message from Senator Sherwin T. Gatchalian, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Basic Education. Sen. Gatchalian expressed his appreciation for the insights provided by teacher education institutions (TEIs), particularly to the Second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM 2). He reiterated that improving the country's education system begins with strengthening teacher education.



In response, President Tuga extended his gratitude to CHED for recognizing PNU's efforts in implementing programs that align with modern demands. As PNU continues to lead the way in developing future-ready teachers and education leaders, he also regards the award as a challenge to guide and inspire other tertiary education institutions (TEIs) toward enhancing the quality of teacher education programs.



The Philippine Normal University (PNU), in partnership with the PNU Alumni Association, Inc. (PNUAA), held the 2025 Grand Alumni Homecoming on April 27, 2025, at the PNU Quadrangle in Manila. This year's reunion carried the theme,

"Shaping Futures, Strengthening Ties, Inspiring Global Impact."

The celebration commenced with individual batch reunions in various venues across the PNU campus. Following a solemn Thanksgiving Mass at the PNU Worship Center, a grand parade gathered all alumni at the Quadrangle, the focal point of the day's festivities.

This year, the event paid special tribute to special

batches, with the Diamond Jubilarians from the Class of 1960 as the oldest group of honorees. Meanwhile, the Class of 2005 was recognized as the youngest batch celebrating their milestone year.

The formal program began with welcome remarks from Dr. Denmark L. Yonson, Vice President for Student Success and Stakeholders Services. This was followed by salutations from Dr. Ponciano A. Menguito, Vice President of PNU and former Director IV of the Department of Education - National Capital Region.

University President Dr. Bert J. Tuga delivered a special message, emphasizing the role of PNU alumni in shaping the future of education both locally and globally. He also shared major milestones achieved by the university with the alumni body to inspire and encourage their support.

A highlight of the program was the keynote address delivered by Ms. Jocelyn "Bubbles" F. Villegas, Director IV of the Presidential Engagements Office, Presidential Management Staff, Malacañang, who underscored the importance of public service and leadership among PNU alumni.

Recognition was also given to outstanding alumni under various categories, including Charter Awardees, Couple Awardees, and National Awardees. Awards were conferred by PNAAA officers, honoring their professional excellence, leadership, and

service to society. Delivering the response on behalf of the awardees was Dr. Lordinio A. Vergara, Vice President for Finance and Administration of PNU and a National Awardee.

A special tribute segment was dedicated to the Jubilarians, who were invited on stage to celebrate their legacies and reconnect with fellow alumni.

The program concluded with a message of appreciation from

Dr. Ronald Allan S. Mabunga, Member of the PNAAA Board of Directors.

This year's Grand Alumni Homecoming was co-organized by the Alumni Relations Office, headed by its Director, Dr. Glenda O. De Lara. The event reaffirmed the enduring spirit of unity and pride among PNU alumni worldwide.



The Philippine Normal University (PNU) Board of Regents convened today, April 3, 2025, for its first-quarter regular meeting. The meeting, held at the Executive Lounge and Board Room, was presided over by Dr. Ethel Agnes Pascua-Valenzuela, Commissioner of the Commission on Higher Education and Chairperson-designate of PNU's BOR, alongside Dr. Bert J. Tuga, Vice Chairperson of the Board and President of PNU.

Also in attendance were Student Regent Hon. Janre V. Lachica, Faculty Regent Hon. Donna B. Remigio, Hon. Girlie Grace J. Casimiro-Igtiben, and Hon. Jorge A. Garcia. Atty. Jess Apuyod, representing Hon. Camille A. Villar, participated online as an observer. University officials served as resource persons for the agenda presented.

The Governing Board approved various proposals related to academic programs, administration, personnel, finance, and research and extension initiatives.

The PNU BOR serves as the university's highest governing body, as mandated by Republic Act No. 8292, also known as the Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997.





The Literacy Coordinating Council (LCC), the education department's arm in developing policies and determining the direction of the country's literacy efforts, held its 158th Regular Meeting earlier today, April 7, 2025, at the Department of Education Central Office. The meeting was chaired by DepEd Secretary Sonny Angara, while University President Dr. Bert J. Tuga and PNU's Representative to the LCC, Dr. Maria Azela L. Tamayo, participated on behalf of the Philippine Normal University, a member of the said council.



During the meeting, the council discussed various emerging concerns such as the 2024 Functional Literacy, Education, and Mass Media Survey (FLEMMS), the implementation of Republic Act No. 11510 or the Alternative Learning System Act, and the joint memorandum on the creation, reconstitution, and strengthening of Local Literacy Councils.



As a member of the LCC, PNU is expected to mobilize the academic community to support literacy through research and skills development, provide technical assistance to council members and the learning community, and transmit to the Council the results of activities undertaken in line with literacy promotion.

The Graduate Student Research Office (GSRO) of the Philippine Normal University conducted a three-hour online refresher training on the statistical analysis of quantitative data on May 17, 2025. This brief yet comprehensive training was delivered via Zoom and broadcast live on Facebook, with nearly 1,000 teachers and graduate students from across the country participating.



The training began with welcome remarks from Dr. Marilyn U. Balagtas, PNU Vice President for Academics, who emphasized the importance of statistics in research. The session was facilitated by Dr. Wilfredo Chung, the Director of the GSRO. Combining lectures, hands-on demonstrations, and practical exercises using sample data sets, Dr. Chung highlighted the necessity of leveraging free statistical tools and refreshed participants on the basic considerations for choosing specific statistical analyses, the role of p-values in interpreting statistical results, the importance of effect size analysis, and the practicality of conducting one's own statistics.

Dr. Adonis David, Faculty Assistant at GSRO, delivered the closing remarks, summarizing the key ideas from the training and offering reminders about the value and limitations of statistics for educational practitioners and researchers to consider. Dr. Gilbert Arrieta, another Faculty Assistant at GSRO, served as the host and moderated the open forum of the training.



For today's Paragon of Distinction, we give the spotlight to the main campus of the Philippine Normal University in Manila for being one of the dual awardees from the National Capital Region of the Excellence in Quality Assurance in Teacher Education (EQUATE) Award. PNU Manila is recognized for its excellent performance in both the Elementary and Secondary Levels.

The EQUATE Award is given to top-performing TEIs for their dedication to upholding the highest standards in pre-service teacher education, as demonstrated by their compliance with CHED's minimum quality assurance requirements, program accreditation, and outstanding performance in the Board Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers (BLEPT).

Muli, pagpupugay sa Pamantasang Normal ng Pilipinas!



For today's Paragon of Distinction, we recognize the Philippine Normal University–Mindanao for receiving the Excellence in Quality Assurance in Teacher Education (EQUATE) Award for the Secondary Level.

The EQUATE Award is given to top-performing TEIs for their dedication to upholding the highest standards in pre-service teacher education, as demonstrated by their compliance with CHED's minimum quality assurance requirements, program accreditation, and outstanding performance in the Board Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers (BLEPT).

PNU Mindanao is located in Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur. It was established under R.A. No. 4242 in 1965 and formally opened on August 12, 1968. In 2012, it was designated as the Multicultural Education Hub through BOR Resolution No. U-1865. As a hub, it is expected to create programs that enhance multicultural education.

Mabuhay ka, Pamantasang Normal ng Pilipinas–Mindanao!



For today's Paragon of Distinction, we recognize the Philippine Normal University–North Luzon for receiving the Excellence in Quality Assurance in Teacher Education (EQUATE) Award for the Secondary Level.

The EQUATE Award is given to top-performing TEIs for their dedication to upholding the highest standards in pre-service teacher education, as demonstrated by their compliance with CHED's minimum quality assurance requirements, program accreditation, and outstanding performance in the Board Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers (BLEPT).

PNU North Luzon is located in the municipality of Alicia, Isabela. It was established on July 26, 1971. In 2012, it was designated as the Indigenous Peoples (IP) Hub through BOR Resolution No. U-1865. As an IP Hub, it is tasked with developing programs that strengthen Indigenous Peoples education.

Mabuhay ka, Pamantasang Normal ng Pilipinas–Hilagang Luzon!





For today's Paragon of Distinction, we recognize the Philippine Normal University–South Luzon for receiving the Excellence in Quality Assurance in Teacher Education (EQUATE) Award for the Secondary Level.

The EQUATE Award is given to top-performing TEIs for their dedication to upholding the highest standards in pre-service teacher education, as demonstrated by their compliance with CHED's minimum quality assurance requirements, program accreditation, and outstanding performance in the Board Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers (BLEPT).

PNU South Luzon is located in Lopez, Quezon, and was designated as the Technology and Livelihood Education (TLE) Hub through BOR Resolution No. U-1865. The designation was a strategic response to the shortage of qualified teachers in the field of technology and livelihood education.

Mabuhay ka, Pamantasang Normal ng Pilipinas–Timog Luzon!



For today's Paragon of Distinction, we recognize the Philippine Normal University–Visayas for receiving the Excellence in Quality Assurance in Teacher Education (EQUATE) Award. PNU Visayas joins PNU Manila as a dual awardee, having received recognition for both the Elementary and Secondary Levels.

The EQUATE Award is given to top-performing TEIs for their dedication to upholding the highest standards in pre-service teacher education, as demonstrated by their compliance with CHED's minimum quality assurance requirements, program accreditation, and outstanding performance in the Board Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers (BLEPT).

PNU Visayas is located in Cadiz City, Negros Occidental. It was established on July 15, 1968. In 2012, it was designated as the Environment and Green Technology Education (EGTE) Hub through BOR Resolution No. U-1865. As the EGTE Hub, it is mandated to develop programs that promote environmental conservation, protection, and rehabilitation, and encourage the utilization of green technology.

Mabuhay ka, Pamantasang Normal ng Pilipinas–Visayas!

The PNU Manila Community extends its heartfelt support and best wishes to its Torchbearers as they proudly represent the University in the upcoming 2025 State Colleges and Universities Athletic Association (SCUAA) National Games, to be held from April 22 to 27, 2025, in the island province of Camiguin.



Our student-athletes and coaches will be part of the National Capital Region (NCR) team, which aims to defend its title as the overall champion of the national games. May their unwavering dedication, discipline, and hard work lead them to victory—not only for themselves, but also for the region and their beloved alma mater.

Go, Torchbearers! Make us proud!



As the final whistle blew and the dust settled, it became apparent that the National Capital Region remains the commanding force in collegiate sports among state universities and colleges, as it

retained its overall championship at the 2025 SCUAA National Games in the island province of Camiguin.

During the closing program held on April 27, 2025, it was proclaimed that NCR's medal haul totaled 272 medals, securing its spot at the top of the leaderboard for this iteration of the biennial games. This also broke the region's previous medal count from the 2023 National SCUAA tilt in Tarlac,

which stood at 158 medals. In particular, the contingent from NCR amassed 149 golds, 49 silvers, and 74 bronzes—an improved performance compared to the previous edition of the games.

Meanwhile, student-athletes from the Philippine Normal University, proudly dubbed the Torchbearers, etched their marks of excellence in their respective sporting events and contributed to the overall success of the region.

Leading PNU's medal haul was Elijah Fhed M. Rumbaoa, who won the bronze medal in the Koryugi event of the Taekwondo Men's competition. It was also an all-PNU team that secured the silver medal in the demonstration sport of Basketball 3x3 Men. John Elbert Ighot, Jerome S. Madeja, Ar-Jay B. Tobias, and John Marcus Lyn D. Vizcaya composed the four-man team, coached by Mr. Erwin M. Blancaflor and Dr. Jhomel E. Del Rosario of the Institute of Creative Expressions and Human Movement Education (ICEHME). In Dance Sports Standard, Jordan Pol P. Villanueva and Abigail D.

Escala gracefully swayed their way into the strong finalists' circle. Completing the list of Torchbearers were Mc Garrett P. Manzano and John Zendrick E. Reyes, who were part of the NCR Basketball Men's team that finished in 4th place.

Leading the delegation was Dr. Bert J. Tuga, President of PNU and Regional Chairperson of the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges–National Capital Region (PASUC-NCR).

Serving as hosts for this national showcase of athletic excellence were Camiguin Polytechnic State College (CPSC), the Provincial Government of Camiguin, the Mindanao Association of State Tertiary Schools (MASTS), and the Association of State Universities and Colleges (ASUC) Region X.

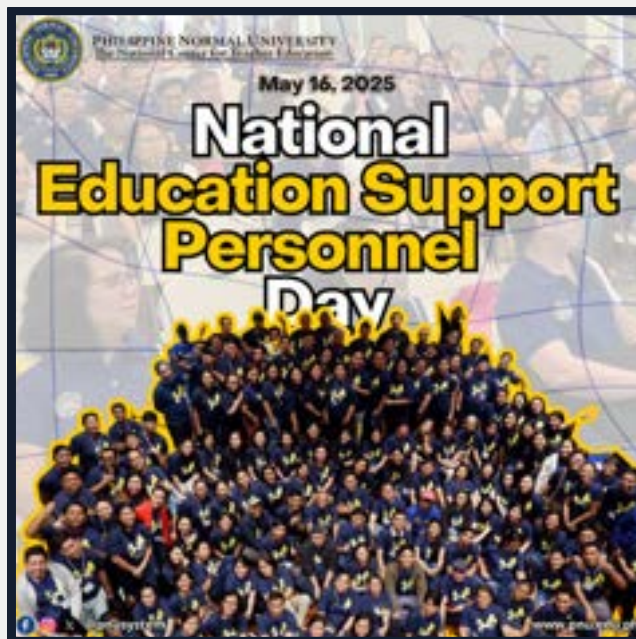
invaluable role of non-teaching personnel in the country's education system. The day serves as an opportunity for all government agencies involved in education to honor the tireless efforts of their administrative and support staff, whose contributions are vital to the effective, inclusive, and quality delivery of education in safe and nurturing learning environments.

At the Philippine Normal University, we proudly salute our administrative and support personnel—our unsung heroes—who consistently go above and beyond their duties to ensure that Inang Pamantasan remains a well-oiled, responsive, and future-ready institution.

Though their work often happens behind the scenes, its impact etches a mark on every

milestone that PNU reaches. Because of them, we move forward diligently in truth, excellence, and service.

Mabuhay ang mga education support personnel! Mabuhay ang mga administrative employees ng PNU!



The PNU Community joins the entire nation in celebrating National Education Support Personnel Day.

By virtue of Republic Act (RA) No. 12178, signed into law by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. on April 15 of this year, this special working holiday recognizes the

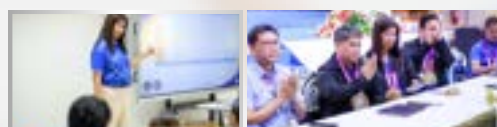




As part of its commitment to sharing its expertise in honing pre-service teachers in the country, a team from the Philippine Normal University (PNU) flew to the Province of Biliran to deliver a twoday team teaching and faculty exchange program for the students of the School of Teacher Education (STED) at Biliran Province State University (BiPSU).

The activity, dubbed Synergy: Fostering Academic Excellence through Institutional Collaboration between PNU and BiPSU, featured experts from PNU who delivered lectures and engaged in professional sharing with pre-service teachers from the Naval and Biliran campuses of BiPSU.

PNU President Dr. Bert J. Tuga led the PNU contingent, joined by Vice President for Finance and Administration Dr. Lordinio A. Vergara; College of Alternative and Lifelong Learning Dean Dr. Celia M. Ilanan and Deputy Dean Voltaire M. Villanueva; Research Institute for Teacher Quality Director Dr. Brando C. Palomar; and Knowledge Management and Strategic Foresight Office Director Dr. Marivilla Lydia B. Aggarao.



To kick off the engagement, a courtesy visit was made to BiPSU President Dr. Victor C. Cañez, Jr. The meeting served as a platform for leaders of both institutions to express their shared commitment to advancing collaborative efforts toward common goals.

Shortly after, a series of magisterial lectures were delivered by the PNU experts. Conducted through a hybrid modality, the lecture series covered topics on nurturing future-ready teachers and education leaders, as well as the outcomes-based education curriculum.



Meanwhile, simultaneous on-site classes, also facilitated by the PNU team, focused on key topics in teacher education such as the teaching profession, methods and strategies for teaching, theories of learning, and assessment of learning.

The two-day academic endeavor concluded with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the two institutions, formalizing their commitment to future collaborations in academic and research initiatives and other scholarly activities.

This endeavor is part of PNU Manila's role as one of the designated Centers of Excellence (COEs) for Teacher Education. As mandated by Republic Act No. 11713, or the Excellence in Teacher Education Act, COEs are expected to implement innovative and responsive pre-service and inservice teacher education and training programs—including alternative delivery modes—to promote inclusive access, ensure learning continuity, and strengthen the resilience of the education system, ultimately developing educators who can deliver quality education to all learners.



Grantees of the educational aid sponsored by Senator Sherwin T. Gatchalian under the Tulong Dunong Program gathered for a hybrid general assembly earlier today, April 5, 2025. Dubbed as “Nurturing Scholars, Honoring Leadership”, the event featured the participation of 188 scholars from the Philippine Normal University who joined the program in person at the Geronima T. Pecson Hall, along with a combined total of 400 beneficiaries from Cebu Normal University and Mindanao State University – Iligan Institute of Technology. The significance of the event was further amplified by the presence of the grant’s principal sponsor, Senator Gatchalian.

