

Malasakit Para sa Aeta:

A Continuation Program of Hope and Service in Sitio Sitrler

Sta. Juliana, Capas, Tarlac — Strengthening its long-standing commitment to Indigenous Peoples (IPs), the College of Public Administration and Governance (CPAG) of Tarlac State University (TSU) returned to Sitio Sitrler for another meaningful extension activity under its flagship initiative, Malasakit Para sa Aeta: A Continuation Program on March 28.

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By Asst. Prof. Izelle F. Gabion
Red Christian R. Bais

Breaking Stigmas, Building Empathy: TSU Contributes to Mental Health Awareness Seminar at TAU



Carmela Jane V. Paragas

C A M I L I N G ,
TARLAC — On
March 7, Tarlac
State University
(TSU) was honored to
serve as a key resource
speaker at the “Breaking
Stigmas: Gender
Sensitivity and Mental

Health Awareness” seminar
held at Tarlac Agricultural
University (TAU) Main
Campus. The event aimed
to foster a more inclusive
and empathetic campus
environment by addressing
key issues surrounding
mental health and gender
sensitivity.

Organized by the

TAU Tourism Society in
partnership with the TAU
Gender and Development
(GAD) Office, the
seminar invited several
educational institutions,
with TSU representing
the region’s academic
community. Dr. Nina G.
Valentin, a distinguished
psychologist and gender

studies expert from TSU
College of Arts and Social
Sciences, delivered the
keynote address.

In her talk, Dr.
Valentin emphasized the
importance of mental
health awareness and
gender sensitivity within
academic institutions.
She discussed the
role of universities in
dismantling societal

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CIT Enhances Bakery Efficiency at Samahan ng mga May Kapansanan sa Ramos

T SU College
of Industrial
Technology
(CIT) conducted
a “Comprehensive
Assessment for
Enhanced Bakery



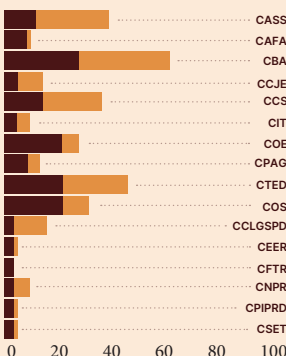
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MES Students Shine in Project LIKHA's "Sining at Salaysay" Arts Showcase



 Irish Kaye M. Bondoc

Students of Maruglo Elementary School (MES) wowed the crowd during "Sining at Salaysay: A Creative Arts Showcase of Stories and Expressions," the culminating activity of Project LIKHA (Liberating and Inspiring Kids Through Arts)—a long-term extension service program aimed at nurturing children's creativity, especially in geographically isolated and disadvantaged areas. The event was held on March 3.

Spearheaded by the College of Education (COEd) of Tarlac State University (TSU), the event showcased the artistic talents of Indigenous learners through poetry, singing, dancing, storytelling, and visual arts.

The program began with an interpretative dance by Indigenous students, followed by the singing of the National Anthem. Dr. Jasper Jay N. Mendoza, Dean of COEd, delivered the opening remarks, expressing gratitude to the TSU faculty experts, MES teachers, students, and other community partners who brought the project to life.



Messages of support were shared via video by Atty. Lily Freida Milla and Ms. Pat of Lingguhang Lakbay-Aral, both of whom expressed their appreciation to TSU and MES for the successful implementation of the project.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony officially opened the event, followed by an art exhibit featuring paintings created by MES students.

The celebration continued with live performances, including poetry and storytelling sessions led by Dr. Maria Agnes P. Ladia, Dr. Shindy Abigail Morales, and Dr. Jeanette M. Baquing. During these sessions, students shared personal narratives and celebrated their cultural heritage. These were followed by vocal performances featuring heartfelt renditions of "Tagumpay Nating Lahat" and "Yesterday's Dream," under

the guidance of Dr. Mellany M. Masangkay and Mr. Aris G. Madrid. A series of folk dances, choreographed by Prof. Marcelino P. Balanquit, brought vibrant energy to the stage and honored Filipino cultural traditions.

The success of the project would not have been possible without the dedication and expertise of the other TSU faculty members, namely, Ms. Princess Dianne Y. Mercado, Mr. Kenneth Pamlas, Mr. Jessie M. Tadeo Jr., Ms. Princess Gabrielle P. Masanque, and Mr. Edno T. Joson.

