



MARCH 2026 LEPT TOP PERF SCHOOL

The Philippine Normal University remained the Number 1 institution in the Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers. This was made evident as the Professional Regulation Commission released the results of the March 2026 rendition of the examination. As a testament to its excellence, all of PNU's campuses claimed a spot on the list of Top Performing Schools, particularly in the Secondary Level.

SECONDARY LEVEL

**TOP 1
PNU MANILA**

99.29%

100%

**TOP 1
PNU MINDANAO**

**TOP 2
PNU VISAYAS**

98.87%

100%

**TOP 1
PNU NORTH LUZON**

**TOP 8
PNU SOUTH LUZON**

96.88%

ELEMENTARY LEVEL

98.51%

**TOP 1
PNU NORTH LUZON**

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PERSISTING TRADITION: PNU MANILA HOLDS TORCH CEREMONY AND SALUTE TO EXCELLENCE DESPITE ANOTHER DOWNPOUR

The continuous afternoon rain did not dampen the burning zeal of junior and graduating PNUans at the main campus as the annual Torch Ceremony and Salute to Excellence was held on June 26, 2026. For the third year in a row, the Torch Ceremony schedule was marred by rain, but the tradition continued and the sulo was passed. As in previous years, in the cramped halls of the Main Building, PNUans stood their ground, unfazed by the inclement weather, eagerly participating in this decades-old tradition.

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PASUC-NCR DECLARED OVERALL 2ND RUNNER-UP IN NCAF 2026; PNU CONTRIBUTES 6 GOLDS

As the final curtain of the PASUC National Culture and the Arts Festival 2026 came down, thousands of student-artists, together with their coaches, school officials, and delegation members, exuded a profound sense of pride that easily outshone the fading stage lights. Culminating an exhilarating week dedicated to the nation's rich artistic diversity, participants were all eager to know one final facet of the competition: who would be this year's overall champion?

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PUBLISHED NORMAL AWARDS WINNING STORY BOOKS

Join us in celebrating voices that champion inclusivity and representation!

We are proud to present the official publication of the winning entries from the Normal Awards: Gender-Inclusive Literature. This anthology brings together powerful works that challenge societal norms, amplify diverse perspectives, and promote equality through the written word.

Physical copies are currently available at the University Library and the GEDI Office, while the digital version can be seamlessly accessed through our online repository: <https://opac.pnu.edu.ph/common/servlet/presenthomeform.do?l2m=Home&tm=Home&l2m=Home>.

May these stories continue to inspire, empower, and pave the way for more inclusive narratives in literature.



PHILIPPINE NORMAL UNIVERSITY
The National Center for Teacher Education



Featured Alumna for April 2026

DR. EXCELSA C. TONGSON

[f](#) [i](#) [c](#) @pnusystem www.pnu.edu.ph

APRIL 2026 ALUMNI TRAILBLAZER DR. EXCELSA C. TONGSON

Dr. Excelsa C. Tongson is a Professor of Family Life and Child Development at the College of Home Economics, the University of the Philippines Diliman (UPD). Through the years, she has handled key administrative positions, including College Secretary, Project Development Associate of the Office of the University Registrar, and Deputy Director for Training, Outreach, and Extension Program of the UP Center for Women's and Gender Studies. She has been awarded with numerous professorial chair grants such as One UP Professorial Chair for Teaching and Public Service and UP Centennial Professorial Chair.

Dr. Tongson is a passionate feminist and human rights advocate with more than 30 years of experience working with children, women, and people of diverse backgrounds. Her research interests include gender responsive early childhood care and development (ECCD) and unpaid care work of women in multi-generation households. She has conducted training and led studies and projects for local and international organizations such as UNICEF, UN Women, UN Research Institute for Social Development, The World Bank, and Save the Children Philippines. She spearheaded key education and child development projects such as the UNICEF projects on the Development of Home-based materials for parents during the COVID-19 Pandemic, Strengthening Systems for Capacity Building of Child Development Workers and Child Development Teachers in partnership with the ECCD Council, and Development of Learning Exemplars for Kindergarten for the Department of Education. In preparation for the 30th Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 2025, she led a series of consultations across Luzon, Visayas, Mindanao, and the National Capital Region that brought together 372 women and girls from various community-based and women's organizations. She is the Editor-in-Chief of PRISMA, gender and education e-journal of the Philippine Normal University. She was a Philippine Delegate to the United Nations during the 68th and 69th Sessions of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women in 2024 and 2025 at the UN Headquarters in New York City.

Now, the Philippine Normal University, my alma mater, lives on in me through cherished memories and profound lessons whose influence remains deeply woven into my being. My batch belonged to the first group of students admitted here after the 1986 EDSA Revolution. Early on, our esteemed professors impressed upon us a clear and powerful purpose: our university would be the leading innovator in education in the Philippines and in the ASEAN Region, producing alumni with both the capacity and the commitment to respond to the nation's changing needs across time. To think deeply about education in a changing environment is to envision change—and change requires reflection and choices.

Truly, the world has transformed in remarkable ways since the day I graduated from this university. These transformations, brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, the digital revolution, the proliferation of Artificial Intelligence, and other factors, present colossal challenges that both national and global educational systems must confront with creativity, courage, and innovation. PNU has equipped me with the competencies necessary in a fluid, interconnected, and increasingly complex world. Diversity, inclusion, and multi-age classrooms are not new to me—they were already part of our discussions back in college. Over time, these perspectives and concepts, including gender equality, have grown stronger and more vital, shaping the learning environments that PNU now champions with unwavering commitment.

I could speak volumes about what PNU has taught me, yet at its core lies the certainty that no matter what changes or challenges we face, teaching will always remain profoundly human that would require our unwavering commitment, valiant creativity, sharpest critical thinking, and most meaningful collaboration.

To my dear alma mater, the Philippine Normal University, thank you for lighting the path not only for me but for the countless educators you have guided. This award is not only a recognition of our valuable contribution to nation building, but a reminder that we need to hold our torches for the future of education.



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True to the spirit of Pagsaulog, a Cebuano term for celebration, the energy brought about by a shared passion for culture and the arts never dwindled until the closing program of the biennial competition. One by one, the names of competing regions were called, giving them the chance to take the stage and showcase their newly acquired hardware. When the third-place overall winner—the second runner-up—was announced, a deafening roar filled the Cultural Center of the West Visayas State University as the National Capital Region was called onto the stage.

With a total of 136 points, PASUC-NCR maintained its podium spot, a feat it first achieved during the 2024 installment of the NCAF in Manila. Aside from the impressive point total, the region also tallied 12 medals: eight golds, one silver, and three bronze medals. The Philippine Normal University (PNU) contributed the highest number of awards to this medal haul, with student-artists from the National Center for Teacher Education securing six gold and one bronze medal.

Kicking off the golden streak was the award-winning PNU Chorale, which sang and grooved its way to first place in the Show Choir Competition with its rendition of "DAM" by SB19. The chorale was guided by their coach, Prof. Luzviminda B. Modelo.

This was immediately followed by a first-place recognition bestowed upon James F. Aqui in the Classical Guitar competition. Coached by Alann Isaiah D. Pacpaco, Aqui's winning piece was masterfully arranged by Florante Aguilar.

From there, it was all about dance, as PNU Performing Groups swept the top honors across all their competing categories. The PNU Kislap Sining Dance Troupe (KSDT) all-male crew dominated the Folk Dance category with their performance of the Pandanggo sa Bulig, a dance of thanksgiving and supplication depicting the process of mudfish catching. The team was under the able coaching of Prof. Romeo R. Rioflorido, Head of the Center for Sports, Culture, and Arts Development, accompanied by Dwyght Qorban B. Infante.

Following suit, the PNU KSDT all-female group, together with the Kwerdas ng Sining, finessed their way to first place with an elegant rendition of the Pig-apir—a Maranao dance of royalty and affluent community members. This secured a back-to-back gold for the PNU KSDT, mentored by Prof. Richard A. Urgelles and accompanied by Carl Wenci C. Loberiano.

The members of the Balingsasayaw then took the Contemporary Dance competition by storm. Mecha Grace J. Valdez and Jordan Pol P. Villanueva won first place with their creative reimagination of the ubiquitous Budots beat, trained by Ivan A. Boloron and the Director of the Institute of Creative Expressions and Human Movement Education, Dr. Joel G. Tubera. Capping off the gold rush was the overall performance of the PNU Balingsasayaw. Their winning piece was a graceful and evocative criticism of pressing issues in the country, guided to victory by coaches Ivan A. Boloron and Robert Stephen R. Biadoma.

Beyond the first-place accolades, several other PNU student-artists contributed significantly to the region's overall score. Celso B. Bitago III and Kris Lorenz Guerra showcased their dramatic flair, taking home third place in Duo Acting (English) under the guidance of Prof. John Rufiel G. Aniceto and Judesio B. Maraas Jr. Meanwhile, Naomi Alaine Carbonell secured fourth place in the Oral Interpretation of Poetry, trained by her dedicated coach, Prof. Marla C. Papango. In the Dramatic Monologue category, Roxan U. Tajonera shone brightly by landing in fifth place, coached by Marian Cristina S. Trance. Capping off the point-earning victories for PNU was Russ Gavriel E. Almirañez. Accompanied by Danielle G. Enero, he won fifth place in the Instrumental Solo (Banduria) under the tutelage of coaches Nelyan D. Buraga and Mykoh Treziel T. Mallari.

Ultimately, the stellar performance of the PASUC-NCR and the PNU delegation underscores the university's unwavering commitment to holistic education and the preservation of Philippine culture and the arts. As these student-artists return to Manila with accolades and newfound experiences, they carry with them not just honor for the region, but a cemented legacy of artistic excellence. With the 2026 festival officially closed, the stage is now set for these young talents to continue honing their craft, eagerly anticipating the next chapter of this vibrant celebration of Filipino artistry. The region also looks forward to the next NCAF in 2028, which is slated to be held in Mindanao.



Today @ PNU

PNU Alumni reunite in Grand Homecoming 2026, celebrate legacy and lifelong service

PNU ALUMNI REUNITE IN GRAND HOMECOMING 2026, CELEBRATE LEGACY AND LIFELONG SERVICE

The Philippine Normal University Alumni Association, Inc., in partnership with the Alumni Relations Office of the Philippine Normal University (PNU), successfully convened its distinguished graduates for the

Grand Alumni Homecoming 2026 on April 26 at the PNU Gymnasium. Anchored to the theme “PNUAA: Celebrating a Glorious Heritage Toward a Life of Service,” the event reaffirmed the University’s enduring legacy as the National Center for Teacher Education and its steadfast commitment to nation-building through transformative education.

The celebration commenced with preliminary activities that fostered reconnection and reflection among alumni across generations. Registration and batch socialization provided opportunities for meaningful engagement, while the Eucharistic Celebration, officiated by Rev. Fr. Viel Bautista, offered a solemn moment of thanksgiving and spiritual grounding for the PNU community.

A ceremonial entrance highlighted the continuity of the University’s alumni network, featuring jubilarians from milestone classes spanning 1961 to 2006. Representing decades of dedicated service, the Blue Sapphire, Diamond, Emerald, Golden, Sapphire, Ruby, Coral, Pearl, Silver, and China jubilarians symbolized the enduring impact of PNU graduates in the field of education and beyond.

The program proper formally opened with the

entrance of colors, followed by the National Anthem and doxology led by the PNU Chorale. In her welcome message, the Vice President for Student Success and Stakeholders Services, Dr. Leah Amor S. Cortez, underscored the significance of alumni engagement in sustaining the University’s mission. This was followed by the inspirational message from University President Dr. Bert J. Tuga, who reaffirmed PNU’s leadership in teacher education and called on alumni to remain steadfast in their commitment to excellence, integrity, and service.

A highlight of the event was the keynote address delivered by Hon. Justice Amy C. Lazaro-Javier, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the Philippines and a distinguished alumna, whose message inspired participants to uphold the highest standards of professionalism and public service.

The Awards Ceremony served as a significant moment of recognition, honoring alumni whose exemplary contributions have advanced education, leadership, and national development.

National Awardees included Dr. Dexter M. Balajadia, Dr. Boyet L. Batang, Dr. Leah Amor

S. Cortez, Dr. Melody J. Patacsil-Cruz, Dr. Violeta Mabazza-Gonzales, Hon. Justice Amy C. Lazaro-Javier, Mrs. Jocelyn A. Navarro, Atty. Ruth De Paz-Nelson, Mrs. Marnelli B. Tolentino, Mr. Romulo P. Oconer, and Ms. Erlinda San Juan. The Couple Award was conferred upon Dr. Ronaldo B. Lara and Mrs. Emely G. Lara.

Meanwhile, Chapter Awardees included Ms. Estrella D. Manigo, Ms. Elsa Ramirez-Encabo, Ms. Emerenciana M. Salazar, and Ms. Cecilia C. Sipin from the PNU Chapter; Dr. Lloyd Tulaylay from the San Juan City Chapter; Ms. Generieve B. Corona from the Caloocan City Chapter; and Dr. Al Rynne G. Gatcho from the Malabon City Chapter.

The celebration of jubilarians further honored alumni marking milestones from 20 to 65 years since graduation, highlighting not only individual achievements but also the collective legacy of PNU graduates in shaping generations of learners.

The event concluded with a fellowship dinner and social activities that strengthened camaraderie and renewed shared commitments among alumni.

The success of the Grand Alumni Homecoming 2026 was made possible through the invaluable support of various University offices, namely: the Office of the Vice President for Student Success and Stakeholders Services, Events Management Office, Presidential Management Unit, Strategic Communication and Public Relations Unit, University Library, Administrative Services Management Office, Archives and Records Management Unit, Procurement Management Unit, Safety and Security Management Unit, Supply and Property Unit, University Health Services Unit, Auxiliary Services and Business Development Office, Business and Events Services Unit, Printing and Press Unit, Facilities Management and Sustainability Office, Management Information System, and the Research Management Office.

More than a gathering, the Grand Alumni Homecoming 2026 stood as a testament to the enduring bond among PNU alumni and their unwavering dedication to a life of service—affirming that the true legacy of the University resides in its graduates who continue to inspire, transform, and serve the nation.



PNU CALL HOLDS OPENING PROGRAM OF PROJECT RISE, CATERS TO FIRST SET OF COHORTS

The Philippine Normal University (PNU), through the College of Alternative and Lifelong Learning (CALL), officially launched Project RISE (Reskilling, Innovating, and Sustaining Excellence in ECE Teaching) with a virtual Opening Program held on April 27, 2026, via Zoom. This initial implementation of the six-day flagship initiative is particularly designed to upskill and reskill Child Development Workers (CDWs) and Child Development Teachers (CDTs).

In his message, PNU President Dr. Bert J. Tuga emphasized that participating in the program demonstrates a commitment to growth, service, and the community's children. He also recognized the vital role these participants play; as the first teachers to shape the experiences of budding learners, they stand at the very foundation of the education system.

The program aims to strengthen the teaching proficiency of current Early Childhood Education practitioners, including CDWs and CDTs, by addressing identified competency gaps in early grade instruction. Furthermore, Project RISE serves as a foundational academic pathway for participants who wish to pursue further studies and professional credentials in early childhood education.

The inaugural batch is proudly hosted by PNU-Manila, serving as the pioneering hub for this nationwide effort. As the first cohort embarks on the program, they will immerse themselves in a community dedicated to excellence and inclusivity, ensuring that every Filipino child receives a strong, meaningful start in life.



PNU INKS MOU WITH UMJ AND Uji TO BOOST ACADEMIC EXCHANGE

The recent Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signing between Universitas Jambi, Universitas Muhammadiyah Jakarta, and the Philippine Normal University (PNU) marked

a significant step toward strengthening international academic cooperation. The partnership reflects a shared commitment to fostering educational excellence, research development, and cross-cultural exchange within the Southeast Asian region. The agreement is grounded in mutual trust and aims to promote the growth and development of the participating institutions while enhancing international understanding and goodwill. Through this collaboration, the universities intend to create meaningful academic opportunities for students,

faculty, and researchers alike. Representing PNU at the signing were Dr. Bert J. Tuga, University President; Dr. Marilyn U. Balagtas, Vice President for Academics; Dr. Gladys C. Nivera, Dean of the College of Teacher Development; Dr. Niño D. Naldoza, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Education and Information Sciences; Dr. Voltaire Villanueva, Associate Dean of the Faculty of General Education and Experiential

Learning; Dr. Victoria Delos Santos, Internship Coordinator; and Dr. Jeffrey Ginez.

Representing Universitas Jambi, Indonesia, were Prof. Dr. Revis Asra, M.Sc., Vice Rector for Partnerships, Public Relations, and Information Systems; Prof. Dr. Supian Ramli, M.Ag., Dean of the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education; and Dr. Fortunasari, S.S., M.A., Vice Dean for Academic Affairs and Cooperation. Meanwhile, Universitas Muhammadiyah Jakarta was represented by Prof. Dr. Diah Andika Sari, M.Pd., Senior Lecturer and Faculty Member of the Faculty of Education.

Central to the MOU are several key areas of cooperation. These include the exchange of students, enabling learners to gain international exposure and broaden their academic perspectives. Faculty and researcher exchanges are also emphasized, allowing educators to share expertise, collaborate on innovative teaching methods, and contribute to global knowledge production. Additionally, the institutions plan to exchange academic information and publications, further strengthening scholarly communication among them.

The partnership also highlights joint research activities and the co-organization of international research conferences. These initiatives are expected to generate new insights, encourage interdisciplinary collaboration, and address regional and global challenges. Beyond academic endeavors, the agreement also supports cultural exchanges, fostering deeper connections and mutual appreciation among the participating countries.

While the MOU outlines broad areas of collaboration, specific programs and activities will be developed and implemented through separate agreements between the institutions. Importantly,

to internationalization, PNU continues to expand transformative global learning opportunities for its students through international teaching engagements. For this installment of the International Experiential Learning Program (IELP), two groups of PNU practice teachers were able to immerse themselves in a meaningful learning experience in Vietnam.

Kickstarting the learning program in Hanoi were five pre-service teachers from PNU Manila who

the agreement respects the autonomy of each university and does not impose financial obligations on any party.

The MOU will remain in effect for five years, with provisions for renewal or revision upon mutual consent. It also ensures that any intellectual property generated through joint activities will be governed by applicable laws, including the Philippines' Technology Transfer Act and Data Privacy Act, safeguarding both innovation and data protection.

The signing of this agreement signifies a shared vision among Universitas Jambi, Universitas Muhammadiyah Jakarta, and the Philippine Normal University to build a dynamic and collaborative academic network. As higher education continues to evolve in a globalized world, such partnerships play a vital role in advancing knowledge, promoting cultural understanding, and preparing future generations for an interconnected future.

In line with the Philippine Normal University's (PNU) Strategic Development Plan (SDP) 2022–2032 and its strong commitment

participated in an international Practice Teaching program at the Academy of Policy and Development (APD) in Hanoi from March 23 to April 11, 2026. The participants—Bernadette Francyne Marbella, Miles Cunanan, Bryn Ashley Lakhanpal, Julianna Cassandra Barican, and Miguel Javier—engaged in classroom teaching, collaborative academic activities, and intercultural exchanges.

Shortly after, another group of PNU Practice Teachers hailing from various campuses also flew to Hanoi and underwent the IELP from April 1 to 15, 2026. Their program was under the supervision of Vietnam National University, University of Education. The group was composed of Vivienne Hannah Corbita (PNU Manila); Noela Aiah Jane Campos and Marielle Anne Javier (PNU Mindanao); and Stephen Marc Talaver, Trisha Kate Bumagat, Romy Dave Pabico, and Majesty Antolin (PNU North Luzon),



PNU PRACTICE TEACHERS COMPLETE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENTIAL LEARNING PROGRAMS IN VIETNAM

representing various teacher education programs. As part of the program, Early Childhood Education majors were deployed at Vinschool, while secondary education majors were assigned to Phenikaa School. These placements enabled the interns to engage in authentic teaching experiences across diverse learning environments.

The immersion provided opportunities for classroom observation, lesson planning, instructional material development, and guided teaching practice. The interns also served as teaching assistants and facilitated lessons, demonstrating the application of outcomes-based teacher education and reflective practice, consistent with PNU's mandate as the National Center for Teacher Education.

The programs not only strengthened the interns' instructional capabilities but also deepened their appreciation of diverse educational systems. Their exposure to bilingual instruction, varied classroom dynamics, and cross-cultural collaboration reflects the SDP's goal of producing globally competitive, culturally responsive, and research-informed educators.