Special messages of gratitude were shared by the leaders of the universities represented by the grantees. For Luzon, PNU President Dr. Bert J. Tuga took the opportunity to honor Senator Gatchalian as an education champion and a staunch ally in improving teacher quality. Dr. Tuga recalled the senator’s contribution to inspiring many Filipino learners. Meanwhile, the Cebu Normal University community expressed their appreciation for the support extended to their student-grantees. In an energetic gesture of thanks, the CNU President led their community in acknowledging Senator Gatchalian’s support for their students’ educational endeavors. The grantees from MSU-IIT also conveyed their gratitude through a special presentation delivered virtually.

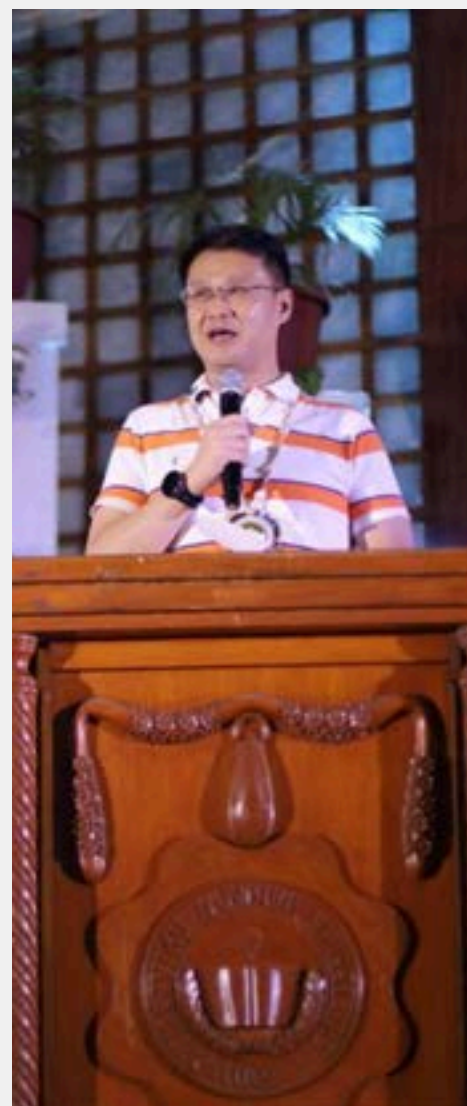


To provide the rationale behind the grant, Ms. Precial Chan, Head of the Advocacy, Promotions, and Career Guidance Division of the Commission on Higher Education – Unified Financial Assistance System for Tertiary Education



(CHED-UniFAST), delivered an insightful message to the beneficiaries.

The highlight of the program was the message of Senator Gatchalian, who serves as Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Basic Education and is a recipient of the Doctor of Education, honoris causa, from PNU. In his speech, he recognized the excellence demonstrated by the higher education institutions present at the event. He further emphasized the importance of investing in the education of the country’s future leaders. On the sidelines, he warmly thanked everyone for the birthday wishes he received throughout the program. He also reminded the beneficiaries to remain focused on their studies and to stay committed to the goal of completing their degrees.







Beneficiaries from PNU, on behalf of all the grantees present, shared their testimonies of gratitude to Senator Gatchalian through a recorded video. Ms. Alyssa Kryss A. Carvajal, also a PNU grantee under the TDP, reiterated the immense gratitude of all the beneficiaries to the senator for spearheading the distribution of the educational aid.

Concluding the activity was the Director of the Student Affairs and Services Office, Dr. Merimee T. Siena, who delivered the closing remarks. In her message, Dr. Siena once again expressed thanks to Senator Gatchalian and congratulated the beneficiaries for being part of an exemplary group truly deserving of the grant.

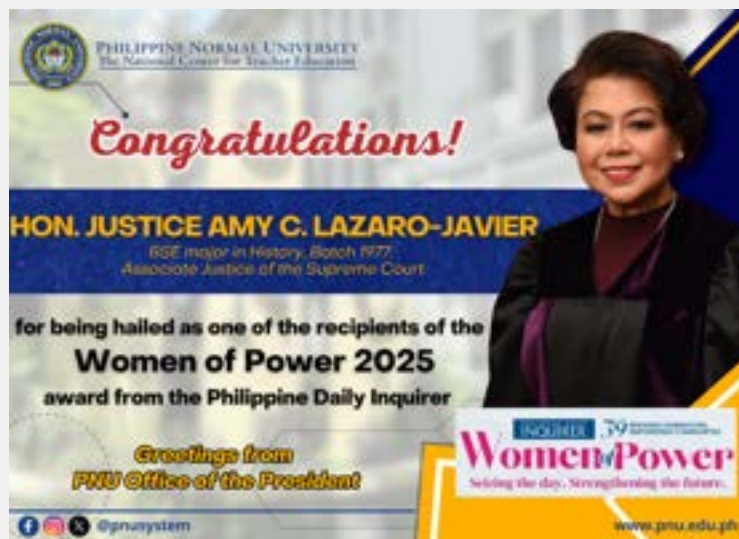
The Tulong Dunong Program is a key government subsidy initiative designed to help cover a portion of the educational expenses of Filipino students enrolled in public institutions such as State Universities and Colleges (SUCs).



The PNU Office of the President extends its warmest congratulations to Hon. Justice Amy C. Lazaro-Javier, BSE major in History, Batch 1977, and current Associate Justice of the Supreme Court, for being recognized as one of the recipients of the Women of Power 2025 award from the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

Justice Lazaro-Javier has been honored for her steadfast commitment to justice, fearless advocacy for women's rights, and pioneering contributions to the legal profession.

Inang Pamantasan is proud of you!



The Philippine Normal University (PNU) Office of the University President extends its warmest congratulations to the Honorable Ethel Agnes P. Valenzuela, Commissioner of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and Chairperson-Designate of the PNU Board of Regents, on her reappointment to the Governing Board of the UNESCO Institute for Lifelong Learning (UIL) for a second term.



This post reflects not only your unwavering dedication to education but also your outstanding contributions to advancing inclusive, equitable, and lifelong learning opportunities globally. May you continue to initiate more transformative reforms in education, both in the Philippines and around the world.



The Philippine Normal University is the National Center for Teacher Education for a reason.

This reason became once more apparent in the results of the March 2025 Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers released by the Professional Regulations Commission on May 23, 2025, where PNU emerges supreme from hundreds of teacher education institutions, retaining the top spot on the list of best-performing schools.

A. WITH 300 OR MORE EXAMINEES AND WITH AT LEAST 80% PASSING PERCENTAGE			
RANK	SCHOOL	TOTAL NO. OF EXAM.	PERCENTAGE PASSED
1	PHILIPPINE NORMAL UNIVERSITY-MANILA	300	98.98%

RANK	SCHOOL	TOTAL NO. OF EXAM.	PERCENTAGE PASSED
1	PHILIPPINE NORMAL UNIVERSITY-MANILA	100	100.00%
2	PHILIPPINE NORMAL UNIVERSITY-NORTH LUZON	100	100.00%
3	PHILIPPINE NORMAL UNIVERSITY-VISAYAS	100	100.00%

RANK	SCHOOL	TOTAL NO. OF EXAM.	PERCENTAGE PASSED
1	PHILIPPINE NORMAL UNIVERSITY-SOUTH LUZON	99	98.00%

**PNU BULLETIN**

**UNDISPUTED EXCELLENCE: PNU MANILA AND CAMPUSES SHARE THE TOP 1 SPOT IN THE MARCH 2025 LEPT**

In the Secondary level, leading the list is the university's main campus in Manila, which recorded a 98.98% passing percentage, securing its Top 1 spot among institutions with 300 or more examinees and at least an 80% passing percentage. Three PNU campuses shared the top position in the category of institutions with 100 to 299 examinees and at least a 90% passing percentage. PNU Mindanao in Prosperidad, Agusan Del Sur, PNU Visayas in Cadiz City, Negros Occidental, and PNU North Luzon in Alicia, Isabela all achieved a perfect 100.00% passing rate. Rounding out the list of exemplary performances is PNU South Luzon, which topped the category of institutions with 50 to 99 examinees and at least a 90% passing percentage, registering a 98.00% passing rate for this exam. The scores achieved by

the PNU campuses far exceed the national passing percentage of 62.27%.

Similarly, PNU demonstrated commendable performance at the elementary level. PNU Manila secured the highest rate for its overall performance with 93.33%, followed closely by PNU Visayas at 91.18%. Meanwhile, PNU North Luzon came in with 85.71%. Lastly, PNU Mindanao and PNU South Luzon each reported a percentage of 77.78%. These figures stand in stark contrast to the national passing rate for elementary, which is currently at 46.77%.

Another impressive aspect of the examination where PNU excelled is with first-time takers. All first-time examinees from PNU Mindanao and PNU Visayas for both elementary and secondary levels passed the exam, achieving a flawless

100.00%. PNU North Luzon recorded a 100.00% passing rate for first-time takers at the secondary level as well, and it also posted a 94.44% rate for elementary first-timers. PNU Manila and PNU South Luzon both achieved a perfect record for first-time examinees in the elementary level, and scored 99.74% and 98%, respectively, for the secondary level.

Fourteen PNUans from various campuses also made it onto the list of topnotchers for this examination. Mr. Jacob Duran Facultad from PNU Visayas led the group of top PNU performers at the secondary level, earning a 93.20% rate and securing the Top 4 position. Meanwhile, PNU South Luzon's pride, Ms. Mary Rose Sanchez Macabuhay, is the only

**CONGRATULATIONS! MARCH 2025 LEPT PASSERS**

*Top Performing School*

**SECONDARY LEVEL**

A. WITH 300 OR MORE EXAMINEES AND WITH AT LEAST 80% PASSING PERCENTAGE  
**TOP 1- PNU MANILA (98.98%)**

B. WITH 100 TO 299 EXAMINEES AND WITH AT LEAST 80% PASSING PERCENTAGE  
**TOP 1- PNU MINDANAO (100.00%)**  
**PNU NORTH LUZON (100.00%)**  
**PNU VISAYAS (100.00%)**

C. WITH 50 TO 99 EXAMINEES AND WITH AT LEAST 80% PASSING PERCENTAGE  
**TOP 1- PNU SOUTH LUZON (98.00%)**

**CONGRATULATIONS! MARCH 2025 LEPT PASSERS**

*Individual Topnotchers*

**SECONDARY LEVEL**

TOP 4: JACOB DURAN FACULTAD (PNU VISAYAS)  
 TOP 5: CESAR ASUPAN ABEJO JR. (PNU MINDANAO)  
 TOP 6: RENEVYN LAMOC DELA CRUZ (PNU MANILA)  
 TOP 7: RICKY HOWARD DE ASSIS DIAZ (PNU MANILA)  
 TOP 8: ALLYAN BAZADE CARMAY (PNU MINDANAO)  
 TOP 9: KIMMY REYES (PNU MINDANAO)  
 TOP 10: ROSANNE CARRASCO SUCAPALZA (PNU VISAYAS)  
 TOP 11: REEN ANDRES CALUG (PNU NORTH LUZON)  
 TOP 12: MARY ROSE DELA CRUZ (PNU MINDANAO)  
 TOP 13: YEA RIEZANE JOYCE ARSENO TUIG (PNU MINDANAO)  
 TOP 14: SHARINA AGUILAR MARABIAN (PNU MINDANAO)  
 TOP 15: JASON VINCENT POGGIO IMAN (PNU MANILA)  
 TOP 16: JONALYN TACAYEN TORAPAT (PNU MINDANAO)



PNUan listed among the topnotchers for the elementary level, landing in the Top 10 with her passing rate of 92.60%.

This year, a significant improvement in results was observed compared to the March 2024 installment of the LEPT, particularly at the secondary level. This improvement is reflected in the overall ratings and rankings of the campuses, which exhibited an upward trend and entered the 98% to 100% range. Last year, ratings hovered around the 96% to 99% range.

It should be noted that this is the last LEPT before the anticipated revamp of the examination this coming September, formalized by the signing of the Joint Memorandum Circular of the Commission on Higher Education and the Professional Regulation Commission, which aims to realign the exam to current teacher education programs. This will significantly enhance the chances for PNUans enrolled in the Early Childhood Education, Special Needs Education, Physical Education, and Culture and Arts Education programs, as they will now encounter a LEPT more tailored to their areas of specialization.



This recent performance of PNU in the national licensure examination demonstrates its commitment to upholding the highest standards in developing quality, and most importantly, future-ready teachers for the country.

Officials from the Philippine Normal University attended and witnessed the ceremonial signing of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED)-Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) Joint Memorandum Circular (JMC) on the alignment of the teacher education curriculum and the teacher licensure examination held earlier today, April 10, 2025, at Malacañan Palace.

The document introduces distinct teacher licensing examinations for each teacher specialization, as outlined in the 2017 CHED Policies, Standards, and Guidelines (PSGs). This is seen as a revolutionary approach to assessing the competence and readiness of teacher education graduates in the country, as extensively emphasized in recent reports by the Second

Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II). The signing also affirms the cohesion of CHED and PRC as members of the Teacher Education Council (TEC), together with the Department of Education, which is considered to be at the receiving end of this venture. The changes specified in this joint circular will take effect in the September 2025 Board Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers (BLEPT).



The circular was signed by CHED Chairperson J. Prospero E. De Vera III and PRC Chairperson Atty. Charito A. Zamora, with the signing witnessed by no less than the President of the Republic of

the Philippines, His Excellency Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. President Marcos also served as the Guest of Honor and Keynote Speaker for the event.



Representing PNU, the National Center for Teacher Education, were President Dr. Bert J. Tuga, Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Marilyn U. Balagtas, College of Teacher Development Dean Dr. Gladys C. Nivera, and Faculty of Education and Information Sciences Associate Dean Dr. Niño D. Naldoza. Also present were Vice President for Finance and Administration Dr. Lordinio A. Vergara, representing the CHED Technical Panel for Teacher Education, and CHED Commissioner and Chairperson-designate of the PNU Board of Regents Dr. Ethel Agnes P. Valenzuela.

The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) formally bestowed the Excellence in Quality Assurance in Teacher Education (EQUATE) Awards to the Philippine Normal University (PNU) in a recognition program held on April 2, 2025, at The Manila Hotel. Considered the inaugural recognition for high-performing teacher education institutions (TEIs), the award was given to all of PNU's constituent campuses, namely PNU North Luzon, PNU South Luzon, PNU Visayas, PNU Mindanao, and its main campus, PNU Manila.

This prestigious award recognizes PNU and other top-performing TEIs for their dedication to upholding the highest standards in pre-service teacher education, as demonstrated by their compliance with CHED's minimum quality assurance requirements, program accreditation, and outstanding performance in the Board Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers (BLEPT).

Receiving the award on behalf of PNU and its constituent campuses was PNU President Dr. Bert J. Tuga, who was joined by the Vice Presidents, Executive Directors and Provosts, and the Deans of Academics and the Hubs. Also present at the ceremony was PNU Student Regent Hon. Janre V. Lachica.

PNU's campuses garnered seven EQUATE awards in recognition of their exemplary performance at the following levels:



### Elementary Level:

PNU Manila  
PNU Visayas

### Secondary Level:

PNU Manila  
PNU North Luzon  
PNU South Luzon  
PNU Visayas  
PNU Mindanao

President Tuga expressed his immense gratitude to CHED, headed by its Chairperson Dr. J. Prospero "Popoy" De Vera III, for the recognition bestowed upon PNU. He emphasized that this is more than just an award; rather, it serves as a reminder of PNU's responsibility to extend a helping hand and provide support to other teacher education institutions in the country in improving their teacher education programs.

The Philippine Normal University tips its hat to one of its alumni Mr. John Angelo Ramos for having been recognized as Gaston County Schools Teacher of the Year given by the Morehead-Cain Foundation at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, USA.

With this, Mr. Ramos also received the 2025 Impact Educator Discovery Scholarship Fund, which enabled him to be part of the prestigious Instructional



Leadership Certificate Program at Harvard University's Graduate School of Education.

Mr. Ramos is currently teaching Biology at Forestview High School, North Carolina. While in PNU, he completed his Bachelor in Science Education major in Biology in 2018, Cum laude.





The Philippine Normal University Global Alumni Association, Inc. (PNUGAA) held its virtual Induction Ceremony on April 5, 2025, via Zoom. Alumni from around the world, dressed in traditional Filipiniana and Barong Tagalog, joined the event, which began at 8:00 AM (Manila time).

Vice President for Student Success and Stakeholder Services, Dr. Denmark L. Yonson, delivered a message emphasizing the importance of alumni engagement in upholding the University's vision and mission.

Alumni Relations Office Director, Dr. Maria Glenda O. De Lara, presented the newly elected PNUGAA officers for the 2025–2026 term. Dr. Evelyn de Asis Natividad was named President, along with Dr. Ernesto Pamolarco, Jr. as Vice President for EuroAmericas; Dr. Ma. Bernadette A. Salgarino as Vice President for Australia and Asia; Ms. Evelyn Valladolid as Secretary; Atty. Johmy Fajilan as Treasurer; Dr. May Ann Palencia as Public Relations Officer; and Mr. Tito Tejada as Auditor. The members of the Board of Directors include Dr. Evelyn Ortega Cerilla, Dr. Irene Casero Espiritu, Ms. Cora Flores, Ms. Leona Galindo, Ms. Minerva

Honkala, Ms. Melissa Miguel, Ms. Suzette Pador, and Ms. Aurora Marcellana Pagulayan. Ms. Cely de Sagun Anuran and Dr. Rudy Bernardo serve as Advisers, while Dr. Maria Glenda O. De Lara was named Honorary Adviser.