MES teachers also served as counterpart coaches who guided the students' development throughout the project. These included Ms. Pamela De Jesus, Ms. Flordhelyn Castaneda, Ms. Liezel Lacwasan, and Ms. Klein Rodinero.

The day concluded with a gift-giving ceremony, where MES teachers and students received a 43-inch television, speakers, tumblers, and bond paper. A delightful meal, courtesy of Atty. Milla, added further joy to the celebration.

Project LIKHA stands as a testament to how the arts can empower and transform young lives. It fostered self-confidence, cultural pride, and a deep sense of community among students, teachers, and partners alike.

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Breaking Stigmas, Building Empathy: TSU Contributes to ...

 Carmela Jane V. Paragas

stigmas, promoting mental well-being, and fostering inclusivity.

The seminar featured interactive activities and discussions, where TSU and TAU students actively explored mental health challenges and gender equality. Dr. Valentin also provided coping strategies for stress and anxiety and stressed the importance of building supportive peer networks in academic environments.

TSU's participation aligns with its commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, particularly SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and SDG 5 (Gender Equality).

Participants expressed gratitude for the seminar, which helped raise awareness and foster empathy around mental health and gender issues. Both TSU and TAU are committed to continuing their collaboration on similar programs, working together to create more inclusive and supportive academic environments for students across the region.

Nursing Department leads Health Awareness Campaign at Iba High School

 Maria Rosario S. Cudilla

The Nursing Department of the College of Science (COS) at Tarlac State University (TSU) spearheaded a two-day health awareness campaign titled Student Health Essentials: A Guide

to Managing Diarrhea, Vomiting, and Preventing Dengue at Iba High School on March 18 and 19.

The initiative aimed to enhance students with essential knowledge and practical skills to manage common health issues and prevent diseases



CIT Enhances Bakery Efficiency ...

✍ Roberto D. Santiago Jr.

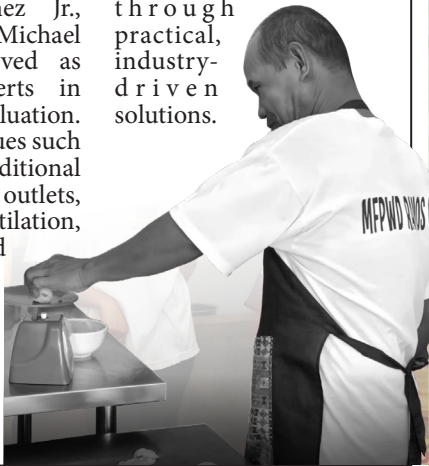


Production Efficiency” at the Samahan ng mga May Kapansanan sa Ramos bakery, which produces candy, pastillas, and veggie bread. The assessment, held on March 7, aimed to optimize the bakery’s operations by evaluating its infrastructure, production workflow, and equipment.

Prof. Erwin L. Sibal, Prof. Federico M. Estrada Jr., Mr. Ray Vincent T. Sarabia, Mr. Alfredo P. Ibanez Jr., and Mr. Dennis Michael C. Gutierrez served as the faculty experts in conducting the evaluation. They identified issues such as the need for additional special power outlets, improved ventilation, and repairs and maintenance of the mixer. The team recommended reorganizing the facility layout for better workflow,

acquiring new equipment like a pan slicer and bread molder, and making better use of idle machinery.

The bakery’s members positively received the findings, with Ms. Theresita Parayno, representative of the LGU of Ramos, expressing gratitude for the technical support. This initiative reflects the university and CIT’s commitment to empowering community enterprises through practical, industry-driven solutions.



such as diarrhea, vomiting, and dengue. Mr. Edward M. Cayabyab, Officer-in-Charge of Iba High School, warmly welcomed the TSU team and expressed gratitude for their commitment to student health and wellness.

Grade 11 and 12 students participated in the first day’s morning sessions led by TSU faculty members Ms. Pamela C. Pargad and Ms. Angeline D. Martinez. The lectures focused on the significance of personal hygiene, proper handwashing techniques, and the use of clean water to combat illness. Students also engaged in interactive workshops where they learned to prepare oral rehydration solutions and

created slogans promoting dengue awareness.