Supervising teachers from partner institutions commended the PNU interns for their dedication, professionalism, and

ability to integrate seamlessly into their respective school environments—affirming the quality of PNU's teacher education programs. As these international engagements conclude, the participating pre-service teachers return to the Philippines equipped with enhanced competencies, global perspectives, and a strengthened commitment to excellence in education. Their experiences exemplify the transformative impact of internationalization in advancing PNU's vision of being a globally recognized teacher education university.



PNU, DOST-SEI RENEW COMMITMENT TO ELEVATE STEM EDUCATION THROUGH STAR PROGRAM

In a strategic move to boost the quality of science and mathematics education, the Department of Science and Technology - Science Education Institute (DOST-SEI) and the Philippine Normal University (PNU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on April 20, 2026. The agreement is centered on the implementation of the "Science Teacher Academy for the Regions" (STAR) program, an initiative developed to ensure that high-impact professional development activities are carried out all over the country in a regular and timely manner.

Recognizing the urgent need to capacitate educational leaders, DOST-SEI and PNU tailored the STAR program to equip science and mathematics teachers with essential instructional skills to meet the rigorous demands of quality STEM education.

Both institutions share a vision of building a competitive pool of human resources and commit to providing professional development for both pre-service and in-service teachers in their respective schools and localities.

To achieve these goals, the MOU outlines distinct responsibilities for both institutions. The Philippine Normal University will ensure the participation of at least three faculty members from its Science and Mathematics Department to serve as regional trainers for pre-service and in-service teachers. The university commits to sending these identified trainers to STAR-related activities organized by DOST-SEI and will conduct similar activities for basic education teachers in coordination with DOST-SEI and the Department of Education (DepEd). Furthermore, PNU trainers will be encouraged to integrate learnings from

the professional development activities into the teaching of their pre-service teachers, while the university itself will provide the on-site venues necessary to host STAR-related activities and meetings.

On the other hand, DOST-SEI will design, implement, and provide vital financial support to the National and Regional Capacitating and Mentoring Programs. The agency will identify participants for the in-service teacher activities in close collaboration with DepEd and actively assist PNU in conducting activities in its region. Additionally, DOST-SEI is tasked with monitoring PNU's compliance, tracking the progress of the program's implementation, conducting evaluation activities to gather feedback, and recommending measures to address any STAR-related problems that may arise.

PNU President Dr. Bert J. Tuga and DOST-SEI Director IV Dr. Jayeel S. Cornelio signed the agreement. The signing was witnessed by Ms. Cynthia T. Gayya, Chief Science Research Specialist for DOST-SEI, and Dr. Alfons Jayson O. Pelgone, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Science, Technology and Mathematics at PNU.

The memorandum takes effect immediately upon signing and is slated to remain in full force until December 2030.



PNU AND ABIVA ESTABLISH PARTNERSHIP TO ENHANCE STUDENTS' READING LITERACY THROUGH SRA READING LABORATORY POWER BUILDERS PROJECT

With the goal of strengthening early-grade reading literacy, the **Philippine Normal University** (PNU) and ABIVA Publishing House Inc. (ABIVA) formalized their partnership through the signing of a **Memorandum of Agreement** (MOA) on April 24, 2026, at PNU Manila. The agreement formalizes the implementation of the SRA Reading Laboratory Power Builders Project (PARLAB-PB) in the University's laboratory schools across three campuses: PNU Manila, PNU Visayas, and PNU Mindanao.

Rooted in a shared commitment to literacy development, the initiative underscores the role of reading as a cornerstone of learning that will lead to knowledge, critical thinking, and lifelong opportunities.

In his message, PNU President **Dr. Bert J. Tuga** expressed his appreciation to ABIVA for the initiative, describing it as an exciting endeavor that will benefit young readers. He emphasized that this provision marks an important step toward enhancing the reading competence of learners at the foundational level.

Mr. Louie Gerard G. Abiva, Company President, conveyed his gratitude to PNU for accepting the donation of reading resources. He expressed optimism that the project will generate a positive impact on students, particularly in improving reading literacy, and help expand opportunities for learners to become proficient readers.

In attendance from the PNU Delegation were Dr. Voltaire M. Villanueva, Associate Dean of the Faculty of General Education and Experiential Learning, Dr. Josephine M. Calamlam, Head of the Center for Reading and Literacy, Dr. Jeffrey C. Ginez, Head of the Center for Teaching and Learning, and Mr. Gerard G. Manuel, Board Secretary. Also present from ABIVA were Mr. Norberto L. Guarino, Vice President for Market Strategy and Sales, and Ms. Rinna Mae Cruz, Lead Coordinator of the Reading Training Services.

With ABIVA's expertise in developing quality learning materials and PNU's leadership in teacher education, the collaboration aims to nurture learners' reading proficiency and contribute meaningfully to the advancement of the country's educational landscape.



**PNU, GCC-PH BRING
TEACH FOR PEACE TO
NORTHERN SAMAR,
CULTIVATE PEACE
EDUCATION AMONG
EDUCATORS**

Educators, academic leaders, and peace advocates gathered for the successful two-day Teach for PEACE (Peace Education and Advocacy for Community Empowerment): Kamurayawan Training of Trainers, a transformative initiative aimed at equipping faculty members with the knowledge, tools, and frameworks needed to integrate peace education into classrooms and communities. The training also underscored the growing importance of education as a pathway to healing, inclusion, resilience, and sustainable peace.

Held on April 20 to 21, 2026, in Catarman, Northern Samar, the program brought together faculty participants of the University of Eastern Philippines (UEP) in partnership with Samar State University and Philippine Normal University (PNU) through the Global Citizenship Education Cooperation Centre–Philippines (GCC-Ph).

The event formally opened with inspiring remarks from UEP President Dr. Cherry I. Ultra, who welcomed participants and expressed gratitude to the Philippine Normal University experts for bringing the initiative to Northern Samar. She emphasized the significance of adapting peace education competencies to higher education institutions, where future educators and professionals are formed.

Throughout the two-day training, participants engaged in comprehensive discussions on the principles and practice of peace education through a series of expert-led sessions facilitated by Prof. Marie Chiela C. Malcampo, Dr. Jayson L. De Vera, and Dr. Heidi B. Macahilig.

The sessions explored peace education as a holistic and community-centered approach that fosters empathy, healing, inclusion, resilience, and conflict resolution, particularly among communities affected by violence and displacement. Participants were also introduced to frameworks on literacy and peace education, inclusive and developmentally appropriate teaching, and the integration of socio-emotional learning into responsive classroom instruction.

Specialized module presentations highlighted how peacebuilding competencies may be embedded across learning areas and key stages, including Reading, Values Education, Science and Numeracy, and Araling Panlipunan. These modules emphasized critical thinking, respect for diversity, historical consciousness, active citizenship, environmental stewardship, and nation-building.

With the successful conclusion of the training, faculty participants returned to their respective colleges and programs empowered to champion peacebuilding principles, transform learning spaces, and serve as catalysts of positive change.

The Teach for PEACE: Kamurayawan Training of Trainers stands as a testament to the power of collaboration among higher education institutions in building a more compassionate, inclusive, and peace-responsive future for Northern Samar and beyond. As the initiative moves forward, preparations are now underway for the next phase—the validation of the Teachers’ Manual for Peace Education Modules and the Students’ Peace Education Modules, further strengthening the foundation for lasting peace through education.

The initiative drew strong support from regional and national education leaders, including University of Eastern Philippines President Dr. Cherry I. Ultra; UEP Vice President for Research, Innovation, Development, and Extension and GCED Focal Person for Region VIII, Dr. Karina Milagros R. Cui-Lim; Samar State University President Dr. Redentor S. Palencia; Dr. Rowena R. Hibanada; and Prof. Carl O. Dellomos, Director and Deputy Director of GCC Philippines, respectively. The initiative likewise carried the full support of Philippine Normal University President Dr. Bert J. Tuga, whose continued guidance reinforces the national commitment to advancing peace education.



PNU'S DR. TUGA JOINS HIGH-LEVEL PANEL TO ADDRESS FOUNDATIONAL RECOVERY IN PHILIPPINE JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOLS

As an affirmation of his knowledge, experience, and expertise in leading reforms and innovations in a pre-service teacher education institution, Dr. Bert J. Tuga took part in the panel discussion on Preparing JHS Teachers for Foundational Recovery. The event was convened by the Teacher Education Council (TEC), the Second Congressional Commission for Education (EDCOM II), and the Office of Senator Sherwin Gatchalian last April 1, 2026, in Makati City. Joining Dr. Tuga in this crucial, high-level conversation were other education authorities and trailblazers, led by Dr. Penny Bishop of the Wheelock College of Education & Human Development at Boston University, together with Dr. Edizon Fermin of the National Teachers College and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Technical Panel for Teacher Education and Dr. Nelda Gene Mariano of the Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Valenzuela.

The panel discussion tackled foundational learning gaps and proficiency challenges in Philippine junior high schools by looking toward international education models. Experts examined how developmentally responsive middle-grade research and foreign reform strategies could be leveraged to guide local educational recovery efforts.

Additionally, the dialogue assessed how adopting these global reforms might have a ripple effect on the academic system, specifically exploring their potential to strengthen both pre-service and graduate teacher education programs. This initiative was also seen as a source of vital input for the implementation of the Teacher Education Roadmap 2035.

Preceding the activity was a panel discussion on the context of teacher education in the Philippines, featuring officials and experts from renowned teacher education institutions across the country.

By integrating international best practices with local expertise, these collaborative discussions mark a pivotal step toward building a more resilient and responsive educational system. Ultimately, the insights gained from this high-level forum will play a vital role in equipping future educators to navigate the evolving challenges of the Philippine academic landscape and ensure lasting learner proficiency.



PNU TO OPEN NEW ACADEMIC YEAR IN JUNE, SHORTENS TERM 3 OF AY 25-26 AS PART OF TRANSITION

The Philippine Normal University (PNU) will open Academic Year (AY) 2026-2027 in June, synchronizing with the Department of Education's (DepEd) shift back to a June school opening. This alignment ensures seamless coordination for pre-service teachers conducting off-campus practicums, providing them with a natural classroom environment and a more genuine teaching experience alongside their DepEd Cooperating Teachers. Endorsing the calendar shift, the Teacher Education Council (TEC) described it as a "practical and strategic move." The TEC noted that harmonizing the university and basic education calendars allows pre-service teachers to engage in early immersion from their first year through their culminating practicum.

To facilitate this shift, the PNU Board of Regents approved Resolution No. U-3970, s. 2025, designating Term 3 of AY 2025-2026 as a shortened transition period running from April 23 to May 29, 2026. Additionally, Resolution No. U-4050, s. 2026, was issued to guide faculty loading policies during this term.

Classes during this transition will be highly concentrated due to both the compressed schedule and ongoing external challenges, specifically the State of National Energy Emergency and extreme heat conditions. Addressing these challenges, Malacañang issued Memorandum Circular No. 114 to mandate energy-saving measures, while the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) released Memorandum No. 117, s. 2026, allowing higher education institutions to adopt full online learning.

Acting on these government directives and responding to appeals from students and stakeholders, PNU management issued University Memorandum No. 120, s. 2026, revising class delivery modes for the transition term. Under this new scheme, Graduate and Post-Baccalaureate programs will be fully online. Meanwhile, undergraduate programs will follow a 75% online and 25% onsite model, with face-to-face sessions strictly limited to laboratory work, skills demonstrations, and major assessments. Finally, basic education will adopt a 50-50 hybrid modality. ePNU, the university's Learning Management System, will remain the primary platform supporting these online classes.

The needed shift to a June opening for PNU will significantly benefit a wide range of stakeholders by synchronizing crucial educational and professional transitions. For incoming college students, DepEd Senior High School graduates who finish in March 2026 will no longer endure a long waiting period; instead, they can seamlessly enter the University in June rather than waiting until August, as was the case in the previous academic calendar. Similarly, this adjustment allows Grade 10 completers from the PNU Laboratory School (Center for Teaching and Learning) to finish their classes early in May 2026, perfectly timing their enrollment should they decide to continue their Senior High School education in DepEd schools.

The realigned schedule also provides a major career advantage for outgoing PNU graduates, allowing them to enter the workforce immediately as basic education schools open in June, while also ensuring they can take their Licensure Examination in September 2026 shortly after earning their degrees. Finally, the synchronized academic calendar ensures that in-service teachers can smoothly pursue their graduate programs at PNU, as the University's schedule will now seamlessly align with their professional availability.

Ultimately, this brief transition period ensures that by the time AY 2026-2027 officially opens, PNU will be fully synchronized with the national school calendar.



AACCUP PREPS PNU FOR INSTITUTIONAL ACCREDITATION IN GIYA WORKSHOP

As part of its preparation for its Institutional Accreditation later this year, the Philippine Normal University held its first day of the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACCUP) Institutional Accreditation Training and Orientation Workshop on May 21, 2026. The activity, aptly dubbed Giya or guide, brought together university officials, faculty members, and administrative personnel in a collective effort to further strengthen the institution's

accreditation preparations and commitment to quality assurance.

Opening the program's cultural segment, the PNU Kislap Sining Dance Troupe, PNU Chorale, and PNU Rondalla presented the traditional Putungan, showcasing a vibrant display of music, dance, and cultural heritage that set a meaningful tone for the event and highlighted the university's commitment to preserving Filipino traditions.

The program formally opened with preliminaries, followed by welcome messages from university officials. Vice President for Research, Extension, and Quality Assurance Dr. Teresita T. Rungduin warmly welcomed the participants, while University President Dr. Bert J. Tuga emphasized the importance of sustaining quality education and institutional excellence through continuous improvement and strong collaboration among stakeholders.

Kickstarting the workshop proper was an in-depth discussion led by Dr. Milabel Enriquez Ho, Executive Director of the AACUP and President of the ASEAN Quality Assurance Network. As an experienced academic leader in higher education accreditation, Dr. Ho shared valuable insights on preparing for institutional accreditation surveys, emphasizing the role of quality assurance in strengthening academic institutions and effectively serving communities.

The event then focused on institutional accreditation preparations through discussions, portfolio development, and collaborative activities centered on the nine areas of assessment: governance and management; teaching, learning, and evaluation; faculty and staff; research; extension, consultancy, and linkages; support to students; library services; infrastructure and other learning resources; and quality assurance culture.

Participants took part in collaborative workshop activities that involved reviewing institutional data and preparing preliminary accreditation documents based on PNU's existing records. This session allowed participants to deepen their understanding of accreditation standards. Outputs from this workshop were presented to Dr. Ho, who graciously provided feedback on how to further improve the presentation of data during the upcoming accreditation.

On the second day, to further establish the readiness of the PNU community and ensure they showcase their best practices across all accreditation areas,

two breakout sessions were held where experts facilitated participative consultations. Dr. Ho was at the helm of the first group, while Dr. Sanjay P. Claudio, Director of the Quality Assurance Center of the Polytechnic University of the Philippines and a member of AACUP's Board of Trustees, shared his expertise with the second group.

In the afternoon, Mr. Dominic T. Martinez, AACUP IT Officer, delved into the Digitization, Uploading, and Presentation of Institutional Accreditation Documents, presenting mechanisms to simplify the process of establishing a sound repository of evidence.

Concluding the event were the impressions delivered by two select participants: Ms. Jenny C. Malitao, Director of PNU Manila's Administrative Services Management Office, and Dr. Jandy Danzalan, Director of PNU North Luzon's Research, Extension, Quality Assurance, and Development Office.

After the awarding of tokens of appreciation to the guests from AACUP, Prof. Ruel A. Avilla, Director of the Quality Assurance Management Office, highlighted in his closing statement that the activity marks the beginning of PNU's journey toward Institutional Accreditation, expressing his expectation of the community's full participation in achieving this goal.

As PNU sets its sights on the upcoming accreditation, Giya stands not just as a preparatory workshop, but as a unifying milestone—reinforcing the university's unwavering commitment to rigorous quality assurance, academic excellence, and transformative education.



ALUMNI TRAILBLAZER FOR MAY 2026 - MRS. SARAH O. MAGSINO

Mrs. Sarah O. Magsino, an alumna of PNU BSFN Batch 1984, is the Owner, Vice President, and Chief Operating Officer of Samuel Christian College of General Trias Inc. Since its founding in 2012, she has guided the school's growth and development into a thriving institution now serving almost 3,000 students and more than 150 staff members. The school operates PEAC-certified Junior High School and Senior High School programs under the Basic Education Department, as well as four college programs under the Higher Education Department. At the heart of her achievements is the seed sown by her dear alma mater.

“My journey with Philippine Normal University has not only shaped my intellectual and professional competence but has also deeply molded my character, values, and sense of mission. The institution's unwavering commitment to excellence, integrity, and service instilled in me a strong sense of responsibility toward learners, the community, and the nation.

Through the guidance of dedicated mentors, the rigor of academic training, and the richness of meaningful experiences, I was strengthened in resilience, discipline, and compassion.

PNU nurtured in me not just a professional educator, but a servant-leader driven by purpose and faith in the transformative power of education. The achievements I have attained today are a testament to the solid foundation laid by Philippine Normal University. I carry its values, lessons, and spirit with me in every aspect of my personal and professional life.

With deep gratitude and pride, I honor PNU as the institution that shaped my journey and empowered me to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.”



BEYOND FRAGMENTED COMPETENCIES

This position paper of the Philippine Normal University proposes a domain-based framework for General Education (GE) as an alternative to the currently proposed General Education Outcomes (GEOs).

The proposal is grounded in the view that General Education should not be reduced to a collection of transferable competencies or narrowly framed workforce skills, but should remain a coherent process of intellectual formation that prepares students for responsible participation in society, lifelong learning, and reflective engagement with an increasingly complex world.

You may access the complete position paper through <https://bit.ly/PNUreimagineGE>, or you may scan the QR code below.

MARCH 2026 LEPT MANILA

Congratulations to PNU Manila on being named the Top Performing Institution in the March 2026 Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers. With an outstanding 99.29% passing rate, the campus secured the number one spot in the Secondary Level category for institutions with 300 or more examinees and at least an 80% passing rate.

The university community also proudly recognizes the outstanding individual topnotchers from the campus, namely:

Elementary

- Top 4 - Grazieleanne Enesio Sellabe
- Top 10 - Cyrene Devota Lucaylucay



Secondary

- Top 4 - Abigael Dejumo Escala
- Top 9 - Krisha Linan Torzar
- Top 10 - Ma. Rufilly Mae Santolon Saguisa

Mabuhay ka, PNU Manila!



Elementary

- Top 5 - Feyanna Caño Martelino
- Top 5 - Jun Carlo Mercader Pormiento
- Top 5 - Hannah Faye Degorio Tamos
- Top 8 - Pauline June Macabudbud Llegue
- Top 8 - Ruby Joy Osigan Lopez

Secondary

- Top 5 - Erica Ostos Gonzales
- Top 5 - Maria Bernadette Cabriza Plaza
- Top 7 - Janine Auman Alcantara
- Top 7 - Jovic Picos Campus
- Top 7 - Grecel Juliet Momongan Maybuena
- Top 7 - Ivone Salloman Pablo
- Top 8 - Jayson Berandal Acabo
- Top 9 - Reynaldo Caymo Almano Jr.
- Top 9 - Glowen Kyle Daniel Aparece
- Top 10 - Krizza Niepes Jaojao

Iba ka, PNU Mindanao!

The campus secured the number one spot in both the Elementary and Secondary Levels, achieving an outstanding 98.51% and a perfect 100% passing rate, respectively.

Furthermore, PNU North Luzon proudly recognizes its eight individual topnotchers for this examination:

Elementary

- Top 2 - Lyza Mary Flores Florendo
- Top 7 - Natasha Lorien Diaz Bariza

MARCH 2026 LEPT MINDANAO

The PNU Community congratulates PNU Mindanao on being named the Top Performing Institution in the March 2026 Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers. With a perfect 100% passing rate, the campus secured the number one spot in the Secondary Level category for institutions with 100 to 299 examinees and at least a 90% passing rate.

Additionally, the campus produced the highest number of topnotchers among all PNU campuses. A total of 15 topnotchers across both the elementary and secondary levels hail from the university's Prosperidad-based campus:



MARCH 2026 LEPT NORTH LUZON

The PNU Community congratulates PNU North Luzon on being named the Top Performing Institution in the March 2026 Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers.

Elementary

- Top 7 - Desiree Gaspar Dacaca
- Top 9 - Cathlyn Mae Amante Castro
- Top 10 - Ma. Graciella Ignacio Del Rosario

Mabuhay ka, PNU North Luzon!