PNU President, Dr. Bert J. Tuga, led the virtual oath-taking of the new officers. He also inducted the international officers of Batch 1966, led by Ms. Cely de Sagun Anuran as President.

Dr. Natividad and Ms. Anuran then delivered messages of commitment and unity, marking the transition of leadership and reinforcing their dedication to the association's goals.

The ceremony concluded with a message from Dr. Ernesto Pamolarco, Jr., PNUGAA Vice President-elect for EuroAmericas, followed by the singing of the PNU Hymn.

Organized by the Alumni Relations Office, the virtual event highlighted the strong connection and ongoing service of PNU alumni around the world.



The University's Academic Council held its special meeting on May 7, 2025, via the Zoom platform. The meeting was presided over by the University President, Dr. Bert J. Tuga, who also serves as the Chair of the Council.

Council members, composed of faculty from PNU Manila and all the campuses with ranks ranging from Assistant Professor to Professor, deliberated on emerging and urgent academic concerns such as curricular improvements and the approval of candidates for graduation for Term 2. During the meeting, President Tuga also shared with the Council updates and accomplishments of the University.

As stipulated in Section 10 of Republic Act 8292, otherwise known as the Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997, the Academic Council shall "review and recommend the curricular offerings and rules of discipline of the University subject to the appropriate action of the Board of Regents." The Council is chaired by the University President.



In an effort to promote peace education and strengthen international partnerships, Philippine Normal University (PNU) President Dr. Bert J. Tuga and Global Citizenship Education (GCED) Cooperation Centre–Philippines (GCC Ph) Director Dr. Rowena R. Hibanada, accompanied by Mr. Nobuyuki Ota of Soka Gakkai International (SGI) Philippines, undertook a five-day official visit to Japan from May 20 to 25, 2025.

The delegation’s primary aim was to deepen institutional ties, expand exchange programs, and reinforce PNU’s role as a GCED Cooperation Centre for the Philippines under the UNESCO APCEIU. The visit included meaningful

engagements with educational institutions, peace advocacy sites, and key government and academic officials.

One of the significant parts of the itinerary was a visit to the Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum and the National Peace Memorial Hall for the Atomic Bomb Victims. The visit offered a solemn reflection on the tragic events of 1945 and underscored the importance of peace education. During their time in Nagasaki, Dr. Tuga and Dr. Hibanada also paid a courtesy visit to Mayor Shiro Suzuki, accompanied by SGI and Soka University officials.

The delegation then proceeded to Tokyo, where Dr. Tuga signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Soka University President Prof. Mika Suzuki, renewing the

commitment of both institutions to explore potential collaborative projects and future academic exchanges. Witnessing the signing were Prof. Hiroko Tomioka, Dean of the Faculty of Education, and Dr. Kentaro Shimada, Dean of International Affairs of Soka University.

Following the ceremony, the delegation was given a guided campus tour, where they visited key university facilities and explored possible areas of academic collaboration. As part





of their engagement with Soka Schools in both Nagasaki and Tokyo, the PNU officials delivered lectures and led discussions on peace education and global citizenship. These sessions served as platforms for sharing perspectives and deepening mutual understanding on the role of education in building a peaceful world.

An exchange meeting was also held with Soka University students who had visited PNU during a study tour last February. The dialogue centered on GCED and the transformative role of education in fostering peace. In his message, Dr. Tuga emphasized, "Peace is not merely the absence of war—it is the presence of justice, understanding, compassion, and opportunity. And education is our most enduring path to peace."

Soka University has been a long-standing partner of PNU in promoting GCED and peace education. Its affiliate organization, Soka Gakkai, continues to advocate for peace, culture, and education globally, grounded in the belief in the positive potential of humanity and respect for life and the environment.



In a week-long leadership development camp held from April 7 to 14, 2025, graduate students and faculty from the Philippine Normal University (PNU) participated in the China-Thailand-Philippines Young Education Leaders Development Camp, hosted by Beijing Normal University (BNU). The event aimed to strengthen international partnerships and enhance research capabilities through collaborative engagements in international and comparative education leadership and management.

The camp officially commenced with a courtesy call to the Philippine Embassy in Beijing, where delegates were welcomed by Ambassador Jaime A. FlorCruz and fellow Filipino scholars in China.

The visit underscored the importance of academic excellence, open-mindedness, and cross-cultural engagement—setting the tone for a week of intellectual and cultural immersion.

Throughout the program, participants attended keynote lectures and research presentations at BNU on themes such as comparative education, development theories, and doctoral pursuits within ASEAN. PNU delegates, alongside counterparts from Thailand and China, presented their research and explored avenues for academic collaboration. Dr. Arlyne Marasigan delivered





multiple messages during the camp, including a talk at the embassy where she shared her journey as a graduate student in China. She also expressed her vision of establishing an Institute of Comparative Education in the Philippines.

PNU delegates also joined a series of institutional visits, including a benchmarking session at Hongying Primary School, a tour of the Smart Learning Institute, and an evening session on eco-pedagogy. The students also participated in the International Capacity-Building Workshop on Education for Sustainable Rural Development, held in collaboration with Beijing Normal University, TCP (China), the Chaipattana Foundation, UNESCO International Research and Training Centre for Rural Education (INRULED), Hebei University, Yunnan Agricultural University, and the Asian Institute of Technology. Another key aspect of the learning endeavor is the sharing of practices and initiatives of the UNESCO Chair on Artificial Intelligence in Education.

The tour also included an overview of their ongoing projects, published works, and research contributions in the field. These experiences offered valuable insights into inclusive education, sustainability, and the integration of AI in learning—key considerations in shaping education reform in the Philippines.

The delegates also had the chance to visit iconic landmarks such as the Great Wall of China and the Summer Palace, and to participate in traditional activities like the Chinese hotpot experience. These moments fostered a deeper appreciation of Chinese culture and strengthened interpersonal connections among participants.

Through its active participation, PNU reaffirmed its role as the National Center for Teacher Education, advancing both national and regional goals for quality, inclusive, and globally informed educational leadership.



The Office of the PNU President extends its warmest congratulations to Dr. Shirley C. Agrupis on her appointment as the new Chairperson of the Commission on Higher Education.

Dr. Agrupis is a staunch advocate of quality education, as demonstrated by her active participation in the Network of Normal Schools (3NS) during her tenure as President of Mariano Marcos State University.

We look forward to your leadership and pledge our full support for your plans and directions for the Commission.



Congratulations to PNU Visayas for securing the top spot in the March 2025 Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers! Alongside PNU Mindanao and PNU North Luzon, PNU Visayas achieved a notable 100% passing rate, earning the highest distinction in the category of institutions with 100 to 299 examinees and with at least 90% passing rate in the Secondary Level.

PNU Visayas also produced two topnotchers in the persons of Jacob Duran Facultad and Roxanne Caran Ricaplaza, who placed Top 4 and Top 7, respectively.

**Padayon, PNU Visayas!**



A delegation from Philippine Normal University (PNU), led by Dr. Denmark L. Yonson, Vice President of the Office of the Vice President for Student Success and Stakeholders Services, visited The Education University of Hong Kong (EduHK) in a two-day knowledge exchange program. The delegation, which included Prof. Ma. Laarni D. Buenaventura from the Student Development and Services Unit, Dr. Merimee T. Siena, Director of the Student Affairs and Services Office, and Dr. Henelsie B. Mendoza, Director of the Admissions Office, explored EduHK's innovative approaches to student development and admission services.



A key focus of the visit was to understand EduHK's Experiential Learning and Achievements Transcript (ELAT) program, which formally recognizes students' participation in non-credit-bearing experiential learning activities. The PNU delegates also gathered valuable information about admission and retention policies from

EduHK's Office of the Registry, which will inform PNU's TEC-RITE project, led by their Admissions Office. The delegation met with EduHK's student affairs leadership team, including Prof. Bill Yeung, Dean of Students, and several Associate Deans, who shared insights into student spaces and mental health support services.

Beyond student affairs, the PNU representatives engaged with Prof. Eric Tsang Po Keung, Registrar, and Dr. Edith Leung Wai Yee, Senior Assistant Registrar, who discussed EduHK's admission processes. The delegation also exchanged ideas on internationalization with the Global Affairs Office and toured EduHK's Centre for Learning, Teaching and Technology and the Department of Science and Environmental Studies, gaining comprehensive insights into EduHK's educational ecosystem that could potentially enhance PNU's own student services framework.

EduHK is considered to be a premier institution of higher learning not only in the region but globally as well. In the recent QS World University Rankings, the institution secured the 2<sup>nd</sup> spot in the list of best universities in Hong Kong and 12<sup>th</sup> in the world in the field of Education.

The PNU Community congratulates PNU Mindanao for being the Top 1 institution in the March 2025 Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers. With a perfect 100% passing percentage, it secured the top position in the category for institutions with 100 to 299

examinees and at least a 90% passing rate in the Secondary Level. PNU Mindanao shares this distinction with PNU North Luzon and PNU Visayas.

Additionally, the campus produced the highest number of topnotchers among all PNU campuses, all of whom are from the secondary level:

- Cesar Asupan Agbu Jr. (Top 5)
- Alliyah Bajade Guimary (Top 7)
- Khari Uray Reformina (Top 7)
- Mara Reggie Delos Reyes Giango (Top 8)
- Yra Rizzane Joyce Arsenio Tudio (Top 8)
- Shaina Aguilar Mahawan (Top 9); and
- Jonalyn Tactacon Tomapat (Top 10)

**Mabuhay ka, PNU Mindanao!**

**PHILIPPINE NORMAL UNIVERSITY**  
The National Center for Teacher Education

*Congratulations!*  
**PNU MINDANAO**

**TOP 1\*** March 2025 LEPT (Secondary)

\*among schools with 100 to 299 examinees and with at least 90% passing percentage.

**Passing rate: 100% (150/150)**  
(Secondary)

**Individual Topnotchers**  
(Secondary)

- TOP 5 - Cesar Asupan Agbu Jr. (93.00%)
- TOP 7 - Alliyah Bajade Guimary (92.60%)
- TOP 7 - Khari Uray Reformina (92.60%)
- TOP 8 - Mara Reggie Delos Reyes Giango (92.40%)
- TOP 8 - Yra Rizzane Joyce Arsenio Tudio (92.40%)
- TOP 9 - Shaina Aguilar Mahawan (92.20%)
- TOP 10 - Jonalyn Tactacon Tomapat (92.00%)



The lecture started with Dr. Hardy sharing her extensive expertise on the purpose, process, and significance of curriculum quality audits. Opening the event were brief discussions on the university's ongoing educational initiatives, both local and international, which set the tone for a reflective and forward-looking conversation about PNU's role in shaping high-quality education.

Dr. Hardy's presentation provided participants with a detailed overview of how curriculum quality audits serve as a tool for evaluating the alignment of academic programs with



The Philippine Normal University (PNU) held a university-wide lecture on Curriculum Quality Audit (CQA) on May 27, 2025. This academic venture was facilitated by Dr. Joy Hardy, the Deputy Director of the National Centre for Science, ICT, and Mathematics Education for Rural and Regional Australia (SiMERR) at the University of New England, Australia, and the recipient of the Doctor of Education, Honoris Causa, from PNU. Dr. Hardy is also a core partner and researcher at the Research Institute for Teacher Quality (RITQ).

The event brought together over a hundred participants, including faculty members and administrative officials from various campuses, and was conducted in a hybrid format at the PNU Executive Lounge and via Zoom. Dr. Levi E. Elipane served as Master of Ceremonies. The program began with Dr. Marilyn U. Balagtas delivering the Welcome Remarks and Statement of Purpose, followed by Dr. Antriman V. Orleans, who introduced Dr. Joy Hardy as the resource speaker for the training/workshop.



national policies, professional standards, and international benchmarks. She emphasized that CQA is not merely a compliance mechanism but a transformative process that promotes clarity, coherence, and continuous improvement in curriculum design. Dr. Hardy introduced participants to curriculum mapping strategies, audit matrices, and quality indicators that uncover content redundancies and gaps, thereby facilitating evidence-based revisions.

Dr. Marilyn Balagtas pointed out that schools that started using CQA practices in 2019 performed better on the Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET) by 2021, showing how important regular and thorough curriculum checks can be. She underscored the need for strong executive support, interdisciplinary collaboration, and a culture of openness to feedback to sustain meaningful improvements.



The event concluded with a synthesis by Dr. Ruth Alido, who echoed the central message of the session, which is ensuring that curriculum quality is integral to fulfilling PNU's mission as the National Center for Teacher Education. She reminded participants that the results of quality audits must be shared, discussed, and acted upon collectively. Closing remarks from Dr. Teresita Rungduin reinforced this vision, encouraging faculty members to take an active role in the ongoing CQA initiatives and to view the process as a cornerstone of transformative education.

Looking ahead, PNU has outlined clear next steps to institutionalize the CQA process. These steps involve using audit frameworks to update graduate programs in the College of Advanced Studies, adjusting general and professional education courses to match the latest Policies, Standards, and Guidelines (PSGs), and training more curriculum auditors with help from RITQ. There is also a plan to develop targeted faculty development modules to further support the implementation of CQAs across undergraduate and graduate levels.

Through this initiative, PNU continues to lead in educational innovation, demonstrating its ongoing dedication to quality assurance and academic integrity. The university-wide lecture deepened faculty understanding of curriculum evaluation and laid the groundwork for a more coordinated and strategic approach to curricular reform—one that upholds excellence, relevance, and responsiveness in teacher education.



**PHILIPPINE NORMAL UNIVERSITY**  
The National Center for Teacher Education

*Congratulations!*  
**PNU NORTH LUZON**

**TOP 1\*** March 2025 LEPT  
(Secondary)

\*among schools with 100 to 299 examinees and with at least 90% passing percentage.

**Passing rate: 100% (139/139)**  
(Secondary)

**Individual Topnotchers**  
(Secondary)

**TOP 8 - Reden Andres Calipjo (92.40%)**

The PNU Community congratulates PNU North Luzon for being the top institution in the March 2025 Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers. With a perfect 100% passing percentage, it secured the top position in the category for institutions with 100 to 299 examinees and at least a 90% passing rate in the Secondary Level, sharing the distinction with PNU Mindanao and PNU Visayas.

PNU North Luzon's pride, Reden Andres Calipjo, landed in the Top 8 in the list of Topnotchers in the secondary level.

**Mabuhay ka, PNU North Luzon!**



The College of Advanced Studies (CAS) at the Philippine Normal University (PNU) recently made a significant impact at the Asian Graduate Studies Summit (A-GRASS), an event organized by the Asia Pacific Consortium of Researchers and Educators (APCORE). The summit, hosted by the Ho Chi Minh University of Technology and Education, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, brought together a distinguished multidisciplinary forum of graduate students, educators, and researchers from across Asia on May 21-24, 2025.

Under the compelling theme "Bridging Knowledge to Action: Transformative Graduate Education and Research for Sustainable Asia," the summit brought together leading minds. The CAS was well-represented onsite, with Dean Dr. Antriman V. Orleans and Deputy Dean Dr. Levi E. Elipane at the forefront. They were joined by faculty members Dr. Gilbert S. Arrieta, Dr. Joyce L. Bautista, Dr. Allen A. Espinosa, Dr. Heidi B. Macahilig, Dr. Arlyne C. Marasigan, Dr. Maria Azela L. Tamayo, Dr. Leonora P. Varela, and Prof. Brenda O. Bua-ay, all of whom actively contributed to the

diverse program. Adding to the participation were graduate students Charlene Lyn L. Chua, Christine Andrea O. De Lara, Diana S. Andres, Archie R. Arranguez, and Lj Malaya B. Libunao.

The opening ceremonies set a clear agenda with an inspirational keynote address delivered by Dr. Tram Nam Tu. He reaffirmed the vital role of translating academic insights into tangible, real-world solutions. Dr. Tu outlined a compelling roadmap for achieving this, emphasizing the urgent need to strengthen industry-academia-government networks, boost investment in technology transfer, build robust research capacities, and strategically align academic priorities with pressing national and global development goals.

Following this visionary address, the first Roundtable Discussion delved into "Pedagogical Innovations and Sustainable Research in Graduate Education: Perils, Pitfalls, and Pearls." Dr. Marie Paz E. Morales, Director of the Publication Office, PNU; Through this initiative, PNU

continues to lead in educational innovation, demonstrating its ongoing dedication to quality assurance and academic integrity. The university-wide lecture deepened faculty understanding of curriculum evaluation and laid the groundwork for a more coordinated and strategic approach to curricular reform—one that upholds excellence, relevance, and responsiveness in teacher education.

The afternoon signaled a commitment to tangible partnerships with a

Networking Lunch and Partnership Signing. Demonstrating a strong dedication to international collaboration, the summit facilitated significant agreements poised to open new avenues for academic exchange and joint research initiatives. Notably, Dr. Antriman V. Orleans, representing the PNU, joined 29 other partner institutions from diverse Asian countries, including Brunei, China, Russia, Malaysia, Cambodia, Thailand, Indonesia, and host country Vietnam. This collective effort solidifies a shared vision for a more interconnected and impactful academic landscape.