The following day, Grade 9 and 10 students attended similar sessions, with additional insights shared by Dr. Mary Jane N. Rigor and Mr. Elgeene E. Dizon. Their presentations emphasized the importance of maintaining a clean and healthy environment to help prevent the spread of dengue.

The event concluded with a certificate distribution ceremony led by Mr. Cayabyab, who recognized the students’ active participation and the TSU faculty’s efforts. Students and teachers alike expressed their appreciation for the informative and engaging sessions.

Malasakit Para sa Aeta: A Continuation Program of Hope ...

✍ Asst. Prof. Izelle F. Gabion and Red Christian R. Bais

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Launched in 2019, the program has introduced sustainable support to the Aeta community, including carabao and seedling distribution, local product marketing assistance, and children’s activities. This year, CPAG focused on household profiling to gather updated socio-demographic data. The information will guide the development of future programs that are responsive to the community’s evolving needs.

True to CPAG’s mission of civic engagement and inclusive service, faculty and student volunteers also distributed food packs, hygiene kits, and snacks. Children took part in educational and interactive games, creating a joyful and enriching experience.

Chief Tain closed the event with a heartfelt message,

“**Ang pangarap ng Sitrler ay hindi lang para sa isa, kung hindi para sa lahat at para sa mga susunod na henerasyon.**”

With renewed commitment, CPAG looks forward to strengthening partnerships, sustaining community engagement, and introducing innovative solutions that support the people of Sitio Sitrler. Through shared purpose and compassion, the college remains steadfast in its advocacy of genuine public service for the Indigenous Peoples of Tarlac.



Sitio Dueg launch turmeric alcogel

Reissa Joselle D. Gopez and Timothy Julian L. Bote

From the hills of Sitio Dueg in San Clemente, Tarlac, a new symbol of empowerment is taking root—a turmeric-based alcogel sanitizer developed by indigenous youth through the support of the College of Business and Accountancy (CBA) of Tarlac State University (TSU).

Spearheaded under the Product Development for the People of Sitio Dueg initiative, held from February 28 to March 21, the Marketing Management students at the university provided hands-on training to members of the Dueg Resettlement Entrepreneurs and Marketing Association (DREAM). The program focused on key aspects of product development, branding, packaging, and marketing.

Together, the youth and student mentors co-created the brand Tatsulok, symbolizing the three pillars of their culture, namely, Nature (Kalikasan), Creation (Likha), and Livelihood (Kabuhayan). They applied the 4Ps of marketing—product, price, place, and



promotion—to create a market-ready product, complete with a professionally designed, eco-conscious bottle.

With technical support from the TSU's Center for Natural Product Research (CNPR), participants also received practical training in product formulation, quality control, and safety compliance—transforming a simple concept into a viable and sustainable enterprise.

The initiative also included community outreach led by the Junior Marketing Association, which provided food, clothing, and essentials to the Sitio Dueg community. The project concluded with mentoring sessions aimed at refining business strategies and ensuring the long-term sustainability of the initiative.



COS hosts BASIC to Strengthen Community Health Competency



Maria Rosario S. Cudilla

On January 19, the College of Science (COS), specifically the Nursing Department, spearheaded the B.A.S.I.C.S. (Basic Assessment, Self-care, Interventions, Competency Seminar) at Brgy. Lalapac, Victoria, Tarlac. The initiative aimed to enhance local residents' health literacy and practical healthcare skills by providing essential knowledge in health assessment, self-care practices, and basic medical interventions.

The seminar commenced with an opening prayer and warm welcoming remarks from local leaders, including Mr. John Fortaleza, President of the Lalapac Youth Organization. This was followed by an inspirational message from Dr. Mary Jane N. Rigor, Dean of the COS, who emphasized the importance of community engagement in health education.

Throughout the day, participants took part in a series of



informative lectures and hands-on workshops facilitated by faculty members from the Nursing Department. Topics included the proper assessment of vital signs, basic home care techniques, and foundational health education, all designed to allow individuals to be more active in managing their well-being and supporting their families and neighbors.

The program concluded with awarding Certificates of Recognition to participants, presented by the Lalapac Youth Organization and the Barangay Council. Hon. Jonnie D. Lorenzo, Barangay Captain of Lalapac, expressed heartfelt gratitude to the organizers and participants for their commitment to strengthening community health competency.