Secondary

- Top 2 - Joan Valdez Guiuo
- Top 9 - Mark Chester Acasio Batac
- Top 9 - Claudine Marie Pauig Jose



MARCH 2026 LEPT SOUTH LUZON

The PNU Community proudly congratulates PNU South Luzon on its recognition as a Top Performing Institution in the March 2026 Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers (Secondary Level).

Achieving an impressive 96.88% passing rate, the campus secured the eighth spot among institutions with 50 to 99 examinees and at least a 90% passing rate.

Furthermore, the Lopez-based campus produced two outstanding topnotchers in the Elementary Level: Raquel Delasas Silaya, who secured the third spot, and John David Relucano Argente, who placed eighth.

Mabuhay ka, PNU South Luzon!

MARCH 2026 LEPT VISAYAS

The PNU Community proudly celebrated PNU Visayas for securing a top ranking in the March 2026 Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers. PNU Visayas achieved a notable 98.87% passing rate, earning the Top 2 spot in the Secondary Level category for institutions with 100 to 299 examinees and at least a 90% passing rate.

Furthermore, Andrea Uella Bersales Falcunit brought additional honor to the



university by making it to the list of topnotchers, having secured the tenth place in the Secondary Level.

Padayon, PNU Visayas!



MET
MICRODATA EDTALK

INTEGRATING AI
IN TEACHING, LEARNING,
AND RESEARCH

EMPOWER Educators
ENHANCE Learning
ELEVATE Research
SHAPE the Future

In an era of rapid digital transformation, adapting to AI is no longer optional for forward-thinking educators; it is a catalyst for academic excellence. We are pleased to invite you to Microdata EdTalk, hosted by Microdata and the Philippine Normal University.

JUNE 2, 2026
8:30AM - 12:00NN
Philippine Normal University
Ermita, Manila (HRD Auditorium)

WATCH THE LIVESTREAM VIA FACEBOOK
• facebook.com/microdataph
• facebook.com/pnuusystem

AI-POWERED. • EDUCATION-DRIVEN. • FUTURE-FOCUSED.

GUEST SPEAKERS

Mr. Sherwin Pelayo
Chairman,
CHED's Technical Panel on AI
and Data Analytics

**Prof. April May Gascon,
RN, MAN**
Acting Director,
UST EdTech, University of Sto. Tomas

MICRODATA EDTALK

Artificial intelligence is reshaping how we teach, how students learn, and how we redefine education today. The challenge now is not whether to adapt, but how to integrate AI meaningfully and responsibly in education.

The MET Microdata EdTalk: Technology Summit for Education is a specialized academic forum hosted by Philippine Normal University in partnership with Microdata Systems and Management, Inc. It convenes education leaders, administrators, and technology experts from PASUC-NCR member universities to examine the transformative impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and digital innovation in advancing higher education.

Together, we explore practical and forward-looking approaches to integrating AI in teaching, learning, and research—strengthening the role of educators in a rapidly evolving digital landscape.



National Education Support Personnel Day 2026

PNU achieves. It is through their unwavering commitment that we are able to progress steadfastly in our core values of truth, excellence, and service.

Mandated by Republic Act (RA) No. 12178, the special working holiday recognizes the indispensable contributions of non-teaching personnel across the national education system. The observance provided a dedicated platform for educational government agencies to celebrate the relentless dedication of their administrative and support teams. Their foundational work remains essential in sustaining the safe, nurturing, and inclusive environments necessary for delivering high-quality education.

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

At the Philippine Normal University, we extend our deepest gratitude to our administrative and support staff, the quiet driving force behind our daily operations. They continually exceed expectations to guarantee that Inang Pamantasan operates efficiently, adapts to dynamic needs, and stays prepared for the future. While their essential contributions frequently occur away from the spotlight, their dedication is fundamentally woven into the fabric of every institutional triumph

PNU ATTENDS CAPEU BOARD MEETING IN THAILAND, ADVANCES REGIONAL ACADEMIC PARTNERSHIPS

Dr. Leah Amor S. Cortez, Vice President for Student Success and Stakeholder Success, and Prof. Bryan C. Dayuta, Director of the Linkages and International Office, represented Philippine Normal University (PNU)



at the Consortium of Asia-Pacific Education Universities (CAPEU) Board of Directors Meeting No. 1/2026 and 8th Annual General Meeting (AGM). The events were held on May 23, 2026, at Mahasarakham University in Thailand.

Held alongside the 12th International Conference on Educational Reform (ICER 2026), the high-level meeting convened university presidents, senior academic leaders, and internationalization representatives from across the Asia-Pacific. Participants discussed strategic priorities, collaborative initiatives, and governance matters aimed at advancing higher education cooperation.

A significant highlight of the meeting was the deliberation on key agenda items intended to strengthen CAPEU's collaborative ecosystem. Discussions centered on the admission of new institutional members, the expansion of the Global Transdisciplinary Education Research Grant (GlobalEDU), and the implementation of CAPEU ASPIRE mobility initiatives. Additionally, leaders outlined the rollout of professional membership programs, the recognition of honorary fellowships, the development of a CAPEU expert directory, and the selection of future hosts and leadership appointments.

The Board also reviewed CAPEU's financial standing and recent accomplishments. Updates highlighted the consortium's expanding portfolio of international conferences, executive talk series, regional competitions, research collaborations, and student engagement initiatives.

As one of CAPEU's 25 active member institutions, PNU's presence at this strategic gathering reflects its sustained commitment to fostering meaningful international partnerships. The attendance of Dr. Cortez and Prof. Dayuta provided an avenue to explore future collaborative opportunities and contribute to policy-level discussions shaping regional higher education.

As the National Center for Teacher Education, PNU continues to affirm its leadership by actively participating in global networks that support institutional excellence, academic mobility, and knowledge exchange. Through engagements like CAPEU, the University further strengthens its role as a forward-looking institution dedicated to preparing educators for an increasingly interconnected world.



PNU CONNECTS GRADUATING PRE-SERVICE TEACHERS WITH TOP EMPLOYERS AND GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AT ANNUAL CAREER FAIR

Bridging the gap between academe and industry, the PNU Career Fair 2026 successfully convened top educational institutions, corporate partners, and government agencies on Saturday, May 16, 2026, at the Edilberto P. Dagot Hall to prepare graduating seniors for their professional journeys. The event was organized by the Student Affairs and Services Office, in collaboration with the Seniors' Committee.

The event began with the opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony. Dr. Merimee U. Tampus-Siena, Director of SASO, formally welcomed the attendees, guests, and partner companies. In her opening remarks, she emphasized the university's unwavering commitment to holistic student development, including enhancing students' job readiness and career development. Meanwhile, Dr. Leah Amor S. Cortez, Vice President for Student Success and Stakeholder Services, delivered an empowering welcome message for the graduating batch, reminding them of the importance of career exploration and discernment.

The event gained further momentum with an inspiring message from Mr. John Hiroshi F. Umeda, Jr., the Acting Manager of the Public Employment Service Office (PESO) City of Manila. Mr. Umeda emphasized the vital role of public-private-academic collaborations in building a resilient workforce and reminded the students that success is not solely based on competencies and knowledge but, most importantly, on positive work values and character.

The career fair featured a wide array of participating organizations ready to support the students' transition into the workforce. Participating government agencies included SSS, PhilHealth, Pag-IBIG, and PESO. The event also hosted numerous partner schools and employers actively seeking new talent, such as La Trinidad Academy, Quezon City Christian

Academy, Southville International School and Colleges, Chiang Kai Shek College, La Salle College Antipolo, Grace Christian College, Inc., St. Andrew's School, Inc., Marymount School of Quezon City, Inc., Lasal Tech Academy, Inc., Acts Achi & Ahia, Inc., Atheneum School, and Infant Jesus Academy.

Furthermore, several institutions offered diverse avenues for growth beyond immediate employment. For those interested in continuing education, Leap-Geebee Education presented study abroad opportunities, while the PNU Admissions Office showcased graduate-level programs. Financial literacy was championed by AIA Philippines, the BPI Ermita Branch, and FWD Life Insurance – Stellar One Life Insurance Agency. Additionally, Mary Kay provided personal wellness and professional image consultations, while the Acts of Love Community highlighted avenues for personal advocacy and socio-civic responsibility.

By bridging the gap between career readiness and community service, the event ensured that the PNU Class of 2026 steps into the workforce not just to achieve personal success but to actively transform and uplift the nation.



Today @ PNU

PNU elected RCCR Vice-Chairperson for Academic Institutions

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PNU ELECTED RCCR VICE CHAIRPERSON FOR ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS

The Philippine Normal University (PNU) was elected Vice-Chairperson representing Academic Institutions in the recent elections of the Research Consortium on Children's Rights (RCCR), convened by the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC).

PNU is represented in the consortium by Dr. Teresita T. Rungduin, Vice President for Research, Extension, and Quality Assurance.

The newly elected RCCR officers include the Council for the Welfare of Children as Chairperson, World Vision as Vice-Chairperson representing civil society organizations (CSOs) and non-government organizations (NGOs), and the Philippine Normal University as Vice-Chairperson representing Academic Institutions. Also elected were Terre des Hommes Netherlands as Chairperson of the Research Agenda and Mobilization Committee, Miriam College Child Rights and Advocacy Center as Chairperson of the Policy Engagement and Utilization Committee, and the Philippine Social Science Council as Chairperson of the Research Support Committee.

The RCCR brings together academic institutions, government agencies, CSOs, NGOs, and development partners committed to advancing child rights research, as well as evidence-based policies and programs for Filipino children. Member institutions invited by the CWC include ChildFund, Save the Children, the Philippine Statistics Authority, the University of the Philippines Diliman – Department of Family Life and Child Development, De La Salle University, the Polytechnic University of the Philippines, the University of Santo Tomas, and the Consuelo Zobel Alger Foundation.

to advance collaborative child rights research. The role also includes promoting interdisciplinary engagement on child rights concerns and representing the RCCR in academic forums and scholarly discussions.

The partnership between the CWC and PNU was further strengthened through the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding on February 23, 2026, affirming shared commitments in child rights research, capacity building, and evidence-informed advocacy.

As Vice-Chairperson representing Academic Institutions, PNU will help strengthen linkages among universities, research centers, and academic networks



Today @ PNU

PNU GCC and UEP conduct Validation of Teach for Peace Modules in Northern Samar; Pres. Tuga immerses with Partner Community

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PNU GCC AND UEP CONDUCT VALIDATION OF TEACH FOR PEACE MODULES IN NORTHERN SAMAR; PRES. TUGA IMMERSSES WITH PARTNER COMMUNITY

Dr. Leah Amor S. Cortez, Vice President for Student Success and Stakeholder Success, and Prof. Bryan C. Dayuta, Director of the Linkages and International Office, represented Philippine Normal University (PNU)

From May 18 to 19, 2026, Dr. Tuga and his team—composed of Dr. Maria Azela Tamayo, Dr. Jayson L. De Vera, and Prof. Victor P. Estrella—visited Cablangan Elementary School in Mondragon, Northern Samar, to pilot-test and gather feedback on the use of the new learning materials. These modules aim to promote global citizenship, social cohesion, and inclusive learning, particularly among children and youth in vulnerable and conflict-affected communities. Feedback from the validation run will serve as vital input in the finalization of the modules in preparation for their official turnover to partner communities

The project is an initiative of the GCED Cooperation Centre–Philippines, in partnership with the University of Eastern Philippines (UEP), led by University President Dr. Cherry I. Ultra, and the Provincial Government of Northern Samar, under the leadership of Governor Harris Ongchuan. This initiative is also supported and funded by the Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (UNESCO-APCEIU).

Ultimately, the successful rollout of these modules signifies a crucial step toward building resilient, peace-loving communities. By equipping educators and youth with tailored resources for socio-emotional and peace education, this multi-sectoral partnership lays a strong foundation for sustainable development and lasting social harmony.

PNU HONORS ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL IN NATIONAL EDUCATION SUPPORT PERSONNEL DAY CELEBRATION



Today @ PNU

PNU honors administrative personnel in National Education Support Personnel Day celebration

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In recognition of the vital role of its administrative personnel, Philippine Normal University (PNU) Manila held the "Honoring Excellence in Service" program on May 15, 2026, at the PNU Gymnasium. Spearheaded by the Human Resource Management and Development Office (HRMDO) under the leadership of Director Maribel G. Gerundio, the celebration aimed to recognize the dedication, commitment, and service excellence of the university's administrative staff and education support personnel. The initiative aligns with Republic Act No. 12178, which formally declares May 16 of every year as National Education Support Personnel Day.

The event featured a packed schedule designed to foster morale, inclusivity, and appreciation among the staff.

A major highlight of the event was the awarding ceremony, wherein support personnel with notable achievements at this point in the year were recognized. Several employees received the Kawaning Maagap and Gantimpala Agad Awards. Also recognized in the program were administrative staff members who passed the Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers and the Civil Service Examination. Likewise, the stage was also given to select employees in recognition of their recent educational milestones, particularly the completion of their master's degrees.

A special morning segment titled "Feel-Good Minutes" focused on mental health, with Prof. Sheila Marie P. Dela Peña leading a discussion on mental wellness in the workplace and how to care for oneself while serving others.

National Education Support Personnel Day is a special working holiday that recognizes the indispensable contributions of non-teaching personnel across the national education system. The observance provided a dedicated platform for educational government agencies to celebrate the relentless dedication of their administrative and support teams.



PNU KISLAP SINING DANCE TROUPE SHINES AT CHED FLAG CEREMONY AND AHEAD GRANT LAUNCH

The Philippine Normal University's (PNU) Kislap Sining Dance Troupe (KSDT) once again graced the stage of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), delivering an award-winning cultural performance during the agency's weekly flag ceremony earlier today, May 26, 2026. The ceremony coincided with the presentation of the Allied Health Experiential Assistance for Deserving Students (AHEAD) grant, which served as the highlight of the morning's affairs.

During the event, the PNU KSDT rendered an exquisite interpretation of the Pig-apir, a traditional Maranao dance depicting women of royal and affluent upbringing. The performance is characterized by the dancers'

graceful manipulation of beautifully decorated fans alongside the signature royal walk. This masterful piece recently earned the troupe a back-to-back 1st-place victory at the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges (PASUC) National Culture and the Arts Festival 2026.

Beyond their main intermission number, the PNU KSDT also provided cultural entertainment at the CHED lobby, warmly welcoming employees and guests as they arrived for the day's events.

In recognition of their world-class artistry and unwavering support to the commission's initiatives, the group received a certificate of appreciation from no less than CHED Chairperson Dr. Shirley C. Agrupis.

The PNU KSDT continues to hone their craft under the tutelage of their coach, Prof. Richard A. Urgelles, and the overarching guidance of the Head of the PNU Center for Sports, Culture, and Arts Development, Prof. Romeo R. Rioflorido.

Philippine Normal University (PNU) Mindanao welcomed evaluators from the Teacher Education Council (TEC) on May 12–13 for the on-site assessment process of the 2026 Centers of Excellence (COE) Identification and Designation — a rigorous two-day exercise that tested the institution's standards in instruction, research, extension services, and institutional support.

The field visit formally opened with a courtesy meeting between TEC evaluators and university officials, establishing the flow of activities and mutual expectations for the assessment. The TEC team acknowledged the university's warm reception and recognized its commitment to advancing quality teacher education through its COE application. The team lead made clear, however, that the field visit does not guarantee designation, as all findings remain subject to further review and final approval by the council. Evaluators emphasized that the process is both evaluative and developmental — designed not only to measure compliance with established COE criteria but also to identify institutional strengths and areas for continued growth.

On the first day, the assessment team conducted a thorough review of institutional documents and exhibits supporting the university's performance indicators. Classroom observations were also carried out, giving evaluators direct insight into instructional delivery and student engagement. Among the classes observed were the fourth-year and third-year Bachelor in Mathematics and Science Elementary Education (BMSEE) students. Evaluators likewise toured key campus facilities — including learning resource centers and academic spaces — to assess the adequacy and utilization of institutional resources.



From the Campus

PNU Mindanao undergoes two-day COE Field Evaluation

PNU MINDANAO UNDERGOES TWO-DAY COE FIELD EVALUATION

The day concluded with consultations involving administrators and faculty, focused on governance, teaching practices, and program implementation.

The second and final day broadened the scope of assessment to include student support services, research initiatives, extension programs, and community engagement. The evaluation team conducted dialogues with a wide range of stakeholders — students, alumni, faculty, non-teaching personnel, and university officials — gathering firsthand perspectives on how PNU Mindanao's programs and systems contribute to the holistic development of future educators.

Extension heads and partner stakeholders also presented the university's outreach initiatives and collaborative community partnerships, underscoring the institution's active role in fostering educational development across the region over the years. University officials expressed that the field visit served not only as a formal evaluation but also as a meaningful opportunity to showcase the institution's strengths and reaffirm its mission as a multicultural learning hub in Mindanao.

The two-day activity officially closed with messages from both the assessment team and university administrators, reaffirming the institution's dedication to excellence, accountability, innovation, and service in Philippine education. With the successful conclusion of the field visit, PNU Mindanao remains optimistic as it awaits the outcome of the COE review process — continuing its pursuit of national recognition and its enduring commitment to producing competent, values-driven, and globally responsive educators



PNU RECOGNIZED IN DEPED'S PARTNERS' APPRECIATION PROGRAM

reduced resource and training deficits in public educational institutions.

By synchronizing its institutional advocacies with the primary directives of the Department of Education, PNU supplied prompt and highly effective interventions essential to the progress of the national basic education sector.

University President Dr. Bert J. Tuga and Vice President for Academics Dr. Marilyn U. Balagtas officially represented PNU during the recognition ceremony. In his keynote message, DepEd Secretary Sonny Angara underscored the pivotal role of educational partners in achieving a bright future for Filipino learners.

The program concluded with a renewed pledge of cooperation, wherein the Philippine Normal University reaffirmed its steadfast dedication to advancing teacher quality and sustaining meaningful reforms aimed at uplifting the country's educational landscape.



PNU-NL ADVANCES SUSTAINABILITY THROUGH SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION AT INNOHUB BUILDING

The Philippine Normal University-North Luzon (PNU-NL) successfully completed the installation of a solar grid-tied system on the rooftop of the four-storey Innohub Building, reinforcing the university's commitment to renewable energy and environmental sustainability.

The initiative was spearheaded by the Office of the Executive Director and Provost, alongside the Office of the Director for Administration, Finance, and Planning. It was executed in coordination with various campus offices—including Facilities Management and Sustainability (FMS), the Supply and Property Management Unit (SPMU), and finance departments—as well as external partners like the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP), the local government unit (LGU), and ISELCO for net metering requirements.

During her first university assembly as Executive Director and Provost in January 2024, Dr. Agnes S. Reyes presented the project as a key initiative for advancing campus sustainability. Following extensive planning and procurement processes, the project received official approval on December 2, 2025.

Implementation began on February 6, 2026, and was completed by March 2, 2026. The system features 30 solar panels with a total capacity of 18.3 kilowatts, designed to power all facilities and equipment within the Innohub Building.

Funded under Fund 164, the project cost ₱675,300. Despite initial procurement delays due to budget constraints and failed bidding, the installation was finished successfully through the collaborative efforts of all involved agencies.

Building on this success, PNU-NL plans to roll out additional renewable energy initiatives, including adding 15 more solar panels to the Innohub Building and developing a campus-wide solar water system.

PNU-NL EDP REYES EARNS TOP EDUCATOR RECOGNITION AT GAWAD THOMASIAN AWARDS

Dr. Agnes S. Reyes, Executive Director and Provost, was recognized as the Most Outstanding Educator in the Education Category during the Gawad Thomasian Awards, held in Sto. Tomas, Isabela, on March 17, 2026.



The award was given in recognition of her dedication, leadership, and significant contributions to the field of education. The ceremony gathered educators, administrators, and guests to honor individuals who have shown excellence and commitment to the teaching profession.

I am happy to receive this award because it is one of the greatest fulfillments of my profession and a reflection of my dedication to the teaching profession,” Dr. Reyes said.

Colleagues and students described Dr. Reyes as an inspiring leader who continuously promotes academic excellence and professional growth among educators and learners. The recognition also highlighted her efforts in strengthening educational programs and supporting the development of students and faculty members.

PNU-NL STUDENT ARTIST SHINES AT PASUC NCAF 2026 IN ILOILO CITY

The Philippine Normal University-North Luzon (PNU-NL) proudly celebrates the remarkable achievement of Stephen Marc Talaver Lontoc, a fourth-year BECEd student, who secured third place in the Solo Violin category at the prestigious PASUC National Culture and the Arts Festival on April 10, 2026, at the Cultural Center of West Visayas State University.