The day then shifted focus to practical skill-building with the Research Bootcamp. This intensive session offered attendees a choice of engaging breakout sessions, including "Community Impact: Universities' Foremost Responsibility," "Research Proposal Development for Sustainable Solutions," "Generative AI



from the Point of View of Gen X Researcher and Mentor," "Data Analytics and AI for Graduate Research," and "Humanities Reimagined: Digital Tools for Innovative Research and Storytelling." These diverse topics equipped participants with cutting-edge knowledge and tools to enhance their research endeavors. Day one concluded with a Welcome Dinner, providing a relaxed setting for delegates to connect, share insights, and forge new relationships, setting a collaborative tone for the days ahead.

The momentum of the summit continued into its second day, which began with a brief recapitulation of the previous day's key takeaways, setting the stage for discussions. The morning's highlight was a keynote address by Prof. Dr. Qi Xinjian, Assistant Director of the UNESCO International Research and Training Center for Rural Education in Beijing, China. His address, "Bridging Knowledge to Action: Sustainable Research for Asia's Emerging Global Role," provided a critical perspective on how research can drive sustainable development as Asia's influence on the world stage continues to grow.

Following the insightful keynote, the second Plenary Roundtable Discussion captivated attendees with its theme: "Future Scenarios in Graduate Education in the Asia-Pacific: Bleak or Bright." This session ignited a lively discussion among experts, prompting participants to consider the myriad factors—from policy reforms and global partnerships to technological advancements

—that will shape the trajectory of graduate education in the region. The conversation highlighted both the formidable challenges and the immense opportunities that lie ahead, leaving delegates with much to ponder.

A productive networking lunch then provided another opportunity for delegates to connect and exchange ideas. The afternoon was dedicated to paper presentations. Researchers from various institutions presented their completed works across a broad spectrum of disciplines, including business, finance and management, education, engineering and technology, natural sciences, social sciences, and arts and humanities. Notably, faculty members and graduate students from Philippine Normal University (PNU) proudly showcased their research, contributing to the rich tapestry of knowledge shared at the summit.

The third and final day of the summit shifted focus to the crucial practical applications of academic work and the celebration of research excellence. The morning began with Plenary Session 1, where Dr. Songheang Ai, Center Director of SEAMEO TED, Cambodia, presented on "Strengthening University-Industry Linkages for Research and Innovation." His insights underscored the vital synergy between academia and industry, highlighting how robust partnerships can accelerate both knowledge creation and societal impact.

This was followed by Session 2, "From Global Metrics to Local Mission: The Role of SDGs and THE Rankings in University Development." Dr. Witawat Jangiam delivered a presentation, emphasizing how global benchmarks like the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can serve as powerful compasses for universities in shaping their local missions and fostering meaningful development. The discussions underscored the strategic importance of aligning institutional goals with broader global objectives.

The morning concluded with Session 3, featuring Dr. Ly Thien Trang, Vice President of HUTECH University of Technology, Vietnam, who spoke on "The Role of Universities in Driving Regional Sustainability and Development." Her address reinforced the indispensable role of higher education institutions as catalysts for progress and sustainability within their respective regions.

Following a final networking lunch, delegates were invited to participate in a Campus Tour, offering a glimpse into the host institution's facilities and academic environment.

The summit culminated in a highlight moment: the awarding of the 2025 A-GRASS Best Research Papers.

This prestigious recognition celebrated outstanding contributions to various fields. Among the distinguished finalists from Philippine Normal University (PNU) were faculty researchers Dr. Leonora P. Valera, Dr. Heidi B. Macahilig, and Dr. Allen A. Espinosa, whose work garnered well-deserved attention. A moment of particular pride for the PNU was the recognition of Prof. Brenda O. Bua-ay of PNU South Luzon being awarded the Best Research Paper in SDG 4: Quality Education for her study titled "Teaching Science in Indigenous Communities: An Activity Systems Perspective," a testament to her impactful contributions to sustainable development through education. The award ceremony brought a fitting close to a productive and inspiring three-day summit.

The College of Advanced Studies remains committed to actively engaging in international forums that promote academic excellence, interdisciplinary collaboration, and the transformative power of graduate education and research for a sustainable future.

In a significant move toward advancing the research culture among Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs) in the Philippines, the College of Advanced Studies (CAS) at the Philippine Normal University (PNU) successfully organized a three-day collaborative meeting for the National Network of Normal Schools (3NS) on April 23–25, 2025. The event, themed "Graduate Research Culture in 3NS: A Conversation for Future Collaborations," convened deans, researchers, faculty members, and international experts to develop a structured research framework aligned with national educational priorities and global research standards.

The National Network of Normal Schools (3NS) was established to promote collaboration and innovation among Philippine Normal Schools, particularly in teacher education. Over the years, the need to cultivate a strong research culture has become increasingly urgent, recognizing that research is the intellectual lifeblood of universities, supports quality teaching, and underpins community extension initiatives.

According to the proposal leading to the event, strengthening graduate research culture will serve not only institutional goals but also national development priorities, particularly the Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG 4) on Quality Education. It further emphasized the strategic importance of full participation from 3NS partners, PNU academic administrators, deans, faculty members, and staff to ensure the gathering's success.

The program offered a balanced mix of lectures, dialogues, workshops, and strategic planning over the three-day meeting. On the first day, activities focused on establishing the foundations of research culture. The opening ceremonies welcomed representatives from Mariano Marcos State University, Pangasinan State University, Bicol University, Palawan State University, Leyte Normal University, Cebu Normal University, and

Bukidnon State University. PNU Vice President for Academics Dr. Marilyn U. Balagtas delivered the welcome remarks, while Vice President for Student Success and Stakeholders Services (4S), Denmark L. Yonson, conveyed the message of PNU President Dr. Bert J. Tuga. Dean Antriman V. Orleans of CAS outlined the rationale behind the workshop, emphasizing the pivotal role of research in advancing teacher education. Visiting professors Dr. Adrian Rodgers and Dr. Mekasha Kassaye Gobaw shared international





perspectives on building sustainable research cultures, underscoring key pillars such as governance, mentoring, collaboration, and research-informed teaching.

The second day deepened collaboration among 3NS partners. A keynote address by Dr. Ester B. Ogena, immediate past President of PNU, highlighted the importance of enhancing research culture through institutional collaboration. Two workshops were conducted, with participants engaging in breakout sessions focused on theorizing the development of research culture, identifying support components for research excellence, examining the governance of research programs, exploring the nexus between research and teaching, and formulating a collective research agenda. Discussions also explored opportunities with funding agencies and international programs such as Erasmus Mundus, laying out a roadmap for sustainable collaboration and innovation.

On the final day, participants presented the outputs of their breakout sessions, sharing strategic plans and collaborative projects aimed at strengthening research cultures across the 3NS member institutions. Dr. Levi P. Elipane, Deputy Dean of CAS, synthesized the workshop's key insights, while Dr. Teresita T. Rungduin, PNU Vice President for Research, Extension, and Quality Assurance, delivered the closing remarks, expressing gratitude to all participants for their commitment and active engagement.

The collaborative meeting achieved several significant outcomes, including the development of initial frameworks to strengthen research cultures across 3NS member institutions, strategic planning for future research collaborations and funding pursuits, enhanced awareness of research governance and mentoring structures, and a strengthened commitment among normal schools to pursue excellence in graduate teacher education research. The event also laid the groundwork for future collaborative projects aimed at addressing national education challenges and promoting the Philippines' position in the global academic community.

Overall, the 3NS Collaborative Meeting demonstrated that Philippine normal schools, through collective action, strategic dialogue, and a shared commitment to research excellence, can forge a future-ready, research-driven graduate education landscape. By nurturing a vibrant culture of inquiry and innovation, 3NS stands poised to make significant contributions to national development and educational leadership, reaffirming its vital role in the future of Philippine teacher education.

CHED recognizes PNU and other PHEIs for recent performance in international rankings In recognition of the outstanding performances in the recent Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings and QS World University Rankings of Philippine Higher Education Institutions, the Commission on Higher Education held a celebration called Ranked and Recognized: A Celebration of Philippine Higher Education Excellence. The event took place at the commission's main office yesterday, June 24, 2025. Leading the ceremony was no one less than the Chairperson of CHED, Hon. Shirley C. Agrupis. She highlighted the contributions of the universities that earned their spots in these global rankings.



Representing the Philippine Normal University at the event was its University President, Dr. Bert J. Tuga.

The Philippine Normal University maintained its ranking in the THE for 2025, placing between 1001 and 1500 out of 2,526 institutions worldwide. Meanwhile, it has improved its position in three SDGs: ranking 201-300 for SDG 1 (No Poverty), ranking 801-1000 for SDG 4 (Quality Education), and ranking 101-200 for SDG 5 (Gender Equality). Meanwhile, the country's National Center for Teacher Education achieved a rank of over 1500 for SDG 17 (Partnerships for the Goals).

The Nuclear Science CAMP (Capacitating and Mentoring Program) for the Regions officially commenced on April 29, 2025, at the Philippine Normal University (PNU), bringing together pre-service teachers from the Manila, North Luzon, and South Luzon campuses, as well as faculty members, to explore the role of nuclear science in education. The program is a collaboration between the Department of Science and Technology – Science Education Institute (DOST-SEI) and the Faculty of Science, Technology, and Mathematics (FSTeM).

Dr. Leah Amor Cortez addressed the biological effects of radiation and, together with Prof. Camacho, presented strategies for integrating nuclear science into basic education. These resource persons, who are faculty members of FSTeM, also serve as DOST-SEI STAR trainers.

On Day 2, Dr. Jordan Madrid of the Philippine Nuclear Research Institute (PNRI) highlighted non-power applications of nuclear science in agriculture and industry. Mr. Raymond Sucgang led a hands-on workshop on identifying



Messages from Dr. Gladys C. Nivera (Dean, College of Teacher Development, PNU), Ms. Cynthia T. Gayya (Chief Science Research Specialist, DOST-SEI), and Ms. April Valdez (Senior Science Research Specialist, DOST-SEI) were delivered during the short opening program prior to the lecture and workshop sessions. These remarks set the tone and underscored the purpose of CAMP.

Day 1 featured foundational sessions on atomic structure, radioactivity, and nuclear energy, with Prof. Vic Marie Camacho and Dr. Alfons Jayson Pelgone discussing fission, fusion, and the life-saving applications of nuclear technology.

radioactive materials and utilizing nuclear science for various applications. Mr. Rolando Menor Jr. discussed nuclear power and sustainability, while Prof. Jo-Ann Cordovilla emphasized nuclear safety and risk management. The program concluded with Ms. Valdez sharing personal insights from the Fukushima incident and real-world applications, leaving participants inspired and equipped to integrate nuclear science into their classrooms and communities.

The two-day CAMP concluded with the recognition of speakers and participants, whose active engagement contributed to the success of the event. Through initiatives such as the Nuclear Science CAMP, FSTeM remains committed to advocating for quality STEM education in collaboration with its partners.



More than 170 educators, researchers, and policymakers from the Philippines and neighboring countries gathered for the 2nd International Conference on Multicultural Education and Interdisciplinary Studies (ICMEIS 2025), held from April 23 to 25, 2025 at Almont Inland Resort in Butuan City.

Organized by Philippine Normal University (PNU) Mindanao, the conference carried the theme "Bridging Cultures & Fostering Interdisciplinary Learning," creating a platform for critical dialogue on culturally responsive pedagogies, academic collaboration, and inclusive education. Over three days, participants engaged in plenary sessions, research presentations, professional sharing, and cultural exchanges.

The conference opened with the welcome messages from key leaders, including Commission on Higher Education Regional Office 13's Dr. Rolyne Trujillo, Agusan del Sur Governor Hon. Santiago B. Cane Jr., and Butuan City Councilor Hon. Omar Andaya, who emphasized Mindanao's importance in advancing global educational discourse.

PNU Vice President for Research, Extension, and Quality Assurance Dr. Teresita T. Rungduin reaffirmed the university's commitment to educational transformation, while other PNU leaders set the tone for deep, collaborative engagement.

Keynote speaker Dr. Djuwari Sarkawi from Universitas Nahdlatul Ulama Surabaya challenged participants to embrace "future-ready pedagogies" by blending global knowledge and Southeast



Asian wisdom. In succeeding plenary sessions, Dr. Alfred B. Taboada of Notre Dame University spoke about peace education as a participatory tool for social transformation, and Dr. Aileen C. Park of PNU Mindanao emphasized the power of culturally responsive teaching.

Beyond the academic discourse, ICMEIS 2025 celebrated culture through a Fellowship Dinner and Cultural Night. A highlight was the performance titled "Mgu Agong Tu Mgu Manobo Nu Agusan: Lifeways and Rituals," presented by the Kaliyagan Dance Troupe and Tud-Um Chorale, showcasing the rich traditions of the Manobo people. Attendees, clad in neo-ethnic attire, shared local delicacies, reinforcing cultural solidarity within academic spaces.

The conference also featured professional sharing sessions led by international scholars including Visiting Professors Dr. Adrian Rodgers and Dr. Mekasha Kassaye Gobaw,

offering global perspectives on diversity, teacher education, and educational reforms.

Parallel sessions spotlighted outstanding research in multicultural education, languages, pedagogy, leadership, innovation, STEAM education, and curriculum development. Awards were given to exceptional papers, including innovations in science multimodality, robotics-assisted titration setups, and automated agriculture technologies.

Closing ceremonies celebrated achievements and mapped future directions. Participants departed not just with knowledge, but with renewed resolve: to unlearn outdated educational scripts and collaboratively build inclusive, culturally grounded, and transformative learning spaces.

The final plenary session featured Prof. Sorhaila L. Latip-Yusoph, Ph.D., Director of both the MSU-Meranaw Cultural

Heritage Center and the Office of Information, Press, and Publication at Mindanao State University – Marawi, who delivered a talk titled *Fostering Inclusivity in Diversity: Promoting Multicultural Harmony in Education*, emphasizing the importance of inclusive education in nurturing multicultural understanding.

In his closing statement, PNU President Dr. Bert J. Tuga reflected on the three-day conference's achievements and emphasized the continuing responsibility of educators to foster inclusion across cultures and disciplines.

The program transitioned into a business meeting attended by PNU Mindanao personnel and led by Dr. Adelyne M. Costelo-Abrea, Executive Director and Provost. Discussions focused on strengthening internal academic strategies in line with the university's research and extension goals.



As ICMEIS 2025 concluded, it left a clear message: education must not only inform but also heal, liberate, and empower.

Philippine Normal University (PNU), the Department of Education–National Capital Region (DepEd NCR), and Tagpros Education have forged a historic partnership to transform public education through artificial intelligence. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed on May 21, 2025, to officially launch the GabAI initiative—a pioneering project aimed at empowering educators with AI-driven tools to enhance teaching effectiveness and improve student learning outcomes.

GabAI, or “Gabay sa Artificial Intelligence,” introduces a suite of AI-powered teaching assistants that automate lesson planning, assessment creation, and administrative tasks. The goal of this mechanism is to free up more time for educators to focus on instruction, creativity, and student engagement.



The ceremonial MOA signing marked the commencement of a collaboration in which PNU will serve as a research partner while Tagpros Education provides the technological backbone for GabAI. The initiative is set to undergo a three-month pilot program, which includes intensive teacher training and testing, followed by a

full-year implementation in select DepEd NCR schools.

Representing the parties involved and signing the agreement were DepEd NCR Regional Director and Assistant Secretary Jocelyn DR Andaya, PNU's Linkages and International Office Director Bryan C. Dayuta, and Tagpros Education CEO Arturo Lasala.





As part of its commitment to support local higher education institutions, the Philippine Normal University (PNU) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Valenzuela (PLV) in a ceremony held this afternoon at the Office of the University President.

The MOU between the two institutions stipulates collaboration on programs related to curriculum development, student mobility, research and extension, internationalization efforts, and the Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers (LEPT).

PNU was ably represented by its officials, headed by



University President Dr. Bert J. Tuga, together with Vice President for Finance and Administration Dr. Lordinio A. Vergara, Vice President for Student Success and Stakeholders Services Dr. Denmark L. Yonson, College of Alternative and Lifelong Learning Dean Dr. Celia M. Ilanan, and Linkages and International Office Director Prof. Bryan C. Dayuta. Meanwhile, the visiting contingent from PLV was headed by University President Dr. Nedeña C. Torralba, along with Vice President for Academics and College of Education Dean Dr. Nelda Gene C. Mariano, Vice President for Administration and Finance Dr. John A. Cabaddu, College

of Public Administration and Governance Dean Dr. Michville A. Rivera, University Registrar Mrs. Mary Anne H. Trinidad, Filipino Department Program Chairperson Mrs. Jannet M. Penuliar, Quality Assurance Director Mrs. Julai L. Santos, and Mathematics Department Program Chairperson Mrs. Ivy R. Rosini.



PLV is an institution known for producing excellent professionals, as evidenced by their strong performance in licensure examinations. Case in point, PLV is home to exceptional teachers, consistently making it to the list of top-performing schools in the LEPT.

The Philippine Normal University (PNU) warmly welcomed esteemed delegates from Osaka Metropolitan University (OMU), Japan, to formally initiate discussions on the planned Student Exchange Program between the two institutions. The engagement took place on May 3, 2025, at the Office of the University President.

support tutor system, and credit transfer arrangements – ensuring participants receive both academic and practical assistance throughout their stay. Applications for nominations will open this term through the Linkages and International Office.

Another highlight of the meeting was the discussion of

the International Collaborative Lesson Design initiative. This innovative academic component encourages students to critically examine domestic and

values in education, innovation, and global citizenship, both institutions look forward to finalizing the program details in the coming months and officially launching a partnership that fosters international cooperation and empowers the next generation of educators.



The visiting delegation included Dr. Kayoko Ito, Assistant to the President and Dean of the Faculty of Education and Social Work; Dr. Noriko Tamura, Associate Professor of Comparative Education; and Ms. Kana Oda, a graduate student and former recipient of the exchange program. They met with PNU officials to explore opportunities for academic and cultural collaboration, with a focus on sustainability and global education.

The proposed exchange program is scheduled to run from the end of September 2025 to the end of March 2026. It aims to provide PNU and Japanese students with enriching cross-cultural learning experiences. Key components of the program include financial support, free accommodation, a student

international issues through the lens of sustainability. It also aims to develop students' capabilities in co-creating lesson curricula that address real-world challenges and promote the vision of a sustainable society. Graduate students from PNU will collaborate with their international counterparts to design and implement these lessons.

The engagement was attended by key PNU officials, including Dr. Bert J. Tuga, President of PNU; Dr. Denmark L. Yonson, Vice President for Student Success and Stakeholders Services; and Director Bryan C. Dayuta of the Linkages and International Office.

Dr. Tuga expressed optimism about the long-term impact of the partnership. With shared



The PNU Office of the President extends its warmest congratulations to Dr. Rosemarievic V. Diaz, a faculty member of the College of Alternative and Lifelong Learning and former Dean and Vice President of the University, for being appointed as a regular member of the Teacher Education Council (TEC).

Dr. Diaz, who will represent an organization of deans of colleges of education, professional teachers, and educators, is known for her expertise in math education and educational leadership. She will utilize these skills as she serves a three-year term as outlined by Republic Act 11713, also known as the Excellence in Teacher Education Act.

May Dr. Diaz's vision of teacher education, rooted in culture, driven by research, and inspired by innovation, be fulfilled through her service with TEC.





The Philippine Normal University (PNU) proudly announces that its Research Ethics Board (REB) has successfully achieved Level 1 accreditation from the Philippine Health Research Ethics Board (PHREB) as of April 23, 2025. This achievement marks a significant milestone for PNU as one of only 35 higher education institutions in the Philippines with national PHREB accreditation. It also solidifies PNU's commitment to fostering a culture of ethical and responsible research across its academic community.

Since the establishment of the PNU Research Ethics Committee in 2015 (now officially known as the PNU Research Ethics Board, approved by BOR Resolution No. U-3760, s. 2024), the university has steadfastly championed adherence to the highest ethical standards in research involving human participants. Initially reviewing the theses and dissertations of graduate students, the Board has expanded its scope to include the research projects of faculty members across the PNU System.

The path to Level 1 PHREB accreditation required the PNU-REB to demonstrate competency in conducting ethics reviews, adherence to established standard operating procedures, and the presence of a strong administrative support system. Recognizing the need to align with PHREB's requirements, the PNU Board of Regents, in its April 2024 meeting, approved key updates to the ethics review guidelines, renamed the PNU REC to the PNU Research Ethics Board, and formalized the composition of its officers and members.

Effective October 4, 2024, the PNU-REB leadership includes Dr. Rene C. Belecina as Chairperson, Dr. Gilbert S. Arrieta as Vice-Chairperson, and Dr. Edna Luz R. Abulon as Member-Secretary. The Regular Members are Prof. Benilda R. Butron, Dr. Zhanina U. Custodio, Dr. Armina B. Mangaoil, Dr. Christ John M. Pastor, and Mr. John Paul C. Sapiño. Administrative support is provided by Ms. Lorephil P.

Carlman of the Research Management Office (RMO), while Dr. Joseph Balaoing of Adamson University serves as the Board's non-affiliated Regular Member.

With this accreditation, the PNU-REB is set to launch a series of orientation sessions and webinars to disseminate the University's approved ethics review processes for all academic research outputs. A comprehensive Manual on Standard Operating Procedures and newly ISO-coded forms will also be rolled out.

The PNU-REB is administratively supported by the Office of the Vice President for Research, Extension, and Quality Assurance and the Research Management Office.



The PNU Community is beaming with pride as it congratulates PNU South Luzon for being the lone institution in the Top 1 spot among schools with 50 to 99 examinees and with at least 90% passing percentage in the March 2025 Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers Secondary Level.

Aside from this, the Lopez-based campus produced a topnotcher at the elementary level in the person of Mary Rose Sanchez Macabuhay, who landed in the Top 10.

**Mabuhay ka, PNU South Luzon!**

Ms. Aurora Marcellana Pagulayan is an accomplished educator and leader with over four decades of experience in the field of education. She earned her Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education from the Philippine Normal College (now Philippine Normal University) in 1965, graduating Magna Cum Laude and receiving the prestigious Princess Urduja Leadership Award. Her academic journey continued with a fellowship that enabled her to pursue a Master of Science in Education at Bucknell University, Pennsylvania (1967–1968).

Her teaching career began at esteemed institutions such as the University of the Philippines Laboratory School and the International School in Makati. In 1968, she moved to the United States, where she worked for Carroll County Public Schools in Westminster, Maryland. Over the years, Aurora served in various capacities, from classroom teacher to resource teacher for the gifted and staff developer. From 1994 to 2007, she held the position of Assistant Principal for the Carroll County Board of Education and also shared her expertise as a guest lecturer at McDaniel College, where she taught graduate courses in education.

A passionate advocate for educational excellence, Aurora dedicated her career to fostering meaningful learning experiences and leadership opportunities for both students and educators. She actively promoted multicultural awareness in schools and the community and facilitated the SPIRIT program in partnership with the U.S. Department of Justice, which aimed to help middle school students combat racism, discrimination, and bullying. Her impactful contributions earned her several accolades, including the 2006 Excellence in Minority Achievement Award from the Achievement Initiative for Maryland's Minority Students Council.

Beyond her administrative and teaching roles, Aurora contributed to the academic field as an author, publishing "The Twenty-First Century: Education for the Limited English Proficient" and co-authoring "Mathematics for Elementary School Children."

In addition to her career in education, Aurora has been an active member of various community



and church organizations. She has been involved with the Southern Nevada Filipino American Association, organizing fundraising events, and chaired the Simbang Gabi Committee at St. Thomas More Catholic Church, where she also serves on the Pastoral Council. Her extensive work in both education and community service reflects her lifelong commitment to leadership and meaningful change.



The Philippine Normal University Global Alumni Association, Inc. (PNUGAA) enthusiastically participated in the Philippine Independence Day Parade held in New York City on June 1, 2025. Recognized as the largest celebration of Philippine Independence outside the Philippines, the annual parade along the prominent streets of New York showcases Filipino culture, heritage, and pride to the global community.

PNUGAA members joined thousands of fellow Filipinos and Filipino-American organizations in this vibrant event, proudly representing the academic community of the National Center for Teacher Education. The delegation was led by PNUGAA Vice President, Dr. Ernesto S. Pamolarco Jr., who emphasized the university's ongoing commitment to global engagement and cultural solidarity.



To cap off a week accentuated by visits from partners and stakeholders, the Philippine Normal University has hosted the institutional visit of participants to the Southeast Asian School Leadership Program (SEA-SLP) earlier this afternoon, May 9, 2025. Dubbed as Regional Synergy in School Leadership, this collaborative engagement catered to 37 school heads from 10 countries across Southeast Asia. The visit, spearheaded by the Southeast Asian Ministers of Education Organization, Regional Center for Educational Innovation and Technology (SEAMEO INNOTECH), aims to expose school heads, particularly to the best practices of PNU in terms of curriculum development, pedagogy, research, and teacher training.

In his welcome message, PNU President Dr. Bert J. Tuga underscored the relevance of the endeavors as a convergence of shared aspirations for building transformative, inclusive, and future-ready schools across Southeast Asia. He also recognized SEAMEO INNOTECH's steadfast leadership in fostering capacity-building and innovation in education in the region.



Highlighting the visit was the presentation of PNU leaders on various best practices of the institution. Vice President for Academics Dr. Marilyn U. Balagtas delivered a presentation on Reimagining Pedagogy through Transformative Instructional Strategies in Teacher Education. The Curriculum Management and Instructional Materials Office Director, Dr. Ruth A. Alido, shed light on Redesigning Curriculum for Future Educators Through Innovations in Teacher Education Programs. Vice President for Research, Extension, and Quality Assurance Research Dr. Teresita T. Rungduin elaborated on the topic Driving Educational Impact Through Research Trends in Teaching and Teacher Education. Capping off the series of talks was



Research Institute for Teacher Quality Director Dr. Brando C. Palomar with his discussion on Initiatives on Teacher and Teaching Quality vis-à-vis EDCOM II's Priority Areas.

After a brief question and answer portion, Vice President for Student Success and Stakeholders Services Dr. Denmark L. Yonson delivered the closing remarks, which concluded the first part of the visit. A campus tour around PNU Manila and a photo opportunity followed immediately after the formalities.



The SEA-SLP is a professional development initiative for school leaders designed to strengthen and enhance the resilience of school systems.



As part of its continuous efforts to exemplify and protect its brand of excellence, the Philippine Normal University (PNU) has been granted a Certificate of Trademark Registration by the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines (IPOPHL) for the exclusive use of its official seal. The registration took effect on April 12, 2025, and will be valid for a term of 10 years, ending in 2035.

Through this registration, PNU holds exclusive rights to use its seal on a range of materials, goods, and services. These include items under Class 16 (paper, stationery, instructional and teaching materials, presentations, pens, pencils, notebooks, booklets, and books); Class 18 (imitations of leather, umbrellas, bags, and goods made from these materials); Class 22 (tarpaulins); Class 24 (towels and textiles); Class 25 (clothing, footwear, jackets, hoods, shirts, T-shirts, togas, and uniforms); and Class 41 (educational assistance services for persons with individual needs, providing training and educational examinations for certification purposes, services consisting of all forms of education or training, services aimed at entertainment, amusement, or recreation, and the presentation of works of visual art or literature to the public for cultural or educational purposes).

According to the IPOPHL, a trademark is defined as a word, group of words, sign, symbol, logo, or any combination of these elements that distinguishes the goods or services of one entity from those of others.

The application for PNU's trademark renewal was spearheaded by the Research Management Office–Technology Transfer and Intellectual Property Unit.

New partnerships were officially formalized as the Philippine Normal University (PNU) signed two new Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) with for scholarship programs that support aspiring educators.

The newly launched scholarships — the NSDB-PNC PROJECT 7405 Ed. Scholars Alumni Association (NPSA) Educational Assistance Program and the NSDB-PNC 7405Ed Scholars Alumni Association (NPSAA) Batch B Physics Student Subsistence Fund (SSF) are designed to provide financial assistance and mentorship opportunities for deserving students, particularly those pursuing studies in STEM education.



During the ceremonial signing, three distinguished alumni, Estrella P. Ponce de Leon, Nelio C. Altonveros, and Rafael P. Saldaña, Ph.D. presented and detailed the provisions of these scholarship initiatives. Beneficiaries of the programs will receive a monthly stipend and thesis support in their senior year and access to mentorship from accomplished alumni, ensuring that students are academically equipped and professionally guided to excel in their chosen fields.

The event was attended by key university officials, including Dr. Bert J. Tuga, University President; Dr. Denmark L. Yonson, Vice President for Student Success and Stakeholders Services; Prof. Merimee T. Siena, Ph.D, Director of the Student Affairs and Services Office; Prof. Bryan C. Dayuta, Director of the Linkages & International Office; and Prof. Marie Chiela C. Malcampo, RGC, Head of the Institutional Student Programs and Services (ISPS). Also present were representatives from the alumni organization, Corazon B. Alano, NPSA Vice-President, and Teresita Paccarangan, Representative of BSPT Batch B.

These agreements symbolize another meaningful collaboration between PNU and its alumni as both endeavor to support the development of future-ready teachers.



In recognition of her exceptional accomplishments and outstanding contributions to teacher education and teacher quality in the country, the Philippine Normal University has conferred the degree of Doctor of Education, *Honoris Causa*, upon Dr. Joy Hardy, the Deputy Director of the National Centre of Science, Information, Communication Technology, and Mathematics Education for Rural and Regional Australia (SiMMER), University of New England, Armidale, Australia.

The conferment ceremony held on the afternoon of May 28, 2025, was attended by family members of the honoree, guests from various institutions, and members of the administrative council of PNU. Notable attendees included a contingent from the Australian Embassy in the Philippines, led by their First Secretary for Education, Ms. Vivienne Sykes; SiMMER National Research Centre Director and collaborator of Dr. Hardy, Professor John Pegg; colleagues from the Department of Education,

headed by Undersecretary for Curriculum and Teaching Dr. Gina O. Gonong; and the Teacher Education Council Secretariat, led by Executive Director Dr. Jennie V. Jocson. Officials from higher education



institutions in the country, who have collaborated with Dr. Hardy, were also present at this momentous event. Former PNU President Dr. Ester B. Ogena and former university leaders also joined to witness the special occasion.

Vice President for Academics Dr. Marilyn U. Balagtas delivered the event's salutation. In her message, Dr. Balagtas underscored that the occasion was also a celebration of Dr. Hardy's life, dedicated to education and teacher quality that has, since then, transcended borders. She also summarized the essence of Dr. Hardy's work, which revolves around the commitment to inclusive learning, equity, access, and teacher education policies and practices that she emphasized as both contextually grounded and globally responsive. Dr. Balagtas further recognized Dr. Hardy's efforts to ensure that education is not a privilege for a few but a promise for all.

Commission on Higher Education—National Capital

Region Director Dr. Jimmy G. Catanes reaffirmed in his message that Dr. Hardy's accomplishments are a testament to the enduring value placed on education in nation-building. He further emphasized that the honoree's

work serves as a reminder that "education is not just a profession" but a mission.



The conferment rites shortly followed. It commenced with the presentation of the candidate for the honorary degree by University Registrar Dr. Rosario M. Belmi. In this presentation, it was revealed that Dr. Hardy's candidacy was approved by the Board of Regents through Resolution Number U-3842 series of 2024, upon the recommendation of the university's Academic Council on October 16, 2024. The statement of conferment, which formalized the bestowal of the degree to Dr. Hardy, was delivered by the Commission on Higher Education Commissioner and PNU BOR Chairperson-designate Dr. Ethel Agnes Pascua-Valenzuela. The Hooding Ceremony and awarding of the diploma followed immediately after the conferment. This ceremonial event was facilitated by PNU President Dr. Bert J. Tuga, assisted by the vice presidents, while members of the BOR and college deans served as witnesses.

The PNU Chorale's rendition of The Beatles' classic "Let It Be" provided an interlude for the occasion, with the group performing under the baton of Prof. Luzviminda B. Modelo.

Concluding the ceremony was a response from the honoree. Dr. Hardy traced the history of her engagement with PNU, which is deeply rooted in her work with the then Research Center for Teacher Quality (RCTQ). She elaborated on the successes and challenges faced by various initiatives that served as interventions in the country's education reform efforts. Dr. Hardy also contextualized the theory of practice architecture by providing examples of its prevalence in the current education system. She then circled back to the honor she has received from the PNU Community and reiterated her immense gratitude.



The Philippine Normal University convened the members of the Gender and Development Focal Point System (GFPS), in a three-day assembly from May 14 to 16, 2025, at PonteFino Hotel in Batangas City. The assembly aimed to enhance the competencies of GFPS members in critical areas such as gender analysis, gender mainstreaming, and Gender and Development (GAD) planning and budgeting. As part of PNU's ongoing efforts to promote gender sensitivity and responsiveness in policies and programs, the assembly featured a comprehensive GAD seminar that brought together key resource speakers to share essential concepts and tools for effectively mainstreaming gender equality within organizational frameworks. The assembly was organized by the Gender Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Office.

Ms. Araceli B. Mercado, a seasoned GAD advocate, opened the seminar with an in-depth discussion on the fundamental concepts of Gender and Development. She underscored the importance of integrating gender perspectives throughout the stages of policy-making and project development. To reinforce these ideas, Ms. Mercado facilitated a hands-on workshop on GAD Planning and Budgeting, guiding participants in crafting gender-responsive plans aligned with institutional mandates. The interactive session allowed attendees to apply theoretical knowledge to practical planning exercises, equipping them

with the skills necessary to develop inclusive and effective GAD budgets.

Building on this foundation, Prof. Iona Ofelia B. Zanoria presented the Gender Equality, Diversity, and Inclusivity (GEDI) Framework—a cornerstone for advancing gender-responsive initiatives



within the institution. Prof. Zanoria emphasized how the GEDI Framework informs the creation of inclusive policies and practices. She also shared the accomplishments of the Gender Equality, Diversity, and Inclusivity Office (GEDIO) during her tenure as director, highlighting





successful programs that have fostered a more inclusive academic and administrative environment.

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In an effort to strengthen inter-agency collaboration and expand employment

pathways for students, the Philippine Normal University (PNU), the Department of Labor and Employment–National Capital Region (DOLE-NCR), and the Public Employment Service Office (PESO) Manila formalized a tripartite Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) on June 27, 2025, at PNU Manila.

Under the agreement, PESO Manila established PNU Manila as a Job Placement Office, officially accredited by DOLE-NCR. The office will provide employment assistance to students, including access to job opportunities, government internship programs, career coaching, and labor-related services.

In his message, Mr. Fernan B. Bermejo, PESO Manila Manager and Assistant Secretary to the City Mayor on Labor and Employment, expressed gratitude to PNU for this partnership. He underscored the importance of the collaboration in creating more employment opportunities for graduates.