From the Campus

PNU-NL Student Artists shine at PASUC NCAF 2026 in Iloilo City

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Representing Region II, Stephen delivered a captivating performance of "Iduyan Mo" by Ryan Cayabyab. He was trained and prepared by his coach and accompanist, Prof. John Jerry Francisco. Stephen's performance stood out among the country's finest during this national gathering of student artists from state universities and colleges, which showcases excellence in culture and the arts.

PNU-NL also proudly recognizes other student artists who represented Region II and made it to the national stage of the PASUC National Culture and the Arts Festival 2026. Jan Dexter Taguibao and Ernie Baterna showcased their exceptional talent in the Vocal Duet competition, bringing pride and honor to the university through their harmony, passion, and dedication to music.

Members of Teatro Paddarafung likewise earned recognition as national qualifiers in the Short and Sweet Play-Dialogue category. The group includes Jhon Ace De Vera, Daryl Fermin, Rejean Agsunod, Angel Mae Medina, Angel Lyka Hina, and Arjelyn Agustin, while Althea Jean Dayag qualified in the Oration category.

Guided by their coach, Prof. John A. Furuc, these achievements reflect the unwavering commitment, creativity, and excellence of PNU-NL student artists in the field of culture and the arts.

PNU-NL's ESPIRITU JR. BESTOWED WITH ALAGAD NG SINING 2026 AWARD

Prof. Apolonio P. Espiritu Jr. was honored with the Alagad ng Sining 2026 Award during the Search for the Most Outstanding Artists of Santiago City, held in Isabela on March 29 in celebration of Arts Month.

The recognition was given to Prof. Espiritu for his remarkable contributions to the arts and his dedication to promoting culture, creativity, and the preservation of Filipino heritage. The event gathered artists, educators, cultural advocates, and local officials to honor individuals who have made significant contributions to the artistic field.

“Lubos po akong nagpapasalamat sa pagkilalang ito. Ang parangal na ito ay nagsisilbing inspirasyon upang ipagpatuloy ko ang pangangalaga, pagsasaliksik, at pagpapalaganap ng ating sining at kulturang Pilipino para sa susunod na henerasyon,” Prof. Espiritu said.

Colleagues and fellow artists described Prof. Espiritu as a passionate and dedicated artist who continuously supports artistic development and cultural appreciation in Santiago City. The award also highlighted his commitment to inspiring aspiring artists and preserving the value of the arts in the community.

The Alagad ng Sining Award serves as a recognition for individuals who continue to make meaningful contributions to the development and promotion of arts and culture.



From the Campus

PNU-NL's Espiritu Jr. bestowed with Alagad ng Sining 2026 Award

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From the Campus

PNU-V earns distinctions at 2nd Regional Quality Awards

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PNU-V EARNS DISTINCTIONS AT 2ND REGIONAL QUALITY AWARD

Philippine Normal University Visayas garnered multiple recognitions at the 2nd Commission on Higher Education – Negros Island Region (CHED-NIR) Regional Quality Awards on May 26 at STI West Negros University.

PNUV received the award for Excellence in Research for its outstanding commitment to producing research publications; the Outstanding Board Performance Award for ranking 2nd in the March 2026 Licensure Examination for Teachers (LEPT) – Secondary Level; and International Ranking Recognition Awards for its exceptional achievements and contributions in several areas, such as instruction, research, community extension, and other vital sectors.

PROF. PARUNGAO-CALLUENG 2026 AMELIA LAPEÑA- BONIFACIO LITERARY CONTEST

The Philippine Normal University (PNU) community takes immense pride in the recent achievement of Prof. Erly S. Parungao-Callueng, who won First Place in the Critical Essay Category of the 2026 Amelia Lapeña-Bonifacio Literary Contest.



Organized by the University of the Philippines Diliman – Department of English and Comparative Literature, the competition recognized Prof. Parungao-Callueng's outstanding piece, “Returning the Look: Polytropism, Queerness, and Rizal's Legacy in Leche.”

Congratulations, Prof. Parungao-Callueng! You are a true inspiration to the university and a brilliant example of PNU's commitment to academic and literary excellence.



SANGGUNIANG BAYAN OF LOPEZ HONORS PNU SOUTH LUZON'S ACHIEVEMENT IN MARCH 2026 LEPT

The Sangguniang Bayan of Lopez, Quezon formally acknowledged the outstanding performance of March 2026 Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers (LEPT) passers through Resolution Nos. 2026-274 and 2026-275 during its 41st Regular Session held on May 20, 2026.

The resolutions celebrated the accomplishments of graduates from various higher education institutions, including Philippine Normal University South Luzon (PNUSL), for bringing honor and distinction to the Municipality of Lopez.

In particular, Resolution No. 2026-275 highlighted PNUSL's remarkable achievement as it ranked Top 8 nationwide among Top Performing Schools in the Secondary Level category (50–99 examinees), attaining an impressive 97.89% passing rate among first-time takers in the March 2026 LEPT.

In addition to the institutional recognition, the Sangguniang Bayan also honored outstanding PNUSL graduates for their remarkable performance in the March 2026 LEPT –Ms. Raquel D. Silaya, received recognition for ranking Top 3 with an outstanding rating of 94.40%. Elementary Level and Mr. John David R. Argente, was commended for ranking Top 8 with an impressive rating of 93.20%. Likewise, the resolutions noted that their achievements brought great honor, distinction, and pride to the Municipality of Lopez.

This recognition underscores PNUSL’s steadfast commitment to academic excellence and quality teacher education. The award was received by campus officials led by Dr. Amor F. Loniza, Executive Director and Provost, together with Dr. Roel V. Avila, Dean for Academics and the Hub, Engr. Dandy V. Surio, Director for Administration, Finance and Planning, and Prof. Arron Jed Y. Tumbali, Director for Research, Extension, Quality Assurance and Development. The honor likewise reflects the collective dedication of the university’s administrators, faculty members, staff, and students in producing competent and values-driven educators.

The PNUSL community extends its gratitude to the Sangguniang Bayan of Lopez for this meaningful recognition and congratulates all March 2026 LEPT passers for their commendable achievement.

TORCH NL RECORDS STRONGER LHEPC '26 FINISH, BAGS LUZON’S BEST PHOTOJOURNALIST LIST TITLE



From the Campus

TORCH NL records stronger LHEPC '26 finish, bags Luzon’s Best Photojournalist title

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Torch North Luzonian (Torch NL) raised its standing in the Luzonwide Higher Education Press Conference (LHEPC) 2026 after securing one championship title and multiple placements across individual and group categories.

Bannering the publication’s achievements, Sanny Agustin Jr. was hailed as Luzon’s Best Photojournalist in the English category, marking an improvement from his second-place finish in the Regional Higher Education Press Conference (RHEPC).

“I still remember the regional days when I found myself knee-deep in the river mud of the Pinacanauan River just to get the story. it’s truly your passion, you will do your best to

tell the stories of the people to the people—and that’s exactly what I did,” Agustin said.

Torch NL likewise earned recognition in other individual events, with April Dumrique placing fifth in Digital Literary Graphics (English), Jilliane Gilmo placing sixth in News Writing (English), and CJ Gallardo securing sixth place in Traditional Comic Strip (English).

In the group competitions, the publication placed third in Literary Page (Magazine), sixth in Literary Page (Newsletter), and ninth in both Feature Page (Newsletter) and News Page (Tabloid).

The results marked an improved overall performance for Torch NL in this year’s Luzonwide collegiate press conference.



LIO DIRECTOR ENGAGES IN INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION IN BELGIUM AND FRANCE

The Philippine Normal University (PNU) continues to strengthen its global initiatives following the participation of Prof. Bryan C. Dayuta, Director of the Linkages and International Office, in a series of academic programs across Belgium and France from April 22 to May 2, 2026.

Hosted primarily by UCLL University of Applied Sciences in Belgium, the international program gathered educators, researchers, and internationalization advocates to discuss pressing global issues in teacher education.

During the visit, Prof. Dayuta represented PNU in several academic discussions, institutional meetings, school visits, and UNESCO-related events aimed at strengthening intercultural dialogue, educational cooperation, and transformative learning. One of the major highlights of the trip was Prof. Dayuta's presentation on "History, Culture, and Global Citizenship Education in the Philippines," where he shared Philippine educational practices and initiatives related to cultural heritage, identity formation, and global citizenship. The presentation showcased how Philippine educational institutions integrate culture, history, and community involvement in developing globally competent and socially responsible learners.

The program also included academic sessions on decolonizing Global Citizenship Education, heritage education, inclusion, learner identity, and intercultural understanding. These discussions

emphasized the important role of teacher education institutions in promoting peace, diversity, inclusion, and global solidarity in an increasingly interconnected world.

As part of the itinerary, Prof. Dayuta participated in institutional visits and learning exchanges at UCLL University of Applied Sciences and Belgian partner schools, including Heilig Hart Secondary School and De Krullebaar Primary School. The visits provided valuable insights into Belgium's educational system, innovative teaching practices, learner-centered approaches, internationalization programs, and heritage-based education initiatives.

Another significant component of the series was his participation at UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France, where discussions centered on

World Heritage Education, ASPnet initiatives, Education for Sustainable Development (ESD), and transformative education. Sessions highlighted UNESCO's "To Know – To Cherish – To Act" framework, which encourages learners to become informed, empathetic, and active global citizens committed to heritage preservation and sustainable development. Prof. Dayuta also joined educational discussions at the UNESCO International Institute for Educational Planning (IIEP), where participants explored topics related to educational leadership, governance, policy development, and international cooperation.

According to Prof. Dayuta, the visit to Europe provided meaningful opportunities for collaboration, professional growth, and intercultural learning while further strengthening PNU's commitment to internationalization and global engagement.

The participation of PNU in these international events reflects the university's continuing efforts to expand its global presence, strengthen cross-border partnerships, and promote transformative education grounded in culture, heritage, and global citizenship.

Through initiatives such as these, the Philippine Normal University continues to position itself as a leading teacher education institution actively contributing to international educational dialogue and collaboration.

PNU ADVANCES OFW REINTEGRATION, WELCOMES 194 RETURNING TEACHERS TO SPIMS ONLINE REFRESHER COURSE

The Philippine Normal University (PNU) formally welcomed 194 returning Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) under Batch 64 of the PNU–Sa ‘Pinas Ikaw ang Ma’am at Sir Online Refresher Course (PNU-SPIMS-ORC) during an orientation program held on April 25, 2026. With the addition of this cohort, the program reached a total of 489 active participants, including 291 continuing learners.

As a key partner of the Department of Migrant Workers (DMW), PNU reinforced its vital role in advancing the government’s reintegration agenda by assisting Licensed Professional Teachers (LPTs) in their transition from overseas employment to teaching positions in the Philippines, particularly within the Department of Education (DepEd).

The Sa ‘Pinas Ikaw ang Ma’am at Sir (SPIMS) program, established in 2015, served as a multi-agency initiative implemented in coordination with the DMW, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority, the Professional Regulation Commission, DepEd, and the Commission on Higher Education. The program was designed to provide returning OFWs with viable pathways to resume their professional careers in teaching.



Pursuant to Republic Act No. 9293, licensed professional teachers who had not practiced the profession for five consecutive years were required to complete at least 12 units of education courses to regain eligibility for teaching positions.

In support of this requirement, PNU—through its College of Alternative and Lifelong Learning (CALL), with the assistance of a dedicated pool of faculty volunteers—delivered the Online Refresher Course at no cost to DMW-endorsed OFWs. The program was designed to update the participants’ pedagogical competencies and ensure their readiness to effectively re-enter the Philippine basic education system.

As of the orientation, the PNU-SPIMS-ORC had assisted 1,049 returning OFWs in restoring their professional standing and pursuing teaching careers in the country, underscoring PNU’s continuing commitment to national development and public service through teacher education.



PNU CHORALE PERFORMS AT CHED’S FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY AND NATIONAL HIGHER EDUCATION DAY CELEBRATIONS

The Philippine Normal University (PNU) Chorale exhibited its talent during its performance at the official opening activity for the observance of the 32nd Founding Anniversary of the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and the 6th National Higher Education Day. The activity, held earlier today, May 18, 2026,

bannered the theme "ACHIEVE-ing Knowledge Economy Together for a Future-Ready Bagong Pilipinas."

The PNU Chorale led the CHED community, including those joining via online platforms for the event, in singing the ecumenical invocation and the Philippine National Anthem. The group was also given the opportunity to perform its award-winning rendition of SB19's "DAM," which was its winning piece during the Show Choir competition of the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges National Culture and Arts Festival (PASUC-NCAF) held last April in Iloilo City.

The Commission expressed its deep appreciation to the PNU Chorale by bestowing upon the group a certificate of appreciation signed by Chairperson Dr. Shirley C. Agrupis. Accompanying the group were its conductor, Prof. Luzviminda B. Modelo, and the Head of the Center for Sports, Culture, and Arts Development, Prof. Romeo R. Rioflorido.

The kick-off ceremony was organized in line with Republic Act No. 11522, signed on February 5, 2021, which designates May 18 of every year as "National Higher Education Day" in the Philippines. The annual celebration commemorates the founding anniversary of CHED while recognizing the vital role that higher education institutions play in nation-building and national development.



PNU ADVANCES OFW REINTEGRATION, WELCOMES 194 RETURNING TEACHERS TO SPIMS ONLINE REFRESHER COURSE

The Philippine Normal University (PNU), the National Center for Teacher Education, has officially commenced a 10-day professional development and mentoring program dubbed "MINT through READERS". The project, which stands for "Mentoring, Inspiring, and Nurturing Teachers through Responsive Education for Advancing Development in Essential Reading Skills," kicked off on May 25, 2026, at the Manila Science High School. The on-site program will run its first phase from May 25 to 29, and conclude its second phase from June 1 to 6, 2026.

Organized through the joint efforts of the College of Teacher Development (CTD) - Faculty of Education and Information Sciences (FEIS) and the Center for Reading and Literacy (CRL), the initiative is specifically designed for Department of Education (DepEd) Key Stage 1 Teachers across the National Capital Region (NCR).

The opening program featured inspiring messages from educational leaders emphasizing the importance of literacy. During the plenary session, Dr. Marilyn U. Balagtas, PNU Vice President for Academics, highlighted that reading and literacy are essential for improving comprehension and developing lifelong learners. She underscored the delicate and powerful role of teachers in helping learners find their voice and experience success, noting that effective reading instruction requires compassion, patience, and learner-sensitivity. Dr. Balagtas also reminded educators to engage in reflective practice, align with professional standards, and commit to continuous growth.

Mrs. Marita D. Aquino, Education Program Supervisor of DepEd National Capital Region, delivered a message on behalf of Dir. Jocelyn DR. Andaya, Regional Director

of DepEd NCR. She stressed the vital role of teachers in student literacy and encouraged participants to be ready to learn and transfer their newfound knowledge to their classrooms. Mrs. Aquino also lauded DepEd's partnership with State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) in delivering engaging and meaningful training workshops for teachers.

In her statement of purpose, Dr. Josephine M. Calamlam, MINT Project Lead and FEIS CRL Head, highlighted the urgent call to empower teachers with the knowledge and skills needed to help children become successful readers. Describing teaching as a journey of mentoring and inspiring, she encouraged educators to maintain an open mind and a courageous heart. The opening preliminaries concluded with an explanation of the house rules and training schedules by FEIS Associate Dean Dr. Niño D. Naldoza , followed by the mechanics of the workshop presented by Dr. Calamlam.

Project MINT is designed to strengthen early childhood educators' competencies in literacy instruction, inclusive pedagogy, assessment, mentoring, and reflective professional practice. The comprehensive training program covers critical areas of reading development, integrating topics such as phonological awareness, phonics and word recognition, vocabulary development, fluency, and comprehension. Furthermore, the sessions will delve into assessment strategies, intervention techniques, and work application planning to ensure practical application in the classroom. The initiative reflects PNU's institutional commitment to educational reform and nation-building.

Center, presented the Afectune Pedagogy. This approach is a comprehensive, computer-implemented system that integrates music, reflection, values formation, and artificial intelligence into a unified educational ecosystem. Second-place winner Prof. Eisha Vienna M. Fernandez, from the Faculty of Science, Technology, and Mathematics and Director of the Community Partnership and Extension Office, discussed the Microbiology Learning Enhancement System, or MicroLEnS. This approach acts as a lens, enabling students to concentrate on one essential concept or skill at a time to foster a deeper understanding without overwhelming them with excessive information. Finally, third-place awardee Prof. Jose Mari M. Calamlam, also from the Faculty of Science, Technology, and Mathematics, elaborated on the Pre-Service Teacher Classroom-



PNU LAUNCHES PROFESSORIAL CHAIR ON TEACHING INNOVATION, HONORS ALUMNA ALICIA CAYETANO-ARCE IGNACIO

On May 26, 2026, the Philippine Normal University (PNU) launched a trailblazing professorial chair—the first of its kind focused on teaching innovation. Aside from being a pioneering initiative, the professorial chair is aptly named in honor of PNU alumna Alicia Cayetano-Arce Ignacio from the Class of 1917. The Alicia Cayetano-Arce Ignacio Professorial Chair on Teaching Innovation aims to recognize faculty members who employ strategies that actively respond to contemporary teaching and learning demands.

The program commenced with the Lecture-Forum on Teaching Innovation, where the top three awardees presented their winning pedagogical approaches to the PNU community. First-prize winner Prof. Carl O. Dellomos, from the Faculty of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Deputy Director of the GCED Cooperating

-Based Action Research (PST-CBAR) Workbook. This tool was developed to provide scaffolded, step-by-step guidance for pre-service teachers conducting action research during their field study and practice teaching courses.

Following the lecture-forum, the Professorial Chair on Teaching Innovation was officially launched. In the presence of the late Alicia Cayetano-Arce Ignacio's family members and university officials, the ceremonial launch and the unveiling of the official call for applications were highlighted by a special performance from the PNU Kislap Sining Dance Troupe. Speaking on behalf of the family, Dr. Benjamin “Chippy” I. Espiritu delivered a response emphasizing how his great-grandmother constantly reminded them of the importance of education and the teaching profession. He also expressed the family’s collective gratitude to PNU for bestowing such an honor upon her. Dr. Espiritu serves as the Chairman and President of the Gov. Arturo Arce Ignacio Sr. Foundation, Inc., the entity that will provide support and incentives to future professorial chair holders.

In his message, University President Dr. Bert J. Tuga underscored that the initiative is part of PNU’s broader aspiration to institutionalize a culture where scholarly teaching, pedagogical research, and creative educational practices are nurtured and celebrated. He challenged the faculty members to remain responsive to the evolving needs of learners and society. “Let us reaffirm our commitment to building a future-ready, research-informed, learner-centered, and innovation-driven teacher education system,” Dr. Tuga added.

With contributed information from Kenji F. Bonagua of the PNU Manila Creative Team



PNU MAINTAINS 3-STAR RATING UNDER QS STARS

Philippine Normal University (PNU) has successfully maintained its overall 3-star rating under the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Stars Rating System, an accolade the institution first achieved in 2023. According to the recently released QS Stars report, the university earned an overall score of 480 points, securing a rating classified as “good” under the system's global metrics. This continued recognition by the QS Stars Rating System underscores PNU's consistent dedication to educational quality, student support, and transparent governance, cementing its reputation as a leading teacher education institution in the Philippines.

PNU demonstrated exceptional performance in several key areas, achieving perfect 5-star ratings in both the Teaching and Facilities categories. This marks a notable upgrade for both categories, advancing from the 4-star ratings they received in the previous assessment period. In the Teaching category, where the university earned 107 out of 150 points, it was recognized for its high-quality instruction, recording a 91.8% student satisfaction rate. Furthermore, PNU boasts an 83.8% completion rate and a strong 91.7% student retention rate. Equally impressive is its campus environment, which scored 70 out of 100 points in the Facilities category. This rating is supported by the presence of 73 active student clubs and societies, alongside

technology-equipped classrooms and learning spaces.

The institution also performed notably well in the Diversity, Equity & Inclusion category, securing a 4-star rating with 30 out of 50 points. This rating was bolstered by the university's strategy on equality, diversity, and inclusion, alongside improved disability support services.

In terms of institutional management and community outreach, PNU earned 3-star rating in both Good Governance, scoring 50 out of 100 points, and Social Impact, scoring 47 out of 100 points. Under governance, the university recorded an impressive staff satisfaction rate of 98.94%. Meanwhile, its social impact was highlighted through scholarships and financial assistance.