DOLE-NCR Regional Director Atty. Sarah Buena S. Mirasol described

To further strengthen the technical knowledge of participants, Dr. Helen H. Dayo led a session on the Harmonized Gender and Development Guidelines (HGDG). Her presentation provided valuable insights into the effective application of the HGDG, a critical tool for ensuring that development programs and projects are gender-responsive. Dr. Dayo stressed the importance of integrating the HGDG across the project cycle and offered practical strategies for its implementation—particularly beneficial for GAD focal persons and project implementers.

Overall, the seminar served as a vital platform for building the capacity of institutional stakeholders in gender mainstreaming, reaffirming the university's commitment to equity, inclusivity, and transformative development.



the partnership as a milestone in bridging the gap between education and employment. She emphasized that the initiative will help students make informed career decisions while enhancing linkages between the labor sector and academic institutions to align with industry demands.

PNU President Dr. Bert J. Tuga welcomed the officials from DOLE-NCR and PESO Manila and provided a brief background on PNU's legacy and academic offerings. He highlighted the university's long-standing commitment to multi-agency partnerships and expressed optimism that the agreement will open more doors for students to take part in the country's socio-economic development.

During the event, PNU also received a Certificate of Accreditation from DOLE-NCR, formally recognizing its new role as an Accredited Job Placement Office.

The partnership was facilitated by the Student Affairs and Services Office (SASO).



Philippine Normal University (PNU) President Dr. Bert J. Tuga, a frequent keynote speaker at college and university graduations, delivered his first commencement address at a senior high school ceremony during Centro Escolar Integrated School (CEIS) – Manila’s 8th Senior High School Commencement Exercises. Held under the theme “Generation of Unity: Partners for the New Philippines,” the event recognized 311 graduates from the ABM, HUMSS, and STEM strands.

Dr. Ma. Cristina D. Padolina, President and Chief Academic Officer of Centro Escolar University (CEU) and member of the CEIS Board of Directors, opened the program with a message highlighting the significance of the occasion. She described the day as a celebration of the graduates’ hard work, resilience, perseverance, and grit, and reminded them that it marks “a stepping stone to greater things ahead, a starting line for a new chapter filled with possibilities and exciting opportunities.”



In his keynote speech, Dr. Tuga shared candid insights about the challenges that lie ahead, especially as the graduates transition to higher education. He underscored the importance of unity, mental health, and

service-driven leadership. “This world can be unpredictable, even unfair. But it also holds countless opportunities for those who are prepared, grounded, and courageous,” he said. “Let your journey be defined not by the pursuit of

titles or prestige, but by the lives you touch, the truths you uphold, and the futures you help create. Class of 2025—you are the generation of unity, the bridge to a better nation. I have great hope in what you will become. And I look forward to the day you will return, not just as graduates, but as leaders, educators, and changemakers of the Philippines.”

Delivering the message of gratitude was Ms. Chandrelle Kerinne Z. Manalo, Top 1 of the Class of 2025 from the STEM strand. Through heartfelt storytelling and song references, she reflected on her senior high school journey and thanked her parents, friends, mentors, and the entire CEIS community. “Each day is an opportunity to learn and our future is ours to create,” she shared.



Also present during the ceremony were CEIS President Dr. Herminio “Sonny” B. Coloma Jr., CEIS Vice President and CEU’s Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. Teresa R. Perez, and CEIS Principal Mrs. Abigail Espineda-Bernardino, among others.



The program culminated with a musical tribute by the graduates for their parents, followed by the singing of the graduation song, symbolizing the end of one journey and the beginning of another.



In an exciting development for the Philippine Normal University (PNU), Dr. Adrian Rodgers, an esteemed Associate Professor from The Ohio State University (OSU) in Columbus, USA, has officially begun his tenure as a Visiting Professor. His arrival on April 22, 2025, marked the beginning of an enriching academic collaboration, with PNU's top management officials welcoming him during a special dinner held in his honor.



Dr. Rodgers, who previously served as the Director of International Programs at OSU, brings a wealth of expertise to PNU. Throughout his stay in the Philippines, from April 22 to July 16, 2025, he aims to foster scholarly engagement, promote academic excellence, and encourage interdisciplinary collaboration across PNU's campuses. This initiative is expected to enhance the university's academic environment and broaden the horizons of both faculty and students.



Dr. Rodgers' visit represents a highly anticipated opportunity for PNU to further its mission of producing globally competitive educators. Over the course of his stay, he will lead a series of lectures, conduct knowledge-sharing sessions, and engage in one-on-one mentoring with faculty members and graduate students—all designed to enrich the academic experience at the university.

Wasting no time, Dr. Rodgers immediately immersed himself in PNU's academic activities. His first major engagement was serving as a resource person during the Workshop of the National Network of Normal Schools (3NS) for Future Research Collaboration, held from April 23 to 25, 2025, at PNU Manila. The event gathered a diverse group of educators who participated in scholarly discussions aimed at advancing teacher education research.

In addition to his involvement at PNU Manila, Dr. Rodgers also served as a resource person at the International Conference on Multicultural Education and Interdisciplinary Studies organized by PNU Mindanao in Butuan City. There, he delivered a well-received talk titled "Preparing for Diversity: Professional Development for Today's Educators." His presentation emphasized the importance of professional development in equipping educators for the challenges of teaching in diverse and multicultural environments—a theme of growing significance in today's globalized educational landscape.

As Dr. Rodgers continues his work at PNU over the next few months, the university looks forward to deepening its collaboration with OSU through a memorandum of understanding signed in 2024.



The Philippine Normal University, the National Center for Teacher Education, has formally entered into an agreement with De La Salle University on the delivery of programs aimed at research capability building. In a brief program held earlier this morning, May 8, 2025, at the Office of the University President of PNU, the partnership was ceremonially inked, marking the start of a more focused and strategic alliance between the two institutions.

In her welcome remarks, PNU's Vice President for Research, Extension, and Quality Assurance, Dr. Teresita T. Rungduin, expressed her high hopes that this partnership would pave the way for significant learning opportunities for researchers at PNU. Meanwhile, PNU President, Dr. Bert J. Tuga, articulated that entering into this partnership would bring mutual benefits to both institutions, particularly the deepening of rapport, especially since the two institutions of higher learning had already established a bond—as both are proud members of the South Manila Educational Consortium (SMEC).



After the formalities, Dr. Ma. Arsenia C. Gomez, the Director of PNU's Research Management Office, introduced the members of the PNU contingent to the guests from DLSU.



Dr. Jeane C. Peracullo, the Assistant Dean for External Affairs and Lasallian Mission of De La Salle University, gave a message on behalf of the partner institution. Dr. Peracullo thanked the PNU Community for the warm welcome and conveyed their excitement in venturing into this partnership.



This was followed by the ceremonial signing of the partnership agreement. The document was inked by President Tuga on behalf of PNU and DLSU President, Br. Bernard S. Oca FSC, with Dr. Rungduin and Dr. Peracullo serving as witnesses.

Under this agreement, DLSU, through its College of Liberal Arts, will deliver the research capability-building activities for PNU in coordination with the Research Management office starting April of the current year. The team from the Taft-based institution will also visit selected campuses of PNU during the span of the partnership.







Officials from Philippine Normal University North Luzon (PNUNL) recently completed a strategic visit to Thailand on April 20 to 27, 2025, to strengthen international research and extension collaborations with Chiang Mai University (CMU) and Shinawatra University (SIU). At Chiang Mai University, the PNUNL team visited the Center for Ethnic Studies and Development (CESD). Activities included a field visit to the Karen indigenous community to explore community-based education practices and cultural preservation efforts, as well as a comparative analysis of research and extension practices between the two institutions. Discussions were also held regarding the organization of an International Research Conference on Teacher Education and Indigenous Peoples Education, with CMU being eyed as a co-host in 2026.

The PNUNL delegation then proceeded to Shinawatra University, where a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was formally signed to establish a framework for future collaboration. Among the initial projects agreed upon is an international extension program focusing on enhancing English language proficiency among Thai teachers, aimed at supporting educational quality and capacity building. Dr. Agnes S. Reyes, PNUNL Executive Director and Provost, emphasized the importance of these new partnerships, describing them as a significant step toward advancing PNUNL's internationalization efforts and expanding its contributions to research, teacher education, and community development across the region.

The International Research Conference, set to be co-organized by PNUNL, CMU, and SIU, is scheduled to take place in Thailand. Chiang Mai University, Thailand's first provincial university, is

officially recognized by the Ministry of Higher Education, Science, Research, and Innovation and ranked #567 in the QS World University Rankings 2025. Shinawatra University, a private institution under Thailand's higher education framework, is ranked within the 151–200 range globally in the QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025. Both universities are officially recognized by the Ministry of Education of Thailand, further underscoring the strength of PNUNL's new international alliances.

PNU North Luzon, situated in Alicia, Isabela, is the Indigenous Peoples Education Hub of the university. It is recognized by the Teacher Education Council as a Center of Excellence (COE) in Teacher Education and is a recipient of the Excellence in Quality Assurance in Teacher Education (EQUATE) award from the Commission on Higher Education.

#### PNU POST 19TH EDITION



The PNU Community congratulates its University President Dr. Bert J. Tuga on his election as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Philippine Educational Theater Association (PETA).

PETA is a people-based cultural collective engaged in performance as well as in training, curriculum development, national and international network building, and participatory community mobilization grounded in local culture and sensitive to real issues in the larger society.

Dr. Tuga is expected to bring his leadership expertise as he forms part of the governing body of the organization.

With the same goal of reviewing financial operations and accountability, the Commission on Audit (COA) has conducted a general annual exit interview for all PNU campuses on April 30, 2025. The hybrid meeting conducted physically at the PNU Manila Executive Lounge and Board Room and via Zoom, was participated in by PNU officials from across campuses with University President Dr. Bert J. Tuga at the helm and accompanied by the Vice Presidents, Executive Directors and Provosts, and respective personnel of Financial Management Office and Units.

Meanwhile, COA was represented by the respective members of the team assigned to all campuses, led by the COA team of PNU Manila, comprised of Ms. Cecilia E. Bernales, the Supervising Auditor, Atty. Precious Joy E. Borromeo, the Audit Team Leader, Mr. Lester A. Arnesto, the Audit Team Member, and Ms. Annaliza V. Alon, Administrative Staff.

Dr. Tuga introduced key officials, including vice presidents and department heads, while Supervising Auditor Bernales presented the audit team.



The session focused on the Summary of Audit Observations and Recommendations (SAOR) in four (4) categories: Financial Audit, Compliance Audit, Program Evaluation, and other Compliance Issues. Auditor Bernales acknowledged PNU's timely responses and confirmed that no major financial integrity issues were found.

PNU was also found compliant with key laws and regulations, including Tax Laws, GSIS Laws, the National Health Insurance Act of 2013, the Home Development Mutual Fund (HDMF), and the Property Insurance Law.

To further address some of COA's findings and recommendations, the PNU Audit Task Force will convene a meeting to discuss and prepare the formal report for submission to COA.

This, however, did not impede the PNU campuses from receiving an overall Unmodified/Unqualified Opinion for Fiscal Year 2024. This is the 4th year in a row that the institution has received this acknowledgement through a clean opinion from COA.

An unmodified/unqualified opinion is issued when "the auditor concludes that the financial statements are prepared, in all material respects, in accordance with

the applicable financial reporting framework (*Clarification on the Use of the Phrase 'Highest COA Audit Rating,' 2022*)."

In his closing remarks, Dr. Lordinio A. Vergara, Vice President for Finance and Administration, commended the efforts of the Finance and Administration team to continuously comply with the government regulations. He reaffirmed that PNU is committed to accountability and transparency in transactions, and the services should be more efficient.

#### Source:

*Clarification on the Use of the Phrase 'Highest COA Audit Rating' (2022, June 22).* Commission on Audit. Retrieved April 30, 2025, from [https://www.coa.gov.ph/clarification-on-the-use-of-the-phrase-highest-coa-audit-rating/?fbclid=IwY2xjawJ-](https://www.coa.gov.ph/clarification-on-the-use-of-the-phrase-highest-coa-audit-rating/?fbclid=IwY2xjawJ-6_dleHRuA2FlbQlXMAbicmlkETFMQkQyY2tRbTZsbFhsWHoyAR4aaYAXLVummjYDN8UBHBqG5vnvx7IWlilhYovgHCYUkU-Vjp5wRm8fDFIIFA_aem_uM0YUhj6dVY2u5hUeNISPg)

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The Philippine Normal University took part in the 19th Meeting of Presidents of the Association of Southeast Asian Teacher Education Network (AsTEN), which was held on June 16, 2025, in Bandar Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam.

The annual gathering of leaders and representatives from AsTEN member institutions throughout Southeast Asia to discuss matters related to the ongoing advancement of teacher education in the region. The meeting acted as a platform for enhancing regional collaboration, aligning quality standards, and promoting academic partnerships among teacher education institutions.

Representing the PNU President, Dr. Bert J. Tuga, was Dr. Denmark L. Yonson, Vice President for Student Success and Stakeholders Services.

In support of PNU's commitment to international collaboration, Dr. Yonson also met with representatives of the AsTEN Teacher Education Quality Assurance Agency (ATQA), particularly Prof. Fuad Abdul Hameid of Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia. The meeting focused on preparations for the proposed harmonization workshop spearheaded by the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines, Inc. (AACCUP), aimed at aligning accreditation standards and instruments between ATQA and AACCUP.

Further strengthening international academic ties, Dr. Yonson paid a courtesy visit to Her Excellency Marian Jocelyn R. Tirol-Igancio, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of the Philippines to Brunei Darussalam. Discussions during the meeting explored possible collaborations between the

Philippine Embassy and PNU, particularly in academic cooperation and community engagement initiatives.

PNU's participation in the AsTEN meeting underscores its strong commitment to regional cooperation and its active role as one of the founders of AsTEN and the Network's Permanent Secretariat. AsTEN is composed of the following member institutions, namely:

- Kolej Universiti Perguruan Ugama Seri Begawan, Brunei Darussalam
- National Institute of Education, Cambodia
- Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia
- National University of Laos
- Universiti Pendidikan Sultan Idris, Malaysia
- Yangon University of Education, Myanmar
- Philippine Normal University
- National Institute of Education, Singapore
- Kasetsart University, Thailand
- University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam



In efforts to fulfill its role as the lead convener of the "Technical Working Group on Teacher Training (TWG-TT)," under the Second Congressional Commission of Education (EDCOM 2)-initiated "Sulong EDCOM II Para sa Kinabukasan," the Philippine Normal University (PNU) organized and hosted a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) Signing Ceremony at the Geronima T. Pecson Hall, Main Auditorium on June 30, 2025. The event sought to formalize the partnership of over 20 leading educational institutions in the country in a shared vision of addressing the learning crisis in the Philippines. This initiative seeks to harmonize initiatives in training K to 3 teachers and school leaders focused on improving literacy and numeracy in priority Department of Education (DepEd) schools and regions in the Philippines.

The program opened with a message from PNU President Dr. Bert J. Tuga. In his message, the President underscored the collective commitment of teacher education institutions: "We, as teacher education institutions and stakeholders, are bound not only by policy but by a shared responsibility," he said, calling on partners to "listen, learn, and lead together."



The program also featured messages of support from the Department of Education, delivered by Teacher Education Council (TEC) Executive Director, Dr. Jennie V. Jocson, and; the private sector, delivered by De La Salle University (DLSU) President, Br. Bernard S. Oca FSC. An overview of the TWG-TT and the project was presented by PNU Vice President for Academics (VPA) Dr. Marilyn U. Balagtas to align stakeholders on the initiative's goals, detailing the initiative's framework and intended outcomes. Dr. Marife T. Morcilla, Project Development Officer V of the National Educators Academy of the Philippines (NEAP) then led a discussion on the use of the Literacy and Numeracy Modules developed by experts and available for use by the TWG member institutions.



The signing ceremony was attended by the Presidents and heads of the TWG partner institutions, namely: Atty. Edgardo Carlo L. Vistan

II of UP Diliman, Dr. Elbert M. Galas of Pangasinan State University, Dr. Daniel A. Ariaso Sr. of Cebu Normal University, Ms. Grace Favila of Miriam College, Atty. Danilo L. Concepcion of Centro Escolar University, Dr. Gil Nicetas B. Villarino of Leyte Normal University, Dr. Joy M. Mirasol of Bukidnon State University, and Ms. Rochelle Razo of Partnerships for Sustainability Education. Other institutions such as Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology, University of Nueva Caceres, Ateneo de Zamboanga University, Mariano Marcos State University, St. Paul University of the Philippines, St. Mary's University, Angeles University Foundation, and West Visayas State University were also represented by their respective officials and leaders during the signing.

After the signing ceremony, EDCOM 2 Executive Director Dr. Karol Mark Yee delivered the closing message, stressing the urgency of addressing learning gaps, "functional literacy is a problem we have to confront head-on, and all of us need to do our part," he asserted. Director Yee also emphasized that leaders in education "cannot raise student outcomes without strengthening the hands of those who teach."

The Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) Signing Ceremony marks the formal initiation of the unified effort and shared responsibility among key institutions to elevate teacher training nationwide.



It was a rainbow-filled Wednesday on June 25, 2025, when the Philippine Normal University (PNU) celebrated Pride Month with an afternoon and evening packed with solidarity messages, advocacy-driven performances, and a lively drag show held on campus, themed "PAGLAYa: Palay ng Buhay, PagLaya ng Kulay."



The event began with remarks from Vice President for Student Success and Stakeholders Services Dr. Denmark L. Yonson, who highlighted the importance of Pride Month in raising awareness about gender rights and the role of future educators who are members of the LGBTQIA+ in shaping inclusive stories. He was succeeded by Student Affairs and Services Office Director Dr. Merimee Tampus Sienna, who emphasized the need for safe spaces and sang Sirena to honor the ongoing struggles of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Inspirational messages were shared by former youth representative and Gabriela Women's Party nominee Sarah Elago and gender advocate Perci Cendaña. Senator Risa Hontiveros also sent a recorded message, reaffirming the importance of inclusive and safe academic environments. Solidarity messages came from various universities and student organizations, including FEU SAGA, TUP Dugong Bughaw, UDM Bahaghari, PNU USC units, Mayari Philippines, and other allied groups.

LOVEYOURSELF Inc. offered free HIV testing on campus as part of their commitment to health and awareness.

PNU talents and guest performers—including MAMULAT, Raya and Kaina, Eliza Maturan, Emong Baby, Koi, UHAWIG, and The Red String Theory—used music and art to express advocacy and resilience.

The event wrapped up with a PRIDE March led by Gabriela Youth PNU and participating groups. In the evening, PNU Balingsasayaw opened the highly anticipated Drag Race competition, featuring dazzling acts from REXY, TARIRAY, DYOSA UNKAVOUGABERTALICIOUS, and LILY 2.0. Iconic drag artist Pura Luka Vega and past winners Mica Chanel and Leb Lanx lit up the stage with guest performances. Ultimately, LILY 2.0 was crowned the 2025 PNU Drag Race Champion.

The event was initiated by GEDIO through PNU Katalonan.



The PNU Community warmly congratulates its Mobile Legends: Bang Bang (MLBB) Team for securing the 1st Runner-up spot as they represented the Philippines in the recently concluded Consortium of Asia-Pacific Education Universities (CAPEU) Esports MLBB Tournament.

Dubbed as the Flaming Owls, the homegrown PNU Team of Ryan B. Rañon of BPHED II-27, Alexander Leo N. Camet of BEE-II-3, Giles Barry A. Amanon of BLES III-24, Jaycee M. Fernandez of BPHED II-26, Joseph J. Tabuzo of BME II-17, and Jake D. Sumuylo TEDPATHS I-8, flexed their skills and teamwork to secure the podium finish. They were ably coached by Mr. Rekka D. Limpin.

Their success wouldn't be complete without the support of the University management headed by the University President Dr. Bert J. Tuga together with the Vice President for Finance and Administration Dr. Lordinio A. Vergara and the Vice President for Student Success and Stakeholders Services Dr. Denmark L. Yonson. Additional assistance was provided to the team by the Center for Sports, Culture, and Arts Development Head, Prof. Romeo R. Rioflorido and the Management Information System Office Director Prof. Erwin R. Callo.

Mabuhay kayo, PNU Flaming Owls! Inang Pamantasan is proud of you.





The Office of the Vice President for Academics, under the leadership of Vice President Dr. Marilyn U. Balagtas, organized the Academic Summit from June 3 to 5, 2025 at the Waterfront Beach Resort in Morong, Bataan.

The summit opened with Dr. Marilyn U. Balagtas, Vice President for Academics, who explained that the 2025 Academic Summit aims to bring together university officials, leaders, and experts to collaboratively shape the directions, priorities, and strategies for advancing impactful and sustainable academic innovations starting in the Academic Year 2025–2026. She emphasized the importance of consolidating innovative plans across VP domains and campuses to

support the entire PNU System's academic programs. Dr. Balagtas highlighted the need to design programs and projects that respond to the evolving demands of teacher education in the Philippines, with a focus on system-wide implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. She also stressed the need to harmonize academic efforts throughout PNU to boost effectiveness, efficiency, and impact.

Discussions began with presentations from Dir. Brando Palomar of the RITQ on the reframing of the teacher education curriculum. The new structure reduces ProfEd courses, incorporates a year-long internship, and clusters focusing on key aspects of teaching and learning. He also explained that the next phase

of review targets specialization courses and inclusive education contexts.

Support units under the Office of the Vice President for Research, Extension, Planning, and Quality Assurance (OVPREQA), led by Dr. Teresita Rungduin, also shared their aligned efforts in support of the Academic Programs. Dir. Ruel Avila of QAMO discussed certification and accreditation updates, while Dir. Marivilla Lydia Aggarao of the KMFSO presented their phased Knowledge Management Roadmap. Dir. Eisha Fernandez of CPEO also shared cross-border curriculum collaborations, including with Timor-Leste, and its role in Bukluran 2025.



Dr. Lordinio Vergara, the Vice President for Finance and Administration, expressed the office's commitment to supporting the OVPA and its units by enhancing service delivery through the FAST framework. This initiative involves streamlining and accelerating request processing, upgrading infrastructure and automating available resources, and offering skill and capacity-building training. Ms. Nerlyn Makinano from the Budget Unit also discussed the utilization of the allotted budget in 2025 for the OVPA domain.

Dr. Denmark Yonson, the Vice President for Student Success and Stakeholder Services, emphasized the importance of supporting data collection efforts for the QS reapplication process, calling on OVPA units to assist in providing the necessary information. Dir. Merimee Siena reported alarming dropout trends monitored by SASO, highlighting mental health challenges and areas for systemic academic and psychosocial intervention. Dir. Henelsie Mendoza of the Admissions Office shared their framework for revising the PNUAT and redefining applicant classifications. Dir. Bryan Dayuta from the Linkages and Internationalization Office presented an overview of CMO No. 03, s. 2025, concerning international travel requirements, including timelines for submissions and post-travel accomplishment reports. He also discussed the upcoming QS Ratings,

highlighting the data needed from various units and noting concerns about the availability and timeframe for compiling data spanning several years. Additionally, Dir. Glenda De Lara of ARSO shared findings from their tracer study covering graduates from 2019 to 2024 (undergraduate) and 2019 to 2023 (graduate), acknowledging challenges such as insufficient funding, staffing, and incomplete records. Dir. James Bailon of EMO provided updates on upcoming university ceremonies, while Dir. Iona Ofelia Zanoria of GEDIO presented strategies for gender and disability inclusivity.

Day 2 began with a presentation by Dr. Leah Amor S. Cortez, the EDP of PNU South Luzon, who focused on student services and inclusion efforts. President Bert J. Tuga also delivered a message commending the campuses for their BLEPT performance and affirming infrastructure upgrades and academic plans that align with national reforms.

Invited speakers examined the implications of laws like RA 11650 and RA 12199 on the teacher education curriculum, discussed by Dr. Melissa Bartolome. Dr. Marilyn Balagtas presented institutional innovations such as DALI, MLTTA, SEMAST, and EPC-TRAIN—models shaped by research and intellectual property considerations.

Additionally, the following drivers of new innovations in the academic programs of the

PNU System were discussed: Dr. Felicia Yeban addressed Ladderization in the Undergraduate Programs, Dir. Ruth Alido explained Instructional Design for Flexible Learning, and Dr. Josephine Calamlam and Dr. Gladys Nivera discussed the Mentoring and Coaching Model and the Fiber Model for Professional Development, respectively.

The day concluded with a tribute night honoring retiring faculty members, Dr. Aurora Fulgencio and Dr. Wilma Reyes.

On Day 3, Dr. Agnes Reyes, the EDP of PNU North Luzon, provided the synthesis of Day 2. Afterwards, CMIMO, through Dr. Alido, reported on faculty loads, the validation of instructional materials, and the evolving IM framework. Dr. Palomar's updates on the revised ProfEd curriculum sparked discussions about graduate program realignment.

Dean Nivera provided a presentation on CTD's management of 44 graduate programs, addressing the tensions in balancing quality and service, and strategic plans to improve graduate education engagement.

Reports from the following academic units were presented by Dean Antriman V. Orleans for CAS, Dir. Wilfredo Chung for GSRO, and Dr. Joel Tubera for ICEHME. Dean Ilanan and Deputy Dean Voltaire Villanueva of CALL outlined future-ready formal and non-formal learning tracks,

including ALS, ODeL, and proposed diploma programs. Dr. Diaz also reported on the approved but still constrained ETEEAP expansion.

Additionally, the following representatives from the campuses shared updates and initiatives that further reinforced the system-wide efforts to harmonize academic planning and operational support across PNU: Dr. Leticia Aquino for PNU North Luzon, Dr. Amor Loniza for PNU South Luzon, Dr. Hazel Andrada for PNU Visayas, and Dr. Rennie Saranza for PNU Mindanao.

Prof. Callo, MISO Director, also presented the status of PNU's infrastructure, including updates on physical facilities and technological capabilities. In addition, he showcased the software technologies currently available within the university system, emphasizing their role in enabling academic and administrative operations.

Dr. Ralger Jocson closed the summit by emphasizing the value of collaboration in academia and the need to respond to societal demands while upholding educational quality. He affirmed PNU's role

as the leading Teacher Education Institution in the country, calling for program alignment with national standards and continued innovation marked by "Tatak PNU." He also urged the academic community to guide learners with clarity, confidence, and commitment, grounded in a strong nationalistic perspective. To formally end the program, Dr. Adelyn Abrea, the EDP of PNU Mindanao, delivered the closing remarks.

Throughout the summit, PNU's commitment to advancing impactful and sustainable academic innovations was evident in its efforts to build a unified, research-informed, and inclusive academic strategy. This approach not only reaffirmed the university's core mission but also laid a clear foundation for transformative growth and collaboration across the entire PNU system.



As a response to the resounding call for equity and transformative education, the Philippine Normal University (PNU) through its Faculty of Education and Information Sciences (FEIS), in collaboration with the Student Affairs and Services Office (SASO), hosted the Youth Forum on Inclusive Education on June 25, 2025 at the University Gymnasium. The event brought together pre-service teachers from across all

year levels. Held under the theme "Leaving No One Behind: A Forum on Inclusive Education with the Youth," the forum aimed to deepen understanding of inclusive education and underscore the role of young educators in promoting social justice within classrooms and communities.

FEIS Associate Dean Dr. Niño N. Naldoza opened the forum with a welcome address, setting a

tone of engagement and reflection. This was followed by a foundational lecture by Dr. Zhanina U. Custodio, a faculty member and advocate for Special Needs and Inclusive Education. Dr. Custodio outlined the historical, theoretical, and global development perspectives on inclusive education, establishing a critical framework for the discourse.





Representatives from key international organizations further enriched the discussions with compelling presentations. United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) emphasized inclusive and equitable learning environments, presenting global models and approaches for accessible education. The World Food Programme (WFP) highlighted the importance of nutrition in supporting academic performance and community resilience through school meals programs. Meanwhile, the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) led an interactive session on Comprehensive Sexuality Education (CSE), stressing its role in empowering youth and promoting gender equality.



The forum's interactive format encouraged participants to engage in thought-provoking dialogue. Pre-service teachers raised critical questions on topics such as support to inclusive practices in the field, role of families and communities, and opportunities for collaboration with global partners to localize inclusive education efforts.

The event also aligned with the celebration of Pride Month, reinforcing PNU's commitment to diversity and equitable education for all, regardless of gender, ability, or background.

## PNU POST 19TH EDITION



Atty. Johmy Fajilan has built a life marked by excellence in education, law, and finance, shaped profoundly by his education at the Philippine Normal College (PNC)—now Philippine Normal University (PNU). Atty. Fajilan began his academic journey with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education at PNC, where he also pursued graduate studies in Science and Math Education. It was here that his passion for learning and service took firm root, laying the foundation for his multifaceted career.

From the classroom to the courtroom, Atty. Fajilan has worn many hats with distinction. He taught and coordinated at Claret School of Quezon City, later serving as a PAASCU accreditor, ensuring quality in Philippine education. His legal training, gained through a Bachelor of Laws from Far Eastern University, led him to practice law, often taking on pro bono cases for indigent clients, exemplifying his commitment to equity and social responsibility.

Beyond the borders of the country, Atty. Fajilan continued his mission in the United States, where he earned a Professional Designation in Personal Financial Planning from the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). He went on to lead Tagumpay, Inc. and the J Fajilan Group, contributing his expertise to

financial empowerment in immigrant communities. His professional path, driven by discipline and compassion, enabled him to bridge cultural and economic gaps through financial education and services.

His life's work is also defined by selfless community leadership. He has been actively involved in educational, religious, and civic organizations such as the PNU Global Alumni Association, Lions Club International, and the Glendale Filipino Seventh-Day Adventist Church. These platforms allowed him to mentor others, advocate for transformative initiatives, and strengthen the link between education and nation-building.

Atty. Fajilan's accomplishments have earned him numerous distinctions, including membership in the Million Dollar Round Table and multiple President's Club Awards, recognizing not just professional success but also ethical practice and service. Yet, he remains deeply grounded, channeling his achievements into scholarship programs and infrastructure support for his alma mater, always returning to the institutions that shaped his values.

At his core, Atty. Fajilan is a living embodiment of PNU's mission to produce nation builders committed to education and service. Whether in the Philippines or abroad, he continues to empower others. His story is a tribute to the transformative power of education, and a model for future educators and leaders.

The Times Higher Education has released the 2025 installment of its impact rankings. This worldwide listing of higher education institutions is anchored on the result of the evaluation of performance in implementing programs that contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) of the United Nations (UN). In this iteration of the rankings, the Philippine Normal University has retained its spot at the rank between 1001 and 1500. The country's National Center for Teacher Education is one of the 2,526 higher education institutions that have participated in this international ranking.

For 2025, PNU remained committed to four SDGs that are deemed to be the areas of expertise of the institution, namely SDG 1, or No Poverty; SDG 4, or Quality Education; SDG 5, or Gender Equality; and SDG 17, or Partnerships for the Goals. In three of these SDGs, PNU's rank was bumped up a notch, a testament to the university's continued commitment to help realize the goals. The highest rank of PNU among the SDGs it has applied to is for SDG 5, wherein it has secured the rank 101-200 out of 1,599 institutions. In 2024, PNU is in the 201-300 rank in last year's rankings. Meanwhile, in SDG 1, it has ranked 201-300, a better performance compared to its 2024 performance, which landed in the 301-400 range. The last time PNU was in this rank for this SDG was during the 2023 THE Impact Rankings. Also, an improved ranking was seen for SDG 4, wherein, from 1001-1500, it has entered the 801-1000 rank. PNU was ranked for SDGs 1 and 4 with 1,267 and 1,975 institutions, respectively. For SDG 17, PNU remains a ranked university as it grabs the 1500+ spot.

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Quality Education; SDG 5, or Gender Equality; and SDG 17, or Partnerships for the Goals. In three of these SDGs, PNU's rank was bumped up a notch, a testament to the university's continued commitment to help realize the goals. The highest rank of PNU among the SDGs it has applied to is for SDG 5, wherein it has secured the rank 101-200 out of 1,599 institutions. In 2024, PNU is in the 201-300 rank in last year's rankings. Meanwhile, in SDG 1, it has ranked 201-300, a better performance compared to its 2024 performance, which landed in the 301-400 range. The last time PNU was in this rank for this SDG was during the 2023 THE Impact Rankings. Also, an improved ranking was seen for SDG 4, wherein, from 1001-1500, it has entered the 801-1000 rank. PNU was ranked for SDGs 1 and 4 with 1,267 and 1,975 institutions, respectively. For SDG 17, PNU remains a ranked university as it grabs the 1500+ spot.

It is also noteworthy to acknowledge PNU's performance in the rankings compared to local higher education institutions. Among 113 institutions, PNU claims the 37th spot in the rankings among Philippine universities.



It secured the 4th spot among Philippine HEIs for Gender Equality, 7th for No Poverty, and 22nd for Quality Education.

The Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2025 assess global universities based on their contributions to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), using a robust and balanced methodology built on four core pillars: research, stewardship, outreach, and teaching. These rankings employ carefully calibrated indicators to evaluate how institutions produce impactful research aligned with the SDGs, manage resources and people responsibly, engage with communities at various levels, and integrate sustainability into education to shape future leaders and professionals. By examining performance across these dimensions, the THE Impact Rankings serve as trusted global benchmarks for assessing a university's overall sustainability impact.

The agenda covered a broad range of administrative, financial, and policy-related matters aimed at strengthening institutional processes and enhancing the overall efficiency of university operations. Key discussions focused on proposed revisions and updates to academic policies, particularly those concerning graduate education, such as admissions, program completion, student research, and recognition of prior learning. Operational guidelines related to faculty deployment, performance management, and internal auditing were also tackled to ensure effective governance. The body also reviewed institutional support mechanisms for students, including policies promoting equity and welfare. In addition, the agenda addressed procedural improvements across various offices, explored the ethical use of emerging technologies in research, and considered nominations and recognitions for educational leadership.

Members of the PNU Administrative Council coalesce for their second quarter regular meeting on June 18, 2025, at the Executive Lounge and Board Room. The meeting was presided over by no less than the University President Dr. Bert J. Tuga.

Section 10 of RA 8292, also known as the Higher Education Modernization Act of 1997, states that the Administrative Council, chaired by the University President, is tasked with reviewing and recommending to the Board of Regents "policies governing the administration, management, and development planning of the university or college for appropriate action."