While PNU excelled in core academic and campus metrics, the report also highlighted areas for continued growth such as global engagement and documentation of alumni employment and impact.

The QS Stars system veers away from traditional ranking mechanisms. It is an opt-in evaluation that rates universities entirely based on their own performance across a range of indicators, rather than comparing them to peer institutions. The system allows institutions to highlight their specific strengths as well as individual star ratings in at least nine distinct categories with both precision and clarity”.

The QS Stars rating provides a comprehensive summary of PNU's current operational strengths, giving prospective students and faculty a detailed look into the university's dedication to educational excellence and student support. The report also provides inputs for institutional planning and development. The current audit results will remain valid from April 9, 2025, until April 8, 2028.

PNU's participation in the QS Stars was facilitated by the Linkages and International Office, under its Director, Prof. Bryan C. Dayuta, and supported by various units and offices during data submission.



PNU PERSONNEL EARN TESDA NATIONAL CERTIFICATION ON EVENTS MANAGEMENT SERVICES

As part of the Philippine Normal University's (PNU) efforts to promote learning and development among its administrative personnel, ten of its employees successfully attained National Certification (NC) III for

Events Management Services under the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA). On May 13, 2026, these PNU employees underwent a rigorous assessment intended to evaluate competencies in accordance with TESDA Training Regulations, ensuring they meet the stringent national standards for planning, organizing and implementing professional events.

The successful PNU delegation was led by Prof. James V. Bailon, Director of the Events Management Office (EMO). He was joined by Ms. Maria Jenivie V. Berba, Planning Officer II of the Planning Office; Mr. Jason N. Geronimo, Admin Aide IV for the Faculty of Science, Technology, and Mathematics – Science Resource Center; and Mr. Dwyght Qorban B. Infante, Information Officer I of the

Strategic Communications and Public Relations Unit (SCPRU). Sharing in this accomplishment were Ms. Eishah Kaye O. Limbo, Research Analyst II at the Gender Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Office; Mr. John Miko R. Ofalsa, Information Officer II of the SCPRU; Mr. Reginiño B. Palma, Admin Aide III for the Facilities Management and Sustainability Office; and Mr. Junner V. Patual, Research Assistant I for the EMO. Rounding out the successful university representatives were Ms. Ma. Stephanie E. Ramos, Administrative Assistant III, and Mr. John Rey A. Rayen, Administrative Aide IV, both serving under the Office of the Vice President for Student Success and Stakeholders Services.

These personnel have all served as Event Coordination Assistants, a role in which they assisted in coordinating with internal units and external stakeholders regarding event schedules, requirements, and protocols to ensure overall alignment and readiness. In this capacity, they supported the preparation of essential event-related documents—such as checklists, attendance sheets, and logistical forms—to facilitate efficient event operations. Furthermore, they were responsible for actively monitoring and tracking timelines and requirements for assigned events to ensure the timely completion of deliverables and strict adherence to schedules.

During the assessment, the PNU delegation was tasked to perform on-the-spot event planning, which included conceptualizing an event plan, identifying key objectives, assigning roles, preparing logistical requirements, and outlining a seamless flow of activities. All of the candidates from PNU demonstrated exceptional competence across various evaluation areas which led to their successful certification, with the results officially announced immediately following the assessment process.

The Events Management Services NC III Qualification encompasses essential competencies in both event planning and on-site execution. The planning component involves developing event proposals, concepts, and programs, selecting appropriate venues, and staying current with industry knowledge. Meanwhile, the on-site management aspect focuses on providing direct management services, overseeing contractors, and updating knowledge on protocol.

MARCH 2026 LEPT TOP PERF SCHOOL

PNU is Number 1 again in the LEPT!

The Philippine Normal University remained the Number 1 institution in the Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers. This

was made evident as the Professional Regulation Commission released the results of the March 2026 rendition of the examination. As a testament to its excellence, all of PNU's campuses claimed a spot on the list of Top Performing Schools, particularly in the Secondary Level.

PNU Manila led the list by securing the top spot under Category A, or institutions with 300 or more examinees and at least an 80% passing percentage. The main campus achieved a 99.29% passing rate, with 419 out of 422 examinees passing the exam. PNU Mindanao and PNU North Luzon dominated Category B, or institutions with 100 to 299 examinees and at least a 90% passing percentage. PNU's campuses in Prosperidad, Agusan del Sur, and Alicia, Isabela, tied

Philippine Normal University
The National Center for Teacher Education

31 Individual Topnotchers

March 2026 Licensure Examination for Professional Teacher (LEPT) Passers

Elementary Level

- TOP 2 - LYZA MARY FLORES FLORENDO (PNU NORTH LUZON)
- TOP 3 - RAQUEL DELASAS SILAYA (PNU SOUTH LUZON)
- TOP 4 - GRACIELEANNE ENESIO SELLABE (PNU MANILA)
- TOP 5 - FEYANNA CAÑO MARTELINO (PNU MINDANAO)
- TOP 6 - JUN CARLO MERCADER (PNU MINDANAO)
- TOP 7 - HANNAH FAYE DEGORIO TAMPOS (PNU MINDANAO)
- TOP 8 - NATASHA LORIEN DIAZ BARIZA (PNU NORTH LUZON)
- TOP 9 - DESIREE GASPAR DACACA (PNU NORTH LUZON)
- TOP 10 - JOHN DAVID RELUCANO ARGENTE (PNU SOUTH LUZON)
- TOP 11 - PAULINE JUNE MACABUDUD LLEGUE (PNU MINDANAO)
- TOP 12 - RUBY JOY OSIGAN LOPEZ (PNU MINDANAO)
- TOP 13 - CATHLYN MAE AMANTE CASTRO (PNU NORTH LUZON)
- TOP 14 - MA. GRACIELA IGHACIO DEL ROSARIO (PNU NORTH LUZON)
- TOP 15 - CYRENE DEVOTA LUCAYLUCAY (PNU MANILA)

Secondary Level

- TOP 2 - JOAN VALDEZ GUIVO (PNU NORTH LUZON)
- TOP 4 - ABIGAIL DEJUMO ESCALA (PNU MANILA)
- TOP 5 - ERICA OSTOS GONZALES (PNU MINDANAO)
- TOP 6 - MARIA BERNADETTE CABRIZA PLAZA (PNU MINDANAO)
- TOP 7 - JANINE AUMAN ALCANTARA (PNU MINDANAO)
- TOP 8 - JOVIC PICOS CAMPUS (PNU MINDANAO)
- TOP 9 - GREGEL JULIET MOMONGAN MAYBUENA (PNU MINDANAO)
- TOP 10 - IVONE SALLAMAN PABLO (PNU MINDANAO)
- TOP 11 - JAYSON BERANDAL ACABO (PNU MINDANAO)
- TOP 12 - REYNALDO CAYMO ALMANO JR. (PNU MINDANAO)
- TOP 13 - GLOWEN KYLE DANIEL APARECE (PNU MINDANAO)
- TOP 14 - MARK CHESTER ACASIO BATAAC (PNU NORTH LUZON)
- TOP 15 - CLAUDINE MARIE PAUIG JOSE (PNU NORTH LUZON)
- TOP 16 - KRISHA LINAN TORZAR (PNU MANILA)
- TOP 17 - ANDREA UELLA BERSALES FALCUNIT (PNU VISAYAS)
- TOP 18 - KRIZZA NIEPES JAOJAO (PNU MINDANAO)
- TOP 19 - MA. RUFILLY MAE SANTOLON SAGUISA (PNU MANILA)

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for first place with a perfect 100% passing rate, with all 194 and 161 examinees passing, respectively. Meanwhile, PNU Visayas secured the second spot with a passing percentage of 98.87%, as 175 out of 177 takers from the campus passed the examination. Lastly, PNU South Luzon ranked eighth among Top Performing Schools with 50 to 99 examinees and at least a 90% passing percentage. The Lopez-based campus recorded a 96.88% passing rate, with 93 out of 96 examinees passing.

For the Elementary Category, PNU North Luzon reigned supreme as it topped Category B, or institutions with 50 to 99 examinees and at least a 90% passing percentage.

PNU also recorded a total of 31 individual topnotchers for elementary and secondary levels.

With these results, PNU once again affirmed its stature as the home of top-notch teachers.

Hail, Alma Mater, Hail!

among the 500 globally innovative universities recognized in this year's ranking for exhibiting trailblazing programs and practices.

Beyond the overall ranking, PNU broke into the exclusive Top 100 in four separate specialized categories, demonstrating diverse strengths across multiple facets of innovation. The university's highest placement was in the critical area of Crisis Management, where it secured a remarkable 38th place globally. This was closely followed by a 46th place ranking in Social Impact through Knowledge Transfer, acknowledging the institution's effectiveness in taking research from academia and applying it for societal benefit. Furthermore, PNU achieved Rank 65 in University-based Entrepreneurial Projects, showcasing its successful fostering of practical entrepreneurial insights within its academic community, and Rank 82 in Empowerment-based Management, highlighting institutional strategies that nurtured leadership and agency among its staff and students.

The WURI rankings assess universities based on their innovative capacity and global impact across key pillars, recognizing creative contributions to solving real-world challenges.



WURI 2026

May 6, 2026

In yet another impressive feat, the Philippine Normal University (PNU) soared to the 126th spot in the World University Rankings for Innovation (WURI) 2026, marking a significant leap from its 168th placement last year. PNU is



Alumni Trailblazer Featured Alumna for June 2026

DR. MA. BERNADETTE ANDRES-SALGARINO, NBCT

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A proud alumna of the Philippine Normal University, and the Vice President of the Philippine Normal University Global Alumni Association (PNUGAA) for Australia and Asia, Dr. Ma Bernadette Andres-Salgarino has built a distinguished, three-decade career centered on a profound and unwavering commitment to equity, racial and social justice, and transformative leadership in education. Her journey from the classrooms of Manila to the highest levels of educational policy in California serves as a powerful testament to her PNU foundation — a legacy beautifully recognized in her selection as a prestigious 2026 PNU Gawad Sulo recipient.

In a historic and groundbreaking achievement, Dr. Andres-Salgarino serves as the first Filipino President of the California Mathematics Council (CMC) in 2024-2025. In this role, she leads a statewide organization of 5,000 educators, championing initiatives that promote rigorous, challenging, and equitable mathematics programs for all students.

Her sphere of influence extends throughout the state. Dr. Andres-Salgarino, formerly the Assistant Director of STEAM, Santa Clara County Office of Education, is currently the Region 1 Equity & Justice Department staff for the California Teachers Association (CTA), the foremost professional organization for educators in the state with 310,000 members. In this capacity, she oversees and supports professional development for educators across 17 counties along California's Pacific Coast, co-leads the implementation of Community Schools, and serves as the expert consultant supporting CTA's Curriculum and Instruction Committee to advocate for impactful statewide policies.

Dr. Andres-Salgarino is a preeminent voice in the movement to dismantle systemic inequities in education. She is a sought-after author, contributing to critical works like "Antiracist Mathematics Education: Stories of Acknowledgment, Action, and Accountability" and the TODOS Position Statement on Antiracist Mathematics. Her work consistently challenges educators to "rehumanize mathematics" and implement culturally and linguistically sustaining instruction.

Globally, she is an acclaimed international speaker and the visionary creator of the R.E.A.L. Leadership Framework. Specially designed to elevate and empower leaders of color, R.E.A.L. stands for Restorative, Emancipatory, Accessible, Liberatory, and Limitless Leadership—offering a groundbreaking path forward for equity-driven organizations worldwide.

Her leadership is grounded in deep academic and practical expertise. She is a National Board-Certified Teacher in Mathematics and has been a pivotal member of the committee that developed both the 2013 and 2023 California Mathematics Frameworks, shaping the state's official guidance for math instruction for over a decade. As a researcher, she has served as Principal Investigator for a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant focused on supporting positive computer science identities among Latinx girls.

Driven by an enduring passion for systemic change, Dr. Andres-Salgarino continues to break barriers and build bridges across educational landscapes. Ultimately, her life's work is about creating enduring pipelines of opportunity, ensuring that every educator is empowered to lead with authenticity and every student is given the freedom to excel. Through her profound advocacy, global framework, and paradigm-shifting leadership, she is not merely participating in the future of education—she is actively redefining it.



PNU Bulletin

ASEAN English leaders visit PNU for benchmarking

ASEAN English leaders visit PNU for benchmarking

June 04, 2026

Thirty-four ASEAN participants of the English Leadership Forum sponsored by the Regional English Language Office (RELO), U.S. Embassy, Manila, and the American English Alumni Association of the Philippines (AEAAP) Inc. visited PNU on June 4, 2026, for

benchmarking on English Medium Instruction, curriculum internationalization, and the PQF-AQRF referencing and quality assurance. Leading the visit was Mr. Jeffrey MacIlevana, RELO, together with the officers of AEAAP.

The group was welcomed with cultural presentations from performing groups, PNU Rondalla, Kislap Sining Dance Troupe, and the PNU Chorale followed by the presentations of Prof. Ruel A. Avila, Director, Quality Assurance Management Office; Dr. Henelsie B. Mendoza, Director, Admissions Office; and Dr. Maria Teresa L. Manicio, Deputy Director, Research Institute for Teacher Quality who shared on the PNU experience.

The three Vice Presidents were on hand to welcome the visitors; Dr. Marilyn U. Balagtas, VP Academics gave the welcome remarks, Dr. Leah Amor Cortez, VP4S, the closing remarks, and Dr. Teresita Rungduin, VPRPQA, also joined in. PNU is represented in the Forum by Dr. Ruth A. Alido, Director, Curriculum Management and Instructional Materials Office (CMIMO).

Asked about her impressions on the visit, one of the Forum's lecturers, Dr. Martha Bigelow from the University of Minnesota, said, "I could



feel the 125 years of dedication, hard work, and love for teacher education during my visit. It was thrilling to see such incredible leadership at the national level but with a beautiful international flare. Student performances were exuberant and impressive! PNU offered us examples of high-end EMI curriculum and instruction. Thank you and congratulations!"

Meanwhile, Forum participant, Dian Safitri, Cultural Affairs Specialist, RELO Jakarta, Indonesia, pointed out that the visit to PNU, left a truly lasting impression. In her words, "Listening to the faculty's presentations on English as Medium of Instruction. and other initiatives revealed an institution deeply committed to excellence in education.



What stood out most was how faculty had embraced the concept of design for transfer from day one, intentionally structuring knowledge-sharing and building cascading mechanisms to ensure that learning extends far beyond the classroom and into communities across the nation.”

The visit was ably coordinated by the Linkages and International Office headed by Prof. Bryan Dayuta in coordination with the Center for Sports, Culture, and Arts Development, and CMIMO.

PNU looks forward to establishing EMI linkages with ASEAN universities as part of its curriculum internationalization

FSTeM Associate Dean Pelgone Participates in International Higher Ed Management Course in Germany

Dr. Alfons Jayson O. Pelgone, Associate Dean of the Faculty of Science, Technology, and Mathematics (FSTeM) at the Philippine Normal University (PNU), recently concluded his participation in Part I of the prestigious DIES International



Deans' Course Southeast Asia (IDC SEA) 2026. The intensive executive program took place from June 15 to June 26, 2026, across two key academic hubs in Germany: Osnabrück University of Applied Sciences and Freie Universität Berlin.

The DIES International Deans' Course is a highly competitive program jointly managed by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the German Rectors' Conference (HRK), Hochschule Osnabrück, and the CHE Centre for Higher Education, in coordination with regional experts in ASEAN. Financed by Germany's Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development, the course targets newly appointed Deans and Associate Deans from Southeast Asia, equipping them with advanced competencies in university governance, strategic planning, and quality assurance.

Dr. Pelgone joined a select cohort of higher education leaders from across ASEAN to delve into six rigorous training modules. He was joined by four other representatives from the Philippines, with Dr. Gladys C. Nivera, Dean of the College of Teacher Development (CTD), serving as a regional mentor. Key programmatic themes covered higher education systems, conflict resolution, faculty management, and the implementation of internationalization strategies.

"The intensive training offered deep insights into structural frameworks like the 'Governance Equalizer' and strategic tools modeled by the German Centre for Higher Education," Dr. Pelgone stated upon his return. "Benchmarking these practices against German institutions gives FSTeM a valuable blueprint for balancing academic self-governance with structural data metrics, ensuring our program offerings match rapidly evolving global and regional demands."

A major deliverable of the executive training is the creation of an institutional Project Action Plan (PAP). Dr. Pelgone's drafted PAP focuses specifically on STEM education initiatives within and beyond FSTeM. This project aims to establish robust internal quality loops, pilot Collaborative Online International Learning (COIL) frameworks with ASEAN partners, and provide clear structural pathways for the ethical and technical integration of artificial intelligence in pre-service STEM teacher training.

With the successful completion of Part I in Germany, Dr. Pelgone will spearhead the initial rollout of the PAP at PNU. This will be followed by Phase II (online tracking and learning sessions) and Phase III (the final regional evaluation), which will take place in Malaysia in November 2026. His participation strengthens PNU's continuing commitment to internationalization, sustainable academic leadership, and excellence in equitable STEM education.



PERSISTING TRADITION: PNU MANILA HOLDS TORCH CEREMONY AND SALUTE TO EXCELLENCE DESPITE ANOTHER DOWNPOUR

June 26, 2026

The continuous afternoon rain did not dampen the burning zeal of junior and graduating PNUans at the main campus as the annual Torch Ceremony and Salute to Excellence was held on June 26, 2026.

For the third year in a row, the Torch Ceremony schedule was marred by rain, but the tradition continued and the sulo was passed. As in previous years, in the cramped halls of the Main Building, PNUans stood their ground, unfazed by the inclement weather, eagerly participating in this decades-old tradition.

The Torch Ceremony, a perennial part of every PNUan's narrative during their stay at the university, is a program that symbolically depicts the passing of the torch from the seniors to the third-year students. It is also during this program that PNUans make their pledge of allegiance to Inang Pamantasan as they embark on their respective journeys, carrying the promise of keeping the flame of excellence alive within them.

Part of the program is the presentation of various characters that symbolize the essence of the torch flame, or the Sulo. This year, Inang Pilipinas was played by Kwen Jirah G. Faelnar, while Juan Dela Cruz—a symbol of the Filipino people—was played by Franclen C. Camarig. Errl Jerrol C. Morales and Niamh S. Marte took on the roles of Lakan and Lakambini, respectively. Inang Kalikasan was brought to life by Erica Jhoy P. Buce, while the feisty Bahaghari was personified by Jose Marie Z. Quintos. Inang Pamantasan, on the other hand, was played by Shiena E. Melañez. Completing this year's roster of Sulo personalities were Mary Grace C. Magbanua, who represented the graduating class, and Francisco III D. Garado, who stood on behalf of the third-year students.

After the solemn delivery of lines by the Sulo personalities, the program segued into the Salute to Excellence. This served as a continuation of the celebration for the university's bountiful harvest from various licensure examinations,

particularly the September 2025 Librarians Computer-Based Licensure Examination, the September–November 2025 Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers (Elementary and Secondary Levels), and the March 2026 Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers (Elementary and Secondary Levels). The topnotchers from these examinations were called one by one to be awarded the Tropeyong Husay, the university's signature token honoring exceptional achievements. Those unable to join in person, particularly topnotchers from the regional campuses, were recognized through Zoom live feeds flashed on the screens as their names were called.

This was immediately followed by the highlight of the ceremony: the lighting of the torch. University President Dr. Bert J. Tuga lit the cauldron, its flame piercing the darkened quadrangle and instilling the signature solemnity of the event. The flame was then passed from university officials down to the students holding their respective candles.

As the showers died down, the participants slowly occupied the quadrangle to form the "PNU 2026" figure, signaling the conclusion of another memorable milestone in the history of PNU.

PNU ACADEMIC AND ADMIN COUNCILS CONVERGE FOR 2ND QUARTER REGULAR MEETING

Philippine Normal University (PNU), recognized as the National Center for Teacher Education, recently held its regular second-quarter governance meetings. The Academic Council and the Administrative Council convened on May 28 and May 29, 2026, respectively, to deliberate on institutional policies, academic developments, and operational enhancements.

The Academic Council held its meeting virtually via Zoom on May 28, 2026, centering its generalized agenda on maintaining academic standards and updating educational frameworks. During the session, the council reviewed the endorsement of candidates for graduation and academic awardees for Term 2 of AY 2025-2026 across both the Manila and Visayas campuses. Discussions on curricular innovations featured proposals for new educational offerings, alongside structural changes to the National Service Training Program (NSTP) class formats.