**TODAY @ PNU**

**PNU ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL GATHERS FOR 2ND QUARTER REGULAR MEETING**



## PNU BULLETIN

### PNU HOSTS YOUNG LEADERS FROM TIMOR-LESTE FOR ASEAN IMMERSION PROGRAM

As part of the ASEAN Immersion Program, young leaders from Timor-Leste visited the Philippine Normal University (PNU) on June 26, 2025, for a courtesy visit and learning dialogue. The delegation was accompanied by His Excellency Marciano Octavio Garcia da Silva, Ambassador of Timor-Leste to the Philippines.

The activity served as a platform for a substantive exchange of insights, practices, and strategies relevant to advancing education systems, particularly as Timor-Leste prepares for its anticipated integration as the 11th member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

In his welcome remarks, PNU President Dr. Bert J. Tuga emphasized the university's pivotal role as the National Center for Teacher Education in shaping education policies and legislative reforms in the Philippines. He also expressed his hope that the dialogue would contribute to mutual learning and deeper regional cooperation in education.

Ambassador da Silva conveyed his gratitude to PNU for hosting the delegation and affirmed his

commitment to supporting the outcomes of the dialogue. He underscored the importance of such engagements in guiding Timor-Leste's educational reforms.

The dialogue featured key presentations from university officials. Dr. Celia M. Ilanan, Dean of the College of Alternative and Lifelong Learning, discussed PNU's adaptive pedagogical strategies and flexible learning modalities in response to evolving educational contexts. Dr. Brando C. Palomar, Director of the Research Institute for Teacher Quality, highlighted the findings of the second Congressional Commission on Education (EDCOM II) and their potential relevance to Timor-Leste's education landscape. Meanwhile, Prof. Eisha Vienna M. Fernandez, Director of the Community Partnership and Extension Office, shared insights from her prior work in Timor-Leste and offered recommendations for strengthening educational capacity-building efforts.

A dynamic open forum followed, where the young leaders raised thoughtful questions on curriculum development, quality assurance, pedagogical innovations, and the broader challenges of



The program concluded with closing remarks from Dr. Denmark L. Yonson, Vice President for Student Success and Stakeholders Services, who thanked the delegation and expressed optimism that the engagement would lead to sustained collaborations between PNU and Timor-Leste.

Philippine education, eliciting detailed responses from PNU officials on how the university addresses these areas.

Members of the Administrative Employees Association (AEA) of PNU Manila gathered at the Geronima T. Pecson Hall on June 20, 2025, for their annual General Assembly. The event served as a platform for members to strengthen camaraderie, engage in meaningful discussions on emerging issues, and initiate the process of electing new leadership.

This year's assembly highlighted the significant contributions of administrative employees toward achieving the University's strategic goals. It also marked the beginning of the nomination and selection period for a new set of AEA officers who will serve a two-year term.

In his welcome remarks, Vice President for Finance and Administration Dr. Lordinio A. Vergara emphasized the importance of the event and expressed his appreciation to the administrative staff for their active participation in various university initiatives, especially the staff development programs.

University President Dr. Bert J. Tuga, in his inspirational message, urged AEA members to sustain—and even elevate—their proactiveness, particularly in shaping programs that enhance institutional welfare. Citing the *bibingka* approach to governance, Dr. Tuga underscored the vital role of administrative employees in developing inclusive, responsive, and well-rounded programs. He concluded by likening the AEA members to river tributaries that nourish the University, enabling continuous learning, development, and progress within the PNU community.

AEA President Mr. Ryan Anthony A. Olalia also addressed the assembly, expressing his gratitude for the steadfast support of fellow members. He encouraged everyone to participate actively in the nomination process



and ensure their voices are heard in the upcoming election of officers.

Following the messages, various committee heads presented their respective reports. Updates from the Membership, Welfare, and CNA (Collective Negotiation Agreement) Committees were shared, along with the financial report delivered by AEA Treasurer Ms. Crizelda D. Gementera. Attendees were also given the opportunity to raise questions and seek clarification on aspects of the reports.

Director Jenny C. Malitao of the Administrative Services Management Office provided a brief overview of the PhilHealth services that will be brought to the University in July. She encouraged members to avail themselves of the benefits available under the program.

The assembly concluded with the formal announcement of the opening of nominations for new AEA officers. Election Day is scheduled for June 27, 2025.

The AEA General Assembly forms part of a series of institutional activities organized by the association, which serves as the official body representing administrative employees of PNU Manila.



The final research presentation for the Research Fellows of Ateneo-EDCOM 2 (The Second Congressional Commission on Education) was held on June 25, 2025, at the Ateneo de Manila University School of Law on Rockwell Drive, Makati City. This event provided an opportunity for the scholars involved in the year-long research fellowship to present their findings and recommendations to key education leaders and policymakers, aiming to address the Priority Areas of EDCOM 2. Presentations and discussions sparked conversations on strengthening early childhood learning resources, supporting teaching and learning environments, understanding needs to improve practices in Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) and lifelong learning, revisiting teacher education, promoting educational leadership, and streamlining policies across basic and higher education sectors.

Philippine Normal University's (PNU) Vice President for Academics, Dr. Marilyn U. Balagtas, and the Director of the Research Institute for Teacher Quality (RITQ), Dr. Brando C. Palomar, are among the 16 research fellows involved in this project. Dr. Balagtas's study, titled "Alignment of CHED, PRC, and DepEd Including the Teacher Education Council on Teacher Development," emphasizes the important role of the Teacher Education Council (TEC) in harmonizing policies and systems to enhance teacher quality in the Philippines. Additionally, Dr. Palomar's study, titled "Review of Pre-Service Teacher Education

Curriculum," suggests alternative curriculum models along with concepts and practices concerning quality assurance and support systems for pre-service teachers and educator training programs.

The event was attended by prominent figures in the education sector, including Senator Sherwin T. Gatchalian, Chairperson of the Senate Committee on Basic Education and Co-Chair of EDCOM 2; Congressman Roman T. Romulo, Chairperson of the House Committee on Basic Education and Co-Chair of EDCOM 2; and Congressman Jude Acidre, a member of EDCOM 2. Also present were members of the Education, Legislation, and Policy Advisory Council, such as Dr. Maria Cynthia Rose Bautista, former Vice President for Academic Affairs at the University of the Philippines; Secretary Irene Isaac, former Director General of TESDA; Ms. Maria Olivia Lucas, President of E-Net Philippines; and Dr. Milwida Guevara, Executive Director of the Synergeia Foundation, Inc.

Members of the EDCOM 2 Standing Committee also participated, including Fr. Johnny C. Go, SJ, Dean of the Gokongwei Brothers School of Education and Learning Design at Ateneo de Manila University; Dr. Ester B. Ogena, former President of the Philippine Normal University; Ms. Rina Lopez-Bautista, President of Philippine Business for Education; Fr. Edicio G. dela Torre, President of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement; and Mr. Ernesto D. Garilao, Chairman of the Zuellig Family Foundation. Additional distinguished guests included Dr. Jennie V. Jocson, Executive Director V of the Teacher Education Council (TEC), and Dr. Maria Luz C. Vilches, Vice President for Higher Education at Ateneo de Manila University (ADMU).

The research fellows and panelists engaged in enriching and insightful discussions based on the data presented, connecting the topics not only to current issues in the educational landscape but also to the future needs of teachers and learners. The main findings and recommendations for each priority area underscore the urgent need to collaborate on meaningful policy reforms and educational milestones that will benefit teachers, education leaders, and most importantly, learners in the Philippines.





On June 17 to 19, 2025, academic officials from Philippine Normal University led by Vice President for Academics Dr. Marilyn U. Balagtas, College of Advanced Studies Dean Dr. Antriman V. Orleans, and Faculty of General Education and Experiential Learning Associate Dean Dr. Rafael V. Panganiban, held meetings with officials from the School of Applied Sciences at Edinburgh Napier University (ENU), Scotland, to plan various components for establishing transnational education programs at PNU to enhance the internationalization of the teacher education programs at the Philippine Normal University (PNU).

To enable PNU to offer transnational programs in collaboration with ENU, several issues were discussed, including entry requirements, logistics, curriculum structure, and program sustainability. Additional discussions focused on teacher professional standards and accreditation, assessment practices, research strategies, teacher immersion and capacity development, global online programs, and exploring joint teaching opportunities between PNU and ENU, including the development of professional standards programs for PNU faculty.

The ENU team was led by Prof. Andrew Gallacher, Associate Professor and Head of Teacher Education and Careers Guidance; Dr. Sophie Foley, Associate Professor of Microbiology and Associate Dean for International Affairs; Prof. Gary R. Hutchison, Dean of the School of Applied Sciences and Professor of Toxicology; Prof. Peter G. Barlow, Chair of Immunology and Infection and Director of the Centre for Biomedicine and Global Health; Dr. Heather Earnshaw, Lecturer in Teacher Education (Physics) and School Academic Lead

for Quality Enhancement; Dr. Eric Easton, Program Leader for PGDE and Lecturer in Education (Biology); and Dr. Colin McGill, Associate Professor in Education (Science).

Through these transnational education programs, PNU aims to attract high-caliber graduates from teacher education programs to pursue seamless pathways from master's to doctoral degrees at ENU and PNU.



The Philippine Normal University has once again entered the prestigious Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings for 2025. This year, PNU has secured a rank between 1001 and 1500 out of 2,526 participating institutions worldwide.

Similar to 2024, PNU participated in four sustainable development goals (SDGs). With its commitment to quality assurance, PNU has recorded an improved rank in three SDGs, namely: rank 201-300 for SDG 1 (No Poverty), rank 801-1000 for SDG 4 (Quality Education), and rank 101-200 for SDG 5 (Gender Equality). Meanwhile, the country's National Center for Teacher Education achieved a rank of 1500+ for SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals). A noteworthy achievement for the university this year is its ranking in SDG 5 Gender Equality, where it entered the highest tier of the global rankings. The last time PNU reached this tier was during the 2023 installment of the rankings.

The THE Impact Rankings is a global performance assessment that focuses on the contributions of higher education institutions to the achievement of the United Nations' (UN) SDGs.

With a powerful message on future-ready education, PNU President, Dr. Bert J. Tuga opened the plenary sessions of the 2nd International Research Opportunities, Development, and Extension Outcomes (IRODEO) Conference 2025, held at the Liceo De Masbate in Masbate City from June 16 to 18. Taking center stage, Dr. Tuga shared his insights on “Transformative Pedagogies for Future-Ready Education,” making PNU as an example on how Global Citizenship Education affects the shaping resilient, compassionate, and future-ready educators. His sharing set the tone for the conference, inspiring participants to reimagine education as a force for equity, equality, sustainability, and global change.

In his presentation, President Tuga highlights the urgent need to rethink education in response to the unprecedented challenges such as climate change, violent and hateful ideologies, mass loss of biodiversity, new conflicts, and risks of global pandemics. Anchored in UNESCO’s call for a new social contract for education, the presentation defines future-ready education as a holistic approach that fosters collaboration, critical thinking, empathy, and deep connection with environment. It emphasizes transformative education that empowers learners to create positive societal change, while sustainable education nurtures values and actions aligned with environmental and social well-being. The presentation also showcases how PNU integrates Global Citizenship Education (GCED) to develop future-ready educators equipped to lead change in an evolving world. He ended by informing the attendees on how to achieve the unesco’s social contract by rebalancing and rethinking our relationship with each other, planet, and technology.

The keynote speech was delivered by the President of Batangas state University and President of PASUC, Dr. Titso A. Ronquillo highlighting the challenges our country is experiencing toward achieving the sustainable development goals while sharing the best practices of Batangas State University. While the president of DEBESMSCAT, Dr. Arnel B. Millesca set the tone by explaining rationale and objectives the IRODEO conference and welcoming all the participants.

IRODEO 2025 emerges as a landmark initiative of



Dr. Emilio B. Espinosa Sr. Memorial State College of Agriculture and Technology (DEBESMSCAT) that champions inclusivity and underscores gender and development as core priorities. Rooted in academic, research, production, and community engagement, the conference aims to bring together scholars, researchers, and professionals from various disciplines to address global challenges through a collaborative and interdisciplinary approach. Positioned as a premier platform for showcasing research and extension projects to an international audience, IRODEO 2025 also celebrates the rich cultural heritage of the Province of Masbate by aligning with the annual RODEO festivities, adding a distinct regional dimension to the event. More than just an academic gathering, the conference reaffirms DEBESMSCAT’s commitment to promoting gender equality and sustainable development while advancing its vision of inclusive and impactful education and outreach.







The Philippine Normal University (PNU) continues to lead the way in transformative education, this time on the global stage. In a groundbreaking international extension initiative, PNU brought its expertise to Dili, Timor-Leste, just as the country was officially welcomed as a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), marking a pivotal moment in its development. PNU stood in solidarity with Timor-Leste to support its national education reform agenda, partnering with the Instituto Superior Dom Bosco (ISDB) under the Fundação Educacional Salesiana. This strategic collaboration marks PNU's commitment to educational diplomacy and global citizenship, contributing meaningfully to the development of education systems within the ASEAN region.

The international extension program featured a series of hybrid (online and on-site) workshops focused on curriculum revision. Launched in January 2025 with virtual learning sessions, the program culminated in a five-day in-person engagement in Dili from May 26 to 30, 2025. This monumental initiative aimed to strengthen ISDB's academic offerings and equip its faculty and administrators with the tools needed for Outcome-Based Education (OBE) curriculum development.

A flagship project of the Community Partnership and Extension Office (CPEO), the program underscores PNU's dedication to building strong, impactful global academic partnerships. The PNU delegation was led by Director Eisha Vienna M. Fernandez of the CPEO, alongside curriculum experts Dr. Florisa B. Simeon and Dr. Felicia I. Yeban from the Faculty of Behavioral and Social Sciences and the Curriculum Management and Instructional Materials Office.

During the intensive on-site engagement, Dr.

Simeon and Dr. Yeban led breakout workshops that empowered ISDB faculty and administrators to revise their Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy major in Social Philosophy into a dynamic, learner-centered, and OBE-aligned program.

Key activities included the identification of desired graduate attributes, formulation of program outcomes, review and revision of course offerings, curriculum mapping, syllabi and course description development, and course programming and sequencing.

Beyond technical outputs, the sessions fostered meaningful cross-cultural exchange, shared learning, and a collective commitment to academic excellence and regional relevance. The collaboration invigorated the ISDB academic community and laid a strong foundation for continued engagement with PNU.

As PNU's second international extension initiative in Timor-Leste, the success of this project heralds the potential for deeper and more sustained academic partnerships. It reflects the university's forward-looking vision of future-ready education, guided by a spirit of service, solidarity, and Southeast Asian integration.

As Timor-Leste takes its place among ASEAN nations, PNU's timely presence and support in strengthening its educational institutions stand as a powerful testament to what can be achieved through purposeful collaboration.



At exactly 9:00 AM, the sound of the alarm signaled the start of the second quarter National Simultaneous Earthquake Drill (NSED), prompting members of the Philippine Normal University (PNU) community to perform the standard safety protocol: "duck, cover, and hold." After a few seconds of simulated tremors, students, faculty, and staff calmly evacuated their respective classrooms and offices and proceeded to the designated assembly areas.

The earthquake drill also includes post-evacuation activities such as rescue and clearing operations, simulating possible scenarios in the aftermath of a major earthquake. These activities aim to test and enhance the university's emergency response capabilities and coordination during disasters.

PNU's active participation in the NSED reflects its ongoing commitment to safety and disaster preparedness. The drill was organized and facilitated by the University's Disaster Risk Reduction and Management (DRRM) Committee, chaired by Vice President for Finance and Administration Dr. Lordinio A. Vergara, together with the Vice Chairpersons - Administrative Services Management Office (ASMO) Director Ms. Jenny C. Malitao and Facilities Management and Sustainability Office (FMSO) Director Prof. John P. Natividad.

The NSED is a nationwide initiative led by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDRRMC) through the Office of Civil Defense (OCD), held quarterly to strengthen disaster preparedness and response efforts in educational institutions, government agencies, and communities across the country.



The Philippine Normal University has a reputation for upholding the highest standards of excellence across various fields. This reputation has been solidified by the numerous accolades received by the institution throughout its more than a century-long existence. On this solemn occasion, an edifice, known as the Wall of Excellence, was unveiled. It will serve as a pedestal for the university's marks of accomplishment and success.

Part of the launch included brief testimonies from the Vice Presidents sharing their definitions of excellence within their respective areas of leadership. Vice President for Academics Dr. Marilyn U. Balagtas discussed achievements in the LEPT and other Licensure Examinations. Vice President for Finance and Administration Dr. Lordinio A. Vergara emphasized success through sound financial management processes. Vice President for Research, Extension, and Quality Assurance Dr. Teresita T. Rungduin elaborated on the remarkable journey toward becoming a Quality Assurance Champion. Lastly, Vice President for Student Success and Stakeholder Services Dr. Denmark L. Yonson focused on student success and international relevance.

The unveiling and blessing of the Wall of Excellence shortly followed, with University President Dr. Bert J. Tuga leading the ceremonial act.

In his message, President Tuga explained the significance of having a structure like the Wall of Excellence, which inspires PNUans and reminds them not to rest on their laurels but to strive for greater heights and more accomplishments.

The Wall of Excellence, located beside the Alumni and Public Relations Hall, showcases the recognitions earned by the university since 2020, particularly during President Tuga's tenure.

The PNU POST is the official publication of the Philippine Normal University. This quarterly publication documents news stories on the University's activities and features relevant developments and issues in education.

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