Furthermore, the council deliberated on faculty workload guidelines. The agenda also covered academic and research policy updates, including amendments to guidelines for best theses and dissertations, revisions to the academic catalogue, and a proposed academic component for the university's Intellectual Property Policy. Additionally, a proposal for a special conferment of an Honoris Causa degree was likewise discussed.



Following the academic deliberations, the 67th PNU Administrative Council met via a blended modality on May 29, 2026. After the oath-taking of new council members, the body tackled an agenda heavily focused on institutional management and staff support. A primary focus was employee welfare, highlighted by the introduction of a PNU Wellness Leave Policy and revised incentives for distinguished researchers, outstanding research outputs, and faculty publications in high-impact journals.

The council also prioritized research and innovation infrastructure by discussing the establishment of an Innovation and Technology Support Office (ITSO), updates to research ethics review fees, and a revised university-wide Intellectual Property Policy. To ensure seamless operational and administrative upgrades, members reviewed a comprehensive University Communication Plan, updated coding guidelines, and various ISO-approved procedures across multiple offices. The meeting also addressed concerns on student and institutional support systems.

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 said law likewise stipulates that the Administrative Council 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.”

PNU ACADEMIC SUMMIT 2026 CENTERS ON ACADEMIC TRANSFORMATION AND INNOVATION FOR FUTURE- READY TEACHER EDUCATION

The Philippine Normal University (PNU), through the Office of the Vice President for Academics (OVPA), successfully conducted the Academic Summit 2026 from June 8 to 10, 2026, at the Wyndham Garden Manila Bay, Parañaque City. Anchored on the theme “Institutionalizing Academic Transformation: Embedding Innovation for Future-Ready Teacher Education,” the three-day summit gathered academic leaders, deans, directors, academic officials, and campus representatives from across the PNU System to examine emerging developments in education, identify strategic innovations, and recalibrate academic plans in support of the University's continuing transformation agenda.

In her opening message, Dr. Marilyn U. Balagtas, Vice President for Academics, challenged participants to move beyond isolated initiatives and toward a coherent, system-wide culture of innovation, continuous improvement, and strategic alignment.



Building on the gains of previous academic summits, she emphasized the importance of transforming insights into concrete actions that will strengthen PNU's role as the National Center for Teacher Education and ensure the University's responsiveness to emerging educational challenges and opportunities.

The summit featured a series of presentations that examined academic transformation from institutional, national, and global perspectives. Prof. Bryan C. Dayuta, Director of the Linkages and Internationalization Office, presented the University's performance in international quality assurance initiatives and global rankings, highlighting opportunities to strengthen institutional competitiveness, documentation systems, and evidence-based academic innovations.

Prof. Erwin R. Callo, Director of the Management Information System Office, showcased emerging AI-enabled platforms and digital technologies that can support teaching, learning, research, extension, and academic management. Participants also engaged in a workshop on academic innovation facilitated by Dr. Gladys C. Nivera, Dean of the College of Teacher Development, which encouraged academic units to identify innovative initiatives that can be translated into concrete programs, projects, and institutional improvements beginning Academic Year 2026–2027.

A major focus of the summit was the future of teacher education and curriculum reform. Dr. Brando C. Palomar and Dr. Maria Teresa Manicio-Tembrevilla of the Research Institute for Teacher Quality (RITQ) presented developments in the proposed reframed preservice teacher education curriculum, discussing its framework, implementation models, experiential learning components, and implications for PNU's academic programs. Their presentation generated extensive discussions on curriculum recalibration, alignment with national standards, and preparations for future implementation.

Complementing these discussions, Dr. Felicia I. Yeban examined current developments in general education reform and presented perspectives on curriculum innovation, emphasizing the enduring role of general education in preparing future educators and developing critical, reflective, and socially responsive graduates.

The summit likewise explored innovations across graduate education, lifelong learning, research, and assessment. Dr. Antriman V. Orleans, Dean of the College of Advanced Studies,

presented proposed reforms in graduate teacher education programs, including innovations in admissions, academic advising, research supervision, and graduation pathways. Dr. Celia M. Ilanan, Dean of the College of Alternative and Lifelong Learning, discussed opportunities for expanding access to teacher education through alternative learning pathways, continuing professional education, and lifelong learning initiatives.

Dr. Allen A. Espinosa, Director of the Graduate Research, Creative Endeavors, and Examination Management Office (GRaCEMO), outlined strategic directions for strengthening graduate student research and creative works, emphasizing quality, relevance, innovation, and impact.

Meanwhile, Dr. Ruth A. Alido, Director of the Curriculum Management and Instructional Materials Office, and Dr. Joel G. Tubera, Director of the Institute of Creative Expressions and Human Movement Education, presented proposed frameworks for assessing learning outcomes at the undergraduate and graduate levels, respectively, underscoring the importance of outcomes-based assessment and evidence-informed decision-making in academic programs.

Providing national and policy-level perspectives were Assistant Secretary Janir Ty Datukan of the Department of Education and Dr. Jennie V. Jocson, Executive Director of the Teacher Education Council (TEC). Assistant Secretary Datukan discussed ongoing reforms in basic education, including efforts to address literacy challenges, learning recovery, assessment practices, and system resilience amid disruptions and emerging educational realities.

Dr. Jocson, meanwhile, shared national directions in teacher education and highlighted the strategic priorities that will shape the future of teacher preparation in the country. Their presentations reinforced the importance of ensuring that teacher education programs remain responsive to the evolving needs of learners, educators, and education systems.

A highlight of the summit was the message delivered by University President Dr. Bert J. Tuga, who reaffirmed PNU's leadership in teacher education and underscored the University's growing role in shaping national educational directions. He highlighted developments related to the proposed National University for Teacher Education (NUTE), alternative pathways for teacher education, innovations in graduate education, and expanding lifelong learning opportunities. President Tuga also commended recent institutional accomplishments and encouraged academic leaders to pursue transformative programs that create meaningful impact beyond institutional boundaries and contribute to the advancement of Philippine education.



PNU ADVANCES IN THE IMPACT RANKINGS 2026; ADMISSIONS OFFICE REPRESENTS UNIVERSITY IN GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY CONGRESS IN JAKARTA

The Philippine Normal University (PNU) has reaffirmed its commitment to global sustainability, securing an improved placement in the recently released Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2026. The National Center for Teacher Education placed within the 801–1000 bracket out of 1,603 participating institutions worldwide, up from its previous 1001–1500 placement. A key driver of this climb was PNU's performance under SDG 4: Quality Education, where it rose to the 401–600 bracket out of 1,335 institutions, reflecting its core mandate as a premier teacher training institution.

The university also advanced under SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals, moving up to the 1001–1500 tier out of 1,610 institutions.

PNU's strongest individual showing remains in SDG 5: Gender Equality, placing in the 101–200 bracket out of 1,095 institutions globally, while holding a solid standing in SDG 1: No Poverty at 401–600 out of 931 institutions. The university also expanded its footprint by entering two new categories this year: debuting in the 801–1000 bracket out of 1,254 institutions for SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), and securing a spot in the 601–800 bracket out of 932 institutions for SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities). Together, these gains reflect PNU's sustained integration of sustainable practices and advocacy into its academic and institutional culture.

This achievement was made possible through the efforts of the Linkages and International Office, led by Director Prof. Bryan C. Dayuta, who coordinated the data-gathering process across campuses

to support the institution's submissions to the THE rankings. The recognition was formally received at the Global Sustainability Development Congress (GSDC) 2026 in Jakarta, Indonesia, held from June 22–25, 2026, where Dr. Henelsie Mendoza, Admissions Director, represented PNU on Director Dayuta's behalf in accepting the THE certificate. Beyond the awarding ceremony, Director Mendoza used the occasion to engage with the event's exhibit, promoting PNU's sustainability initiatives to the global academic community.



PNU FORMALLY BESTOWS RECOGNITION, INCENTIVES TO ITS TOPNOTCHERS IN SALUTE TO EXCELLENCE

June 26, 2026

Before the highly anticipated tradition of the Torch Ceremony, PNUan topnotchers from various licensure examinations were first honored during the preliminary program of the Salute to Excellence, which was held on June 26, 2026, at the Alumni and Public Relations Hall.

These included topnotchers from the September 2025 Librarians Computer-Based Licensure Examination, the September–November 2025 Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers (Elementary and

Secondary Levels), and the March 2026 Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers (Elementary and Secondary Levels).

The awards were handed over to the topnotchers by no less than the University President, Dr. Bert J. Tuga, together with the Vice Presidents: Vice President for Academics Dr. Marily U. Balagtas, Vice President for Finance and Administration Dr. Lordinio A. Vergara, Vice President for Research, Extension, and Quality Assurance Dr. Teresita T. Rungduin, and Vice President for Student Success and Stakeholders Services Dr. Leah Amor S. Cortez. Also witnessing the event were other university officials and faculty members. Topnotchers from the regional campuses were joined by their respective Executive Directors and Provosts, while all honorees shared the special moment with the parents and loved ones who accompanied them to the ceremony.

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During the program, the topnotchers received their Certificates of Recognition and the actual checks for their incentives based on their achieved ranks. Meanwhile, the highly regarded Tropeyong Husay awards were given to them during the main program proper at the Quadrangle.

For this batch of exemplary PNUans, an approximate amount of Php 1.4 million was disbursed by the university for incentives.

The release of these incentives was approved by the Board of Regents (BOR) through various resolutions. PNU BOR Resolution No. U-1512, s. 2010, stipulates the release of incentives for topnotchers of the Librarians Licensure Examination, in which those securing ranks 6 to 10 shall receive Php 10,000; ranks 2 to 5 shall receive Php 20,000; and rank 1 shall receive Php 30,000. Meanwhile, PNU BOR Resolution No. U-3924, s. 2025, amended previous resolutions and authorized the release of larger sums to topnotchers of the Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers, wherein those landing in the 6th to 10th spots receive Php 40,000; 2nd to 5th placers receive Php 60,000; and the 1st placer receives a hefty amount of Php 100,000.

After the brief program, the topnotchers, together with university officials and their loved ones, enjoyed some light moments while waiting for the main program to commence.



Today @PNU

PNU launches Project HIKAYAT, inks partnership with key institutions

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PNU LAUNCHES PROJECT HIKAYAT, INKS PARTNERSHIP WITH KEY INSTITUTIONS

June 30, 2026

Inclement weather did not impede the successful launch of Project HIKAYAT: Siyensya Gamit ang Wika, Sining, at Kultura during a program held on June 30, 2026, at the Executive Lounge and Board Room of the Philippine Normal University (PNU).

Funded by the National Research Council of the Philippines (NRCP), HIKAYAT is a three-year initiative led by a team from PNU in collaboration with De La Salle University (DLSU) and Manuel S. Enverga University Foundation (MSEUF). The project aims to produce research and other academic outputs that will pave the way for the broader indigenization of Science, Technology, and Mathematics (STeM) education.

This will be achieved by integrating Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSP) into the DepEd MATATAG Science Curriculum through language, culture, and the arts.

Dr. Teresita T. Rungduin, Vice President for Research, Extension, and Quality Assurance, welcomed guests and partners in her opening remarks.

This was followed by a message from University President Dr. Bert J. Tuga, who emphasized that the project is anchored on preparing future educators by equipping them with strong pedagogical foundations. He highlighted the importance of building their capacity to appreciate cultural diversity, respect Indigenous knowledge, and foster learning environments where every learner sees their heritage reflected and valued.

A major highlight of the event was the keynote address of the Chairperson of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples (NCIP), Hon. Nancy A. Catamco, who was ably represented by Director Angelo S. Salldao of the Commission's Office on Education, Culture, and Health.

To give participants a comprehensive overview, an audiovisual project briefier was presented, after which PNU Project Lead Dr. Marie Paz E. Morales further elaborated on the project's salient features. Dr. Morales also introduced the project team members alongside representatives from partner higher education institutions (DLSU and MSEUF) and government agencies. These included the NRCP, NCIP, Department of Education, National Museum of the Philippines, and the Department of Science and Technology – Science Education Institute (DOST-SEI), signifying strong collaborative rapport among the implementing bodies.

The event proceeded with the ceremonial signing of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOA). Dr. Bert J. Tuga of PNU and NRCP Executive Director Dr. Brian S. Bantugan, together with the heads of the partner institutions, inked the agreement to formalize the HIKAYAT partnership. Following the signing, representatives from the partner institutions delivered messages affirming their commitment and support.

The formal program concluded with closing remarks from Dr. Ma. Arsenia C. Gomez, Director of the PNU Research Management Office. Afterward, representatives from the NRCP conducted an orientation on the various administrative and financial aspects of the grant, while the HIKAYAT Project Team convened to spearhead their preliminary activities.

With the formal agreements now signed and initial orientations concluded, the project implementing team and its partner institutions will proceed to execute the three-year timeline.



PNU PRESIDENT TUGA GRACES BULSU 2026 COMMENCEMENT, URGES GRADUATES TO EMBRACE 'TAYOG' AS A WAY OF LIFE

June 8, 2026

On Monday morning, June 8, Philippine Normal University (PNU) President Dr. Bert J. Tuga delivered an inspiring message to 906 graduates as the guest speaker for Bulacan State University's (BulSU) Commencement Exercises. Anchored on the theme, "TAYOG: Pag-angat ng Kakayahan at Kaalaman Tungo sa Maunlad at Makabagong Pilipino," Dr. Tuga addressed graduates from the College of Education (CPTED) and the College of Criminal Justice Education (CCJE).

Prior to his address, BulSU Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Warlito M. Galita introduced Dr. Tuga in fluent Filipino, describing him as a leader whose life and career prove that education is a powerful tool for change, development, and service.

Dr. Tuga's keynote message centered on the theme TAYOG. He framed graduation as a doorway to change—a transition that can be unsettling as it pushes students out of their comfort zones. However, he urged the graduates to embrace this shift, emphasizing that it will shape them into stronger, wiser, and more compassionate professionals ready to achieve their tayog (height, peak, or success).

He further expanded on the word TAYOG as an acronym reflecting the graduates' journeys: Tapang, Aral, Yakap, Opportunity, and Giting. Elaborating on these facets, he challenged the graduates to step out into the world and adopt a way of life that champions courage, grit, humanity, optimism, and honor.

"Success is not the summit itself, but the courage to climb, the wisdom to learn, the embrace of others, the seizing of opportunities, and the valor to stand tall when the winds are strongest," Dr. Tuga concluded.

Bulacan State University is currently led by Dr. Teody C. San Andres, an Eminent Alumnus awardee.



PNU RECEIVES FIFTH STRAIGHT UNMODIFIED OPINION ON FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FROM COA

June 16, 2026

The Philippine Normal University (PNU), the National Center for Teacher Education, has once again been recognized for its efficient and transparent financial management. The Commission on Audit (COA) granted the institution its fifth consecutive unmodified opinion on its financial statements.

This recognition was formalized in the Consolidated Annual Audit Report for the PNU System for Calendar Year 2025, received by the Office of the University President on June 16, 2026. In their communication, state auditors noted that the audit results provided ample basis for the unmodified opinion. In connection with this, PNU is expected to present a status report on actions taken regarding the audit observations within 60 days.

Earlier this quarter, the Consolidated COA Exit Conference for the PNU System for Calendar Year 2025 was held on April 24, 2026. Led by University President Dr. Bert J. Tuga, PNU leaders and personnel—including Vice Presidents, Executive Directors, Provosts, and staff from the Financial Management Offices and Units—participated in the hybrid event held at the PNU Manila Executive Lounge and Board Room, as well as via Zoom.

Also present was the COA-PNU team, led by Supervising Auditor Atty. Bernadeth D. Combate-Soliven, together with Audit Team Members Ms. Maricas J. Guillermo and Ms. Geneva D. Marmeto. Throughout the exit conference, the auditing team delivered an in-depth presentation detailing their assessment. They systematically unpacked the results of their evaluation, providing PNU officials and point persons with a clear, granular breakdown of their key findings. The audit team also provided strategic recommendations aimed at mitigating risks and optimizing internal processes. To conclude, they delivered the much-awaited pronouncement of the clean opinion from the state auditor.

In response, Dr. Tuga gladly welcomed this accolade for the university. He acknowledged the efforts of the Finance Team from all campuses for their hard work in keeping PNU's financial statements at par with the law and standards. He affirmed that the university will continue looking for ways to improve in order to maintain this recognition.

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).”

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=IwY2xjawRX2eRleHRuA2FlbQlXMAbicmlkETFyaG5UOTFOQ24xTzhZa3lDc3J0YwZhchBfaWQQMjlyMDM5MTc4ODlwMDg5MgABHorms7XvehHhFgAlkfVQHlhjHsj0MfuiBmxAnNRRhCr2nF52r_2Opvk0Gjl-_aem_0GYiXGPm_fDarccgUPBnJg

As part of the Philippine Normal University's (PNU) commitment to amplify academic collaboration and promote its advocacies, university officials embarked on international trips to two neighboring ASEAN countries.

PNU President Dr. Bert J. Tuga reinforced the university's commitment to international collaboration and educational innovation during the International Symposium on Educational Development held in Brunei from June 9 to 10, 2026.

During the symposium's opening, Dr. Tuga signed a Memorandum of Understanding on the University Strategic Alliance for Educational Research Collaboration, establishing a partnership among Universiti Brunei Darussalam (Brunei), The Education University of Hong Kong (HKSAR, China), Philippine Normal University (Philippines), the National University of Laos (Laos), and the University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University Ho Chi Minh City (Vietnam).



PNU STRENGTHENS REGIONAL ACADEMIC COLLABORATION AND ADVOCACY; OFFICIALS ATTEND SEPARATE GATHERINGS IN BRUNEI AND THAILAND

The agreement aims to strengthen regional collaboration in educational research and promote knowledge exchange among participating institutions.

Co-hosted by the Education University of Hong Kong (EduHK) and Universiti Brunei Darussalam (UBD), the symposium carried the theme "Transforming Education for a New Era: Innovation, Inclusion, and Sustainability across the Maritime Silk Road." The event brought together higher education leaders, researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to discuss emerging trends and collaborative approaches to educational transformation, with an emphasis on innovation, inclusion, sustainability, artificial intelligence, and educational leadership.

Dr. Tuga also served as a panelist in the session "Educational Leadership for a Challenging Future," where he joined experts from the Ministry of Education of Brunei Darussalam, Monash University, and EduHK in discussing the evolving role of educational leadership in addressing contemporary and future challenges.

PNU's participation in the international symposium reflects the university's continuing efforts to expand strategic partnerships, advance research collaboration, and contribute to shaping transformative and future-ready teacher education within the region.

Meanwhile, Dr. Rowena Raton-Hibanada, Director of GCC-Philippines, and Prof. Carl O. Dellomos, Deputy Director of GCC-Philippines, flew to Bangkok, Thailand, for the GCC Directors' Meeting 2026 held from June 9 to 11, 2026.

The annual gathering, organized by the Asia-Pacific Centre of Education for International Understanding (APCEIU) in cooperation with the GCC-SEAMEO Regional Centre for Sufficiency Economy Philosophy for Sustainability (SEPS)

as host, convened directors and representatives of Global Citizenship Education Cooperation Centres (GCCs) across the Asia-Pacific region to strengthen partnerships, exchange innovative practices, and collectively shape the future directions of Global Citizenship Education (GCED).

The participation of Dr. Hibanada and Prof. Dellomos reaffirmed the Philippines' steadfast commitment to promoting transformative education anchored in peace, sustainability, human rights, intercultural understanding, and global solidarity.

Throughout the three-day meeting, GCC representatives presented their respective programs and initiatives, highlighting promising practices and lessons learned in implementing GCED at local, national, and regional levels. During the Philippine presentation, GCC-Philippines showcased its expanding portfolio of initiatives that advance GCED through research, advocacy, capacity-building, youth engagement, and community partnerships.



Today @ PNU

PNU welcomes Batch Paghiro in Orientation Program

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PNU WELCOMES BATCH PAGHIRO IN ORIENTATION PROGRAM

The Philippine Normal University (PNU) officially welcomed 1,135 first-year undergraduate students and their parents through the Orientation Program for First-Year Undergraduate Students and Their Parents for Academic Year 2026–2027. Held under the theme “Future-Ready Teachers: Rooted in Truth, Driven by Excellence, Committed to Service,” the event marked the beginning of the students’ journey as future educators of the country’s National Center for Teacher Education.

The program opened with the traditional Katok, a symbolic ceremony that formally welcomed the new students into the PNU community. The rite was led by Dr. Leah Amor S. Cortez, Vice President for Student Success and Stakeholder Services, together with Maria Angela Moldera, the top 1 passer of the PNU Admission Test (PNUAT) from the Faculty of Education and Information Sciences’ Bachelor of Early Childhood Education program.

Following the ceremony, the PNU Gymnasium came alive with an overture by the PNU Rondalla and the procession of university officials. The entrance of the university symbols—the torch, open book, and laurel leaves—highlighted the values of knowledge, excellence, service

that continue to guide the institution and its community.

In her opening remarks, Dr. Cortez encouraged students to embrace the opportunities and responsibilities that come with being part of PNU. She emphasized that education extends beyond academic achievement and serves as a pathway toward purposeful service and personal growth. She also assured students that the university remains committed to supporting their development both inside and outside the classroom.

University President Dr. Bert J. Tuga then welcomed the incoming freshmen of the PNU community. He shared that out of more than 11,000 applicants, only a select number successfully completed the admission process and earned a place in the university. Addressing the incoming students, he reminded them that teaching is more than a profession—it is a calling that shapes lives, communities, and the future of the nation.

Dr. Tuga also encouraged students to view challenges as opportunities for growth. Grounding his message on the university’s core values, he urged them to remain steadfast in truth, pursue excellence, and commit themselves to service as they prepare for their future roles as educators and leaders.

The orientation continued with the presentation of university officials led by Dr. Niño D. Naldoza, Associate Professor and the current Associate Dean of Faculty of Education and Information Sciences. This was followed by a discussion on the TEDPaths Curriculum facilitated by Dr. Ruth A. Alido, Director of the Curriculum Management and Instructional Materials Office.

The session introduced students to PNU's academic framework and provided an engaging overview of their learning journey through interactive activities.

Various university offices also presented the services and support systems available to students. Dr. Rosario M. Belmi, University Registrar, discussed registrar services and academic policies. Health-related programs and services were presented by Dr. Rowena B. Escoto, Head of the University Health Services Unit.

To further familiarize students with the university, video presentations highlighted campus safety initiatives, security protocols, and the contributions of the university's publication office in advancing education, communication, and research.

Adding vibrancy to the event, the PNU Kislap Sining Dance Troupe delivered a special cultural performance that showcased the creativity and artistic excellence of the university community.

The afternoon session focused on student welfare and development. Prof. Ronald F. Gime, Head of the Student Welfare Services Unit, introduced counseling, career, and student welfare services designed to support students' personal and academic well-being. Discussions on special populations and scholarship opportunities were led by Prof. Marie Chiela C. Malcampo, Head of the Institutional Student Programs and Services Unit.

Student leadership and engagement opportunities were likewise presented by Prof. Ma. Laarni D. Buenaventura, Head of the Student Development Services Unit, while Dr. Merimee T. Sienna, Director of the Student Affairs and Services Office, provided an overview of programs that foster holistic student growth and participation in university life.

The orientation concluded with closing remarks from Dr. Teresita T. Rungduin, Vice President for Research and Quality Assurance. She emphasized that the orientation was more than an introduction to university policies and services. It marked the beginning of a transformative journey where students would be guided, challenged, and nurtured into becoming educators committed to making a difference in society.

Organized by the Student Affairs and Services Office (SASO), the program provided students and parents with a deeper understanding of the university's academic culture, support systems, and expectations. The event ended with a campus tour, allowing students to become familiar with the spaces that will soon become part of their everyday lives.

As the newest students of the PNU community began their journey, the orientation served as a reminder that becoming a teacher is not simply about earning a degree. It is about answering a call to serve, inspire, and transform lives. With truth as their foundation, excellence as their pursuit, and service as their commitment, Batch Paghiro now takes its first steps toward becoming the future educators of the nation.

Welcome to PNU, Batch 2026, Paghiro.



Today @ PNU

PNU welcomes Slovenian Ambassador and National Archives Director for courtesy visit, explores arrangements for upcoming exhibit

PNU WELCOMES BATCH PAGHIRO IN ORIENTATION PROGRAM

The Philippine Normal University (PNU) had the honor of hosting Her Excellency Dr. Smiljana Knez, the Ambassador of the Republic of Slovenia to the Republic of the Philippines, for a courtesy visit on June 17, 2026. Held in the Conference Room of the Office of the University President, the Ambassador was joined

by National Archives of the Philippines Executive Director Victorino Mapa Manalo. The delegation was warmly welcomed by university officials, led by University President Dr. Bert J. Tuga.

The visit opened with welcome remarks from Dr. Tuga, followed by a response from Ambassador Knez. The highlight of the engagement was an exploratory discussion regarding a partnership to produce the exhibit, POTOVANJE/PAGLALAKBAY: Two Women World Travelers in the 1920s: Alma Karlin of Slovenia and Paz Guazon of the Philippines. The showcase will feature the historical journeys and cultural contributions of these two trailblazing women. Additionally, the initiative aims to deepen PNU's collaborative network with heritage organizations, upholding its dedication to academic excellence, cultural literacy, and the preservation of history.

Shortly after the meeting, the party conducted a site visit of the exhibit's potential venue: the lobby of the University Library at the Edilberto P. Dagot Hall. Once the exhibit launches in July, this space will allow stakeholders to engage with historical records, cultural narratives, and international perspectives.

PNU anticipates that this landmark exhibit will not only celebrate shared history but also forge stronger cultural ties between the Philippines and Slovenia.

PNU-GEDIO ORIENTS SECURITY PERSONNEL ON GENDER-RELATED POLICIES

The Gender Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Office (GEDIO), in partnership with the Security and Safety Management Unit (SSMU), under the Administrative Services and Management Office (ASMO), conducted a two-day Gender-Sensitivity Training and Gender and Development



(GAD) Codes Orientation for the personnel of Itawes Security Proactive Agency, Inc., on May 28 to 29, 2026.

The activity aimed at equipping PNU's security guards, as frontliners in maintaining campus safety and order, with the knowledge and skills necessary to become more gender-sensitive and to help uphold a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment within the University.

The first session, the Gender-Sensitivity Training, was facilitated by Mr. Carlo Rey Miguel M. Enrile, the Research Assistant II of GEDIO. The training introduced participants to the fundamentals of Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristics (SOGIESC), as well as the importance of using gender-fair and inclusive language in their daily interactions.

The second session, titled Safe Spaces: GAD Codes Orientation, was facilitated by

Ms. Christinn M. De Leon, the Head of the Safe Spaces Unit of GEDIO. The orientation provided an overview of the University's GAD Codes, including prohibited acts related to gender-based sexual harassment and the role of security personnel in implementing and supporting these policies. The discussion highlighted the legal foundations of the GAD Codes, particularly Republic Act No. 7877 (Anti-Sexual Harassment Act) and Republic Act No. 11313 (Safe Spaces Act or Bawal Bastos Law).

The training fostered active participation and meaningful discussions among the participants, reflecting their commitment to creating a safer and more inclusive campus community. Through this initiative, PNU continues to promote gender sensitivity, prevent gender-based sexual harassment, and uphold its zero-tolerance policy against sexual harassment.

PNU-GRACEMO'S DR. ESPINOSA DELIVERS LECTURE AT INTERNATIONAL CHEMISTRY EDUCATION CONFERENCE IN INDONESIA

Dr. Allen A. Espinosa, Professor of Science Education at the Philippine Normal University (PNU) and Director of the Graduate Research, Creative Endeavors, and Examination Management Office (GRaCEMO), served as an invited speaker at the International Conference on Advances in Chemistry



Beyond Borders

PNU-GRaCEMO's Dr. Espinosa delivers lecture at International Chemistry Education Conference in Indonesia

and Chemistry Education (ICoACCE) 2026 held on June 13, 2026 at Universitas Pendidikan Indonesia in Bandung, Indonesia.

The conference gathered scholars, researchers, and educators from various institutions to discuss current developments,

challenges, and innovations in chemistry and chemistry education. Dr. Espinosa represented PNU in the international academic forum and delivered an invited lecture titled “Teaching Chemistry as Identity Work: Negotiating Rigour, Reform, and Equity.”

In his lecture, Dr. Espinosa argued that chemistry education reform is not only about changing curriculum, teaching strategies, assessment, or laboratory practice. Rather, it is also about understanding how chemistry teachers negotiate who they are, what they value, and what they are allowed to become as professionals. Drawing from his work with Dr. Martin Rusek, he introduced the NICE model, or Negotiating Identity as a Chemistry Educator, which explains chemistry teacher identity as a dynamic process shaped by disciplinary affinity, reform-oriented pedagogies, intersectional positionality, and continuous professional negotiation.

Dr. Espinosa emphasized that chemistry teachers often navigate tensions between rigour and accessibility, tradition and reform, authority and inclusivity, and disciplinary loyalty and social responsibility. He noted that while chemistry teachers’ strong commitment to accuracy, precision, and conceptual coherence is a professional strength, reform becomes more sustainable when this disciplinary loyalty is connected to inclusive, inquiry-oriented, and meaningful learning.

The lecture also highlighted that equity in chemistry education should include not only students but also teachers. Dr. Espinosa explained that teachers’ ability to enact reform is shaped by their access to resources, institutional support, curricular flexibility, professional recognition, and opportunities for meaningful professional development. He stressed that chemistry

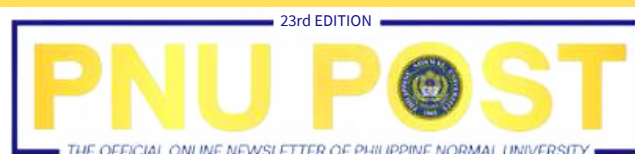
education reform must therefore be identity-sensitive, context-responsive, and supportive of teachers’ professional becoming.

The invited lecture concluded with the argument that the future of chemistry education depends not only on what reforms ask teachers to do, but also on who reforms allow teachers to become. Dr. Espinosa called for teacher education, professional development, policy, and research to treat chemistry teaching not merely as technical work, but as identity work.

His participation in ICoACCE 2026 strengthened PNU’s visibility in the international science and chemistry education community and contributed to the University’s continuing efforts toward internationalization, research dissemination, and scholarly collaboration in teacher education.

PNU-V’S THE TORCH PARTNERS WITH KNOWLEDGE CHANNEL

The official student publication of Philippine Normal University Visayas, The Torch Publications Visayas, proudly partners with Knowledge Channel in bringing four locally





produced documentaries to a national audience this June.

The first documentary, “Sa Punta sang Tanan, May Tindahan,” premiered on June 6. The remaining documentaries will air on Knowledge Channel on Saturdays and Sundays at 2:00 PM. The second documentary, “Ang Paningkamot Kagapon, Diploma na Karon,” will air on June 14; the third, “Dinagsa: Selebrasyon kag Debosyon,”

on June 20; and the fourth, “Tagsa ka Tasa, May Angot nga Istorya,” on June 30.

This milestone partnership marks a proud moment for The Torch Publications Visayas and the entire PNU Visayas community, as student-produced documentaries rooted in local stories, culture, and lived experiences reach viewers across the country. Through this collaboration, the publication continues to amplify the voices, traditions, and identity of Cadiz City, where the campus is located.

The documentaries were brought to life through the creative efforts of Rafael Dawa, Broadcast Editor, and Crispel Jhun Ducay, who served as the projects’ writers and directors, with the support of other dedicated members of the publication. These projects were carried out under the guidance of Dr. John Jonathan N. Normandia, adviser of The Torch Publications Visayas.

More than a partnership, this achievement affirms the power of campus journalism to inform, inspire, and preserve culture. It highlights how student journalists can go beyond reporting by becoming storytellers of their community, bearers of local identity, and contributors to the wider cultural narrative of the nation.



Today @ PNU

PNU, Microdata organize seminar on AI and Smart Universities for PASUC-NCR institutions

PNU, MICRODATA ORGANIZE SEMINAR ON AI AND SMART UNIVERSITIES FOR PASUC-NCR INSTITUTIONS

With the goal of making PASUC-NCR member institutions more adept in the use of artificial intelligence and modern technology in instruction and research, the Philippine Normal University, in partnership with Microdata Systems and Management, Inc., conducted an EdTalk earlier today, June 2, 2026. With the theme "Integrating AI in

Teaching, Learning, and Research," the seminar brought together representatives from the seven member institutions of PASUC-NCR as they basked in rich discussions on advancing AI adoption in higher education.

The highlight of the program was a series of talks from industry and academic experts. Mr. Sherwin Pelayo, Chairman of the Technical Panel on AI and Data Analytics of the Commission on Higher Education, provided an in-depth discussion on human-AI collaboration and how to reimagine the future of work and creativity in the education sector. Meanwhile, Assistant Professor April Joy Gascon, Acting Director of the EdTech Center of the University of Santo Tomas, shared the UST experience as a case study in synergizing systems for an AI-driven university. Following each speaker's presentation, the

audience was given the opportunity to ask questions and share insights related to the topics at hand.

In his opening remarks, Dr. Bert J. Tuga, PNU President and PASUC-NCR Chairperson, urged the participants to explore ways to use AI to strengthen learning and teaching. He described artificial intelligence as a not-so-distant concept that can pave the way for personalized learning. However, Dr. Tuga also reiterated a caveat against becoming too dependent on technology, encouraging the participants to remain critical and ethical.



PNU Bulletin

PNU, TEC train TEI academic leaders in partnership with Germany's DAAD DIES

PNU, TEC TRAIN TEI ACADEMIC LEADERS IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GERMANY'S DAAD DIES

The Leadership Excellence and Development for Teacher Education Institutions (LEAD-TEI) 2026 officially commenced at the Philippine Normal University today, June 1, 2026. The executive program brings together future deans, academic leaders, and representatives from teacher education institutions across the

country. The program will run in three phases: the initial phase held at PNU, the second phase conducted online, and the final phase to be held in Dumaguete City later this year.

The program is co-organized by PNU, Centro Escolar University (CEU), De La Salle University Manila (DLSU Manila), Negros Occidental State University, Silliman University, University of the Philippines Manila, and the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB). LEAD-TEI 2026 is funded by the Teacher Education Council (TEC) and co-sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), the German Federal Ministry for Economic



Cooperation and Development, and the DAAD-DIES Programme through its Dialogue on Innovative Higher Education Strategies and National Multiplication Strategies initiatives.

In his welcome remarks, PNU President Dr. Bert J. Tuga emphasized the importance of developing academic leaders capable of responding to the changing demands of education. He described LEAD-TEI as a platform for reflection, collaboration, and professional growth among leaders in teacher education.

“LEAD-TEI embodies our continued commitment to build strong academic leaders who are prepared to respond to the evolving demands of education,” said Dr. Tuga. He added that “leadership in teacher education is not merely administration; it is also transformation,” underscoring the role of educational leaders in shaping the culture and quality of teacher education institutions.

The opening program featured messages from representatives of partner organizations and higher education institutions, who highlighted the importance of collaboration, innovation, and leadership development in advancing teacher education.

His Excellency Andreas Michael Pfaffernoschke, the German Ambassador to the Philippines, delivered a recorded message that underscored the robust bilateral cooperation driving this initiative. Teacher Education Council Executive Director Dr. Jennie V. Jocson emphasized that Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs) remain central to preparing future teachers. Dr. Tobias Wolf, Section Head for Development Cooperation, Partnership Programmes, Alumni Projects, and Higher Education Management of DAAD, and Dr. Kai Handel, LEAD-TEI German Expert and current Academic Director of the International Deans’ Course, likewise shared their insights through recorded messages. Wrapping up the first group of speakers was Dr. Peter Mayer, the Former Academic Director of the International Deans’ Course, who provided a quick discussion that served as a precursor to his keynote address.

Atty. Danilo L. Concepcion underscored the vital role of teachers in shaping future generations and called for reducing administrative burdens so educators can focus more on teaching and learning. He also stressed the importance of preserving academic freedom within teacher education institutions. Dr. Christine Ballada, Dean of DLSU’s College of Education, delivered the message of DLSU President Brother Bernard Oca FSC, which centered on the importance of such programs. University of the Philippines Los Baños Chancellor Dr. Jose V. Camacho Jr. spoke on leadership that inspires transformation, while University of the Philippines Manila Chancellor Dr. Michael L. Tee encouraged participants to recognize the interconnectedness of institutions

The program was further enriched by the wisdom of the distinguished leaders at the helm of the partner institutions. CEU President

and foster environments where collaboration and innovation can thrive toward a shared vision.

LEAD-TEI 2026 Program Leader Dr. Gladys C. Nivera introduced the program, trainers, and participants. She described the initiative as more than a training program, calling it an investment in the quality of teacher education and in the development of future academic leaders.

Following the opening program, participants proceeded to the morning plenary sessions, which focused on current issues and emerging directions in teacher education and higher education governance.

In her keynote address, “Teacher Education in the Philippines: Directions, Challenges and Opportunities,” Dr. Jocson examined the current state of teacher education and identified key issues affecting the sector.

She cited the uneven distribution of teacher education institutions across regions, particularly in Mindanao, the predominance of private TEIs, concerns regarding teacher preparation quality, and the mismatch between teacher education programs and workforce needs. She also pointed to declining literacy and numeracy outcomes among learners, fragmentation among education agencies, and the movement of licensed teachers to careers outside the teaching profession. Despite these challenges, Dr. Jocson highlighted opportunities for strengthening teacher education through initiatives led by the Teacher Education Council. These include programs supporting the upskilling and reskilling of educators, recognition and incentive programs for exemplary teaching

practices, research-oriented initiatives, and career-stage frameworks that support continuous professional growth.

The final keynote session was delivered by Dr. Peter Mayer, who discussed “Higher Education Systems and Governance: Changes and Perspectives.” He described governance as the institutional arrangements, rules, procedures, norms, and values that define how decisions are made, how stakeholders interact, and how accountability is maintained within higher education systems.

Dr. Mayer highlighted the roles of governments, academic communities, and external stakeholders in shaping university governance. He explained how governance structures influence institutional direction, academic programs, and leadership practices, while emphasizing the evolving responsibilities of academic leaders in increasingly complex higher education environments.

On the afternoon of the first day, participants were divided into two breakout groups to experience more diverse interactions as they delved into the assigned tasks of the program.

As LEAD-TEI 2026 progresses through its subsequent phases, it promises to equip these academic leaders with the strategic foresight and collaborative

networks necessary to drive sustainable, transformative reforms in Philippine teacher education.

Article written by Princess Denisse Dane B. Aduca of the PNU Manila Creative Team.

BOR ENDORSES PROPOSAL TO ELEVATE PNU AS NATIONAL UNIVERSITY FOR TEACHER EDUCATION; BILLS FILED IN HOUSE AND SENATE

For years, discussions on Philippine education reform have focused on curriculum, learning materials, assessment results, and school resources. Less frequently discussed is the institution responsible for

preparing the teachers who stand at the center of the education system.



A proposal now gaining support in the Senate and the House of Representatives seeks to address this gap by expanding the mandate of the Philippine Normal University (PNU), the country's National Center for Teacher Education.

The Board of Regents of PNU, by virtue of Resolution No. U-4055, s. 2026, has endorsed the proposed Revised Philippine Normal University Charter, a measure that seeks to designate the University as the National University for Teacher Education (NUTE).

If enacted, the proposal would expand PNU's role in teacher preparation, educational research, policy development, professional learning, and technical assistance to institutions and agencies involved in teacher education.

The proposal arrives at a time when education reforms remain a national concern as conveyed by EDCOM II. International assessments have repeatedly highlighted learning gaps among Filipino learners, while policymakers, educators, and researchers continue to examine the factors that shape educational quality. Central to these discussions is the preparation, development, and support of teachers throughout their professional careers. In this context, University officials and education stakeholders argue that the evolving demands of teacher education call for a stronger institutional framework—one capable of driving research, innovation, policy development, and professional learning on a national scale.

The proposed revision in the charter would strengthen PNU's research institutes, revitalize laboratory schools to support clinical teacher

preparation, expand continuing professional development programs for teachers and school leaders, democratize access to the PNU teacher education programs, strengthen faculty, personnel, and student support, modernize facilities and infrastructure, and institutionalize support mechanisms and collaborations with teacher education institutions and agencies involved in education governance. This includes the Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Teacher Education Council (TEC), Professional Regulation Commission (PRC), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and the Department of Economy, Planning and Development (DEPDev).

The proposal is the product of consultations, technical reviews, and legislative discussions conducted over several months. A University Technical Working Group composed of faculty members, students, administrators, legal experts, and education specialists led the drafting process. Consultations were undertaken with government agencies, teacher education institutions, state universities and colleges, professional organizations, students, faculty members, staff, alumni, and other stakeholders in the education sector.

The measure has since moved into the legislative arena. In the Senate, Senator Sherwin "Win" Gatchalian filed Senate Bill No. 2125, which seeks to revise the PNU Charter and formally designate the University as the National University for Teacher Education. In the House of Representatives, House Bill No. 9403 was filed by Akbayan Representatives Percival V. Cendaña, Jose Manuel Tadeo "Chel" Diokno, and Dadah Kiram Ismula, together with Dinagat Islands Representative Kaka Bag-ao. A separate counterpart measure, House Bill No. 9399, was likewise filed by Leyte Representative Ferdinand Martin G. Romualdez and Tingog Party-list Representatives Yedda Marie K. Romualdez and Jude A. Acidre, proposing the revision of the PNU Charter and the declaration of PNU as the National University for Teacher Education.

Acidre is the Chair of the House Committee on Higher and Technical Education and sits as a member of the PNU Governing Board.

The proposal has also undergone legislative reviews and consultations with the offices of several lawmakers, including Representative Nicolas "Niko" Daza of the 1st Congressional District of Northern Samar, whose office provided recommendations on the draft charter and is expected to file the bill in Congress. Taken together, the reviews generally recognized the measure as comprehensive, forward-looking, and responsive to the need for sustained reforms in teacher education. They likewise highlighted the importance of strengthening institutions responsible for teacher preparation, research, professional learning, and policy development as part of broader efforts to improve educational outcomes nationwide.

The proposal has likewise received the endorsements of the member institutions of the Association of

Southeast Asian Teacher Education Network (AsTEN), the National Network of Normal Schools (3NS), the Philippine Association of State Universities and Colleges – National Capital Region (PASUC-NCR), and the South Manila Education Consortium (SMEC), among other stakeholders in the teacher education sector.

This legislative initiative comes at an opportune time. This year, PNU marks 125 years since its establishment as the Philippine Normal School in 1901, and 15 years as the National Center for Teacher Education by virtue of RA 9647. PNU, as the oldest public teacher training institution in the country, has sustained itself as a “normal” university with more than 90% of its academic programs dedicated to teacher education, while maintaining a few specializations in allied fields. Recently, the University was recognized as the country’s most consistent top performer in the teacher licensure examinations and was identified as the leading National Center of Excellence in Teacher Education, including its campuses, by the Teacher Education Council.

PNU President Dr. Bert J. Tuga said the proposal is intended to strengthen the institution’s capacity in developing the country’s teaching workforce.

"The proposed NUTE Charter recognizes that improving educational outcomes begins with strengthening the institutions responsible for preparing teachers. Through this measure, PNU seeks to contribute more effectively to research, policy development, professional learning, and innovation in teacher education to fully support the country's education agenda."

The proposed charter will continue to undergo committee deliberations and legislative review in both chambers of Congress.

While awaiting updates on the bill’s movement in the upper and lower houses of Congress, the PNU

administration continues to facilitate discussions on how to shape the legislation to benefit more stakeholders. On June 17, 2026, during a dialogue between university officials led by Dr. Tuga and various student organizations, student representatives expressed their concerns regarding different facets of the bill. In the spirit of transparency, Dr. Tuga addressed these apprehensions by clarifying the bill's salient features. The University President concluded with an assurance that the student body will be heavily involved in drafting the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), especially on matters directly affecting them. Furthermore, Dr. Tuga requested that lines of communication between the administration and students remain open for consultations on any possible amendments.

The University seeks the support of its stakeholders for the passage of the proposed NUTE Charter. Stakeholders who wish to obtain copies of the latest draft of the proposed charter, submit comments and recommendations, or seek clarification on its provisions may contact the NUTE Technical Working Group through the Office of the Vice President for Research, Extension, and Quality Assurance at vpreqa@pnu.edu.ph.

CHED AUTHORIZES PNU MANILA TO OFFER ACADEMIC PROGRAMS VIA ODEL, STARTING WITH TWO MA DEGREES

Driven by the goal of making quality teacher education more accessible across the country, the Philippine Normal University (PNU) continues to expand its roster of academic programs. In a formal letter dated June 23, 2026, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) officially granted the University the government authority to deliver academic programs via Open Distance and e-Learning (ODEL). The approval letter was signed by Dr. Jimmy G. Catanes, Director of the CHED Office of Programs and Standards Development (OPSD).



Pursuant to Commission en Banc Resolution No. 224-2026, PNU is initially authorized to offer two graduate programs through the ODeL modality: the Master of Arts in Science Education and the Master of Arts in Mathematics Education.

This authorization closely aligns with PNU's legal mandate as the National Center for Teacher Education (under Republic Act No. 9647) to continuously innovate and widen access to advanced training for Filipino educators, particularly in critical STEM disciplines. More degree programs are currently in the pipeline, as PNU has already submitted applications for government authority that are now pending evaluation by the Commission.

The delivery of these flexible learning programs will be spearheaded by PNU's College of Alternative and Lifelong Learning (CALL). Under the Philippine Open Distance Learning Act (Republic Act No. 10650), the ODeL framework empowers higher education institutions to reach working professionals and learners geographically unable to attend traditional face-to-face classes.

With this development, prospective students and interested applicants may now coordinate with the Admissions Office regarding the specific admission requirements and enrollment procedures.



CHED GREENLIGHTS MORE PNU DEGREE PROGRAMS VIA ETEEAP

In a major boost to flexible higher education, the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) has officially approved the application of the Philippine Normal University (PNU) for Government Authority to operate 11 undergraduate programs through the Expanded Tertiary Education Equivalency and Accreditation Program (ETEEAP) modality.

The landmark approval was formalized through Commission en Banc (CEB) Resolution No. 324-2026, dated June 1, 2026.

The official communication was subsequently transmitted via a 1st Indorsement on June 3, 2026, to PNU President Dr. Bert J. Tuga by the CHED National Capital Region (CHED-NCR) office.

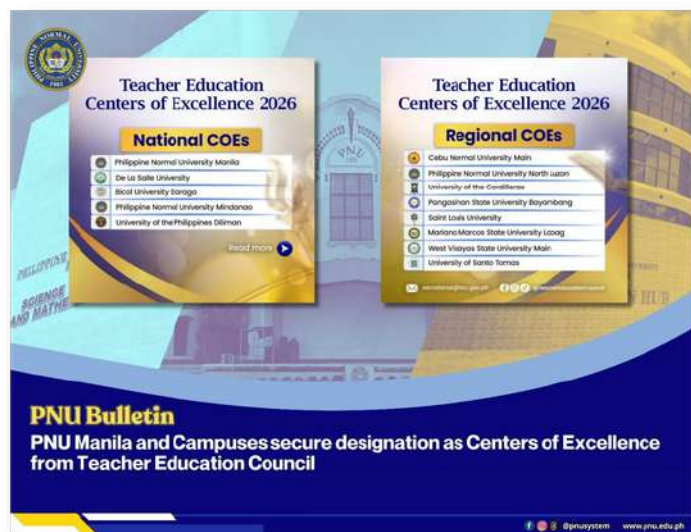
The ETEEAP serves as an alternative education delivery system in the Philippines that allows working professionals with at least five years of work experience to earn a bachelor's degree by assessing, validating, and granting equivalency credits for prior learning obtained through formal, non-formal, and informal channels.

Under this new authority, PNU is now permitted to offer specialized tracks via ETEEAP, including the Bachelor in English Education, Bachelor in Early Childhood Education, Bachelor in Mathematics Education, Bachelor in Filipino Education, Bachelor in Culture and Arts Education, Bachelor in Social Science Education, Bachelor in Values Education, and Bachelor in Physical and Health Education. Furthermore, the authority extends to the Bachelor in Science Education with specializations in Biology, Chemistry, and Physics.

According to the issued document, physical copies of the Government Authority certificate for the respective programs will be issued shortly, and PNU is expected to announce its specific admission guidelines and assessment procedures for interested ETEEAP applicants in the coming months.

As the country's premier teacher education institution, PNU's inclusion in the ETEEAP registry expands critical opportunities for non-degreed teaching practitioners and education professionals to secure standard education degrees.

PNU MANILA AND CAMPUSES SECURE DESIGNATION AS CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE FROM TEACHER EDUCATION COUNCIL



Three campuses of the Philippine Normal University have been designated as Teacher Education Centers of Excellence by the Teacher Education Council, a selection process that culminated with an announcement made on June 3, 2026, during the First Council Meeting for 2026. PNU Manila, PNU Mindanao, and PNU North Luzon join ten other Teacher Education Institutions that will bear the designation alongside all accompanying privileges, rights, and responsibilities, particularly in connection with elevating the Philippine education system as a whole.

Securing this prestigious designation requires Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs) to undergo a strict vetting process mandated by Republic Act No. 11713, also known as the Excellence in Teacher Education Act. In accordance with Sections 5 and 6 of the law, the recognized schools distinguished themselves through exceptional performance in instruction, groundbreaking research, robust student support, future-educator training, and impactful community outreach—all of which were validated by documentary evidence and on-site field visits.

Teacher Education COEs are divided into two categories: National COEs—institutions expected to steer discussions on teacher education on a national scale through their best practices and capabilities—and Regional COEs—institutions that will be at the helm of movements to improve teacher education within their respective regions. As an affirmation of adherence to the highest standards in the field, PNU Manila led the list of National COEs, and PNU Mindanao also secured a spot on this list of notable institutions. Meanwhile, PNU North Luzon has been identified as one of the Regional COEs, joining other reputable teacher education institutions across various regions.

In a major milestone for teacher development, these recognized institutions are set to receive a robust suite of institutional benefits, official recognition, and targeted funding under Republic Act No. 11713, or the "Excellence in Teacher Education Act."

The Teacher Education Council (TEC) will formally certify these designated COEs and publicize their status across official platforms, cementing their roles as regional and national benchmark institutions. Beyond prestige, Teacher Education COEs will be recipients of targeted financial support that will directly fuel collaborative educational research, instructional material innovation, and the modernization of facilities, while positioning these centers as regional knowledge-sharing hubs for community engagement and institutional mentoring. Crucially, the initiative also opens doors for incoming students to qualify for the Teacher Education Scholarship Program (TESP), securing vital financial aid to cultivate the nation's next generation of top-tier educators.

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PNU ADMINISTRATION, STUDENT LEADERS ENGAGE IN DIALOGUE ON STUDENT WELFARE AND UNIVERSITY DEVELOPMENT



Demonstrating the University's commitment to open communication, participatory governance, and student-centered decision-making, Philippine Normal University administrators and student leaders engaged in a six-hour dialogue on June 17, 2026. The meeting provided a meaningful platform to discuss concerns, clarify policies, and identify collaborative solutions for the continued development of the University community

Leading the administration's delegation was University President Dr. Bert J. Tuga. He was joined by Vice President for Academics Dr. Marilyn U. Balagtas; Vice President for Finance and Administration Dr. Lordinio A. Vergara; Vice President for Research, Extension, and Quality Assurance Dr. Teresita T. Rungduin; and Vice President for Student Success and Stakeholders' Services Dr. Leah Amor S. Cortez.

Other officials present were Dr. Merimee T. Siena, Student Affairs and Services Director; Prof. John P. Natividad of the Facilities Management and Sustainability Office; Prof. Romeo Rioflorido, Center for Culture and Sports Development Director; Mr. Harry Huliganga, Finance Management Office Director; Ms. Argea Linn Palabrica, Accounting Unit Head; Ms. Florence Allejos, Budget Unit Head; Prof. Ma. Laarni D. Buenaventura, Student Development Services Unit Head; and Mr. Leonardo Prudencio, Coordinator for Student Activities.

Representing the student sector were Torch Publications Editor-in-Chief Ruzzel Anne Dela Peña and University Student Council-Central Student Council Chairperson Jhenine Sioson. They were accompanied by other student leaders who brought forward concerns and recommendations from various sectors of the student body.

The student representatives presented a comprehensive six-point agenda. Their priorities included the expansion of student spaces, the enhancement of health services, and the establishment of inclusive support mechanisms such as gender-neutral uniforms and comfort rooms. Additionally, the agenda called for increased budget allocations, alongside improved salaries and subsidies for student assistants, performers, and student-athletes. Finally, the students advocated for the strengthening of free and accessible education and sought clarification on key University policies, particularly concerning the proposed National University for Teacher Education (NUTE) Bill and issues related to red-tagging.

The students meticulously prepared their concerns and inquiries, which were grounded in sustained engagement and consistent dialogue with the broader student body to ensure the issues raised genuinely reflected the needs and sentiments of the community.

Throughout the meeting, student leaders were given the opportunity to present their perspectives and explain the impact of these issues on the student community. University officials listened to the concerns raised and responded by providing explanations, updates, and clarifications on existing policies, ongoing initiatives, and administrative processes.

Discussions on student spaces centered on the growing demand for accessible and conducive areas where students can study, conduct organizational activities, and convene for academic and extracurricular purposes. Student representatives emphasized that the spaces currently allocated for student organizations in the Old ITL Building and the Old Finance Building are limited and not conducive to effectively supporting operations. They likewise raised concerns regarding the offices of the Student Electoral Commission and the Student Tribunal, which continue to be shared by both entities, constraining their capacity to work independently. In response, University administrators acknowledged these concerns and discussed ongoing efforts to optimize existing facilities while exploring long-term solutions.

Student leaders also actively advocated for greater institutional support for student-led programs by raising concerns regarding the allocation of funds for the University Student Council. In response, university officials provided an overview of the existing budgetary framework. At present, the University Student Council manages a budget of approximately Php 1.5 million, while Torch Publications has an allocation of approximately Php 3.1 million.

Recognizing the students' desire to expand programs and services, the administration discussed available mechanisms to help student leaders maximize existing resources. This exchange reflected the students' commitment to strengthening campus engagement and securing additional support for their peers. The administration, in turn, reaffirmed its commitment to supporting student development while ensuring that financial decisions remain aligned with institutional priorities, accountability measures, and available resources.

Funding concerns for student-athletes were likewise discussed. Student representatives highlighted the importance of sustained support for athletes who represent the university in various competitions. Administrators recognized the value of student-athletes in promoting the

university's excellence and assured participants that efforts are being made to address concerns related to training, participation, and financial assistance.

Initiatives to institutionalize gender-neutral uniforms were raised as part of the University's commitment to inclusivity, equity, and the promotion of an affirming environment for all students. The proposal received the support and concurrence of the University administrators. In addition, student representatives raised the recently approved Magna Carta for Undergraduate Students, underscoring the need for its formal recognition. Administrators advised that the measure be further elevated and endorsed to the Board of Regents to facilitate its official adoption within the University.

The proposed NUTE Bill was another key agenda item. Student leaders sought clarification regarding the university's position on the measure and its potential implications for PNU and the broader teacher education sector. University officials provided updates on related developments and shared their perspectives on how the legislation could affect the institution.

Concerns regarding red-tagging were also raised, with student representatives expressing the need to protect academic freedom, freedom of expression, and the welfare of students. Administrators acknowledged the sensitivity of the issue and reiterated the university's commitment to maintaining a safe academic environment where students can participate in discussions without fear of harassment or discrimination.

President Tuga assured student leaders that the administration remains committed to addressing concerns raised by the student body and finding solutions through continuous dialogue. He emphasized that while some issues may require long-term planning, the administration remains open to engaging with students and considering their perspectives in university decision-making.

The meeting spanned approximately six hours, demonstrating not only the administration's commitment to addressing student concerns but also the dedication of the student leaders who constructively participated. The extensive dialogue provided a meaningful platform to thoroughly examine complex institutional issues, exchange perspectives, and identify actionable steps toward addressing shared concerns. The students' passion for advocacy and their call for collaborative solutions underscored the importance of continued partnership between the administration and the student body.

University officials and student leaders alike expressed hope that the dialogue would serve as a foundation for continued engagement. Moving forward, the student representatives remain steadfast and committed to advancing initiatives that promote the welfare, rights, and holistic development of the student body, continuously striving for the betterment of the University community.

PNU ADVANCES MORE SDG INITIATIVES, MOVES UP IN THE IMPACT RANKINGS 2026

The Philippine Normal University (PNU) has solidified its commitment to global sustainability, securing an improved placement in the recently released Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2026. The National Center for Teacher Education ranked within the 801–1000 bracket out of 1,603 participating institutions worldwide, showcasing its performance in an evaluation that rates universities globally based on their alignment and commitment to the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This year's rank is seen as an improvement from PNU's placement within the 1001–1500 group.

A major contributor to this global placement is the university's significant upward mobility in key metrics, most notably under SDG 4: Quality Education. Reflecting its core mandate as a premier teacher training institution, PNU climbed to the 401–600 bracket out of 1,335 institutions, a major bump from its previous standing in the 801–1000 bracket. PNU also climbed in SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals, moving up to the 1001–1500 tier out of 1,610 institutions from its previous placement of 1,501+.



Alongside these advancements, the university's strongest individual showing remains in SDG 5: Gender Equality, where it placed impressively in the 101–200 bracket out of 1,095 institutions globally, while maintaining a solid standing in SDG 1: No Poverty by ranking 401–600 out of 931 institutions.

Expanding its impact further, PNU notably entered the rankings under two new categories, debuting in the 801–1000 bracket out of 1,254 institutions for SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and securing a spot in the 601–800 bracket out of 932 institutions for SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities).

These steady improvements and fresh entries highlight PNU's persistent integration of sustainable practices and advocacy into its academic and institutional culture.

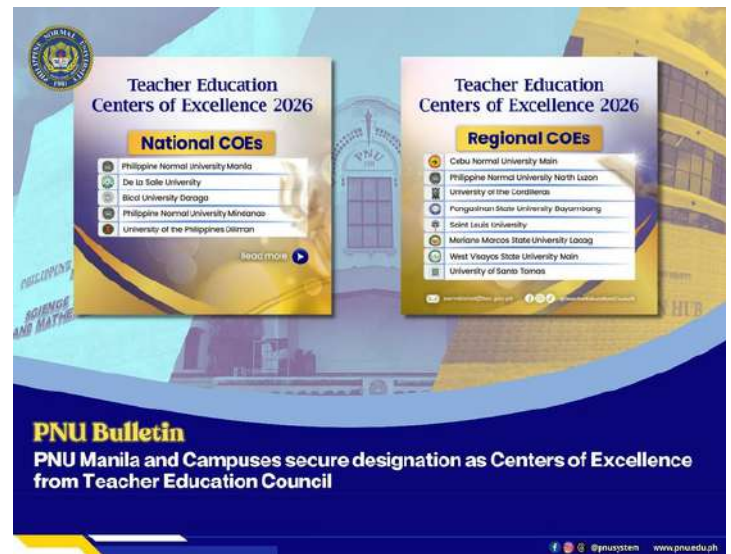
This accolade would not be possible without the efforts of the Linkages and International Office, with Prof. Bryan C. Dayuta as Director. LIO was at the helm of gathering data from various units and campuses to support the institution's entries to the THE rankings.

PNU ADVANCES MORE SDG INITIATIVES, MOVES UP IN THE IMPACT RANKINGS 2026

Three campuses of the Philippine Normal University have been designated as Teacher Education Centers of Excellence by the Teacher Education Council, a selection process that culminated with an announcement made on June 3, 2026, during the First Council Meeting for 2026. PNU Manila, PNU Mindanao, and PNU North Luzon join ten other Teacher Education Institutions that will bear the designation alongside all accompanying privileges, rights, and responsibilities, particularly in connection with elevating the Philippine education system as a whole.

Securing this prestigious designation requires Teacher Education Institutions (TEIs) to undergo a strict vetting process mandated by Republic Act No. 11713, also known as the Excellence in Teacher Education Act. In accordance with Sections 5 and 6 of the law, the recognized schools distinguished themselves through exceptional performance in instruction, groundbreaking research, robust student support, future-educator training, and impactful community outreach—all of which were validated by documentary evidence and on-site field visits.

Teacher Education COEs are divided into two categories: National COEs—institutions expected to steer discussions on teacher education on a national scale through their best practices and capabilities—and Regional COEs—institutions that will be at the helm of movements to improve teacher education within their respective regions. As an affirmation of adherence to the highest standards in the field, PNU Manila led the list of National COEs, and PNU Mindanao also secured a spot on this list of notable institutions. Meanwhile, PNU North



Luzon has been identified as one of the Regional COEs, joining other reputable teacher education institutions across various regions. In a major milestone for teacher development, these recognized institutions are set to receive a robust suite of institutional benefits, official recognition, and targeted funding under Republic Act No. 11713, or the "Excellence in Teacher Education Act."

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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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