The B.A.S.I.C.S. seminar exemplifies the college's dedication to community outreach and health awareness, fostering a culture of proactive care and shared responsibility for wellness.



From Passion to Profession: NAS Career Guidance Seminar Inspires Student-Athletes

Carmela Jane V. Paragas

The National Academy of Sports (NAS) hosted a successful career guidance seminar titled "NASaan ang Tagumpay?" at its campus in New Clark City, Capas, Tarlac, on January 24. The event aimed to inspire student-athletes to explore career paths beyond sports, bringing together students, educators, and professionals

from various fields to discuss the importance of setting long-term goals and balancing academic and athletic pursuits.

Ms. Jazmin Joy E. Dizon,



a career guidance counselor at the TSU College of Arts and Social Sciences, emphasized that success is not just about winning medals but about preparing for a future beyond sports. "Discipline in both academics and athletics is key to long-term success," she stated.

NAS remains committed to holistic athlete development, ensuring that students are prepared for athletic

success and fulfilling careers after their sports careers. Following the success of this seminar, NAS plans to offer similar programs to inspire and empower its students.





LUGUD 2.0 Series Equips Educators through Financial Wisdom and Emotional Literacy

Angela Rae R. Rendon

The LUGUD 2.0 Long-Term Project, a joint initiative of Tarlac State University (TSU) and Department of Education South A District, continues to make a transformative impact on educators and learners. Held at Sapang Tagalog Elementary School, the seminar spanned two sessions—January 31 and March 14—and provided a holistic approach to addressing the challenges in both financial management and emotional well-being within the education sector.

On January 31, the program opened with warm and heartfelt remarks from Dr. Nancy F. Gacula, Principal of Sapang Tagalog Elementary School, setting an inviting tone for the day.

Dr. Joanne Marie I. Escalona, from TSU College of Education (COEd), launched the morning discussion with her presentation, “Learning to Read the Heart: Nurturing Emotional Literacy Among Children.” Drawing inspiration from the animated film *Inside Out*, Dr. Escalona explored emotions such as joy, anger, sadness, fear, and anxiety, emphasizing the importance of understanding and managing these feelings, especially among young learners.

An engaging “Guess That Emotion” activity helped participants connect the topic with real-life experiences. Dr. Escalona shared her dual insights as a mother and preschool educator, highlighting the value of emotional awareness, stress management, and mental health advocacy for both students and teachers. The afternoon session, “Management of School Finance Amidst Limited Resources,” was spearheaded by Dr. Norbina Genever M. Castro, also from TSU COEd. She initiated a conversation on the perceptions of stakeholders and the recurring challenges of underfunded



schools—lack of chairs, tables, and essential facilities, particularly in rural settings.

Dr. Castro stressed the proper utilization of Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE) and encouraged sustainable practices, such as using repurposed materials and community resources. A light physical activity reenergized attendees’ mid-session, followed by a creative group task titled “Think of Innovative Ways to Reduce Scarcity of Resources.”

Then on March 14, Dr. Jessica Marie I. Dela Peña discussed “Ariba Kuwarta, Sahod Saan Ka Na?”—a comprehensive talk on personal finance management. She addressed the impact of inflation, spending habits, and the need for budgeting, savings, and investments. The game “Guess the Legacy/Profile” brought excitement and insight, as teachers identified famous figures who rose from humble beginnings.

Dr. Dela Peña emphasized passive and active income, the role of purposeful financial decisions, and how aligning spending with goals can lead to a more comfortable and meaningful life. Participants received practical tools, including a budget template, to help apply what they learned.

In the afternoon, the focus shifted to children’s behavioral challenges and mental health under the theme: “Bata Bata, Paano Ba Umasta?” Dr. Oliver G. Cura of the College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS) led an interactive session filled with emotional expression and role-playing. Laughter and openness filled the room as teachers explored the signs of anxiety, depression, and emotional

distress among students.

Dr. Cura shared the tragic story of a student who died by suicide, which led to heartfelt sharing from educators about their own students’ struggles. Dr. Ruby Ana T. Pineda, PSDS of South A District, and Dr. Gacula also shared personal experiences with mental health, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Gacula courageously spoke of her grief and isolation following her mother’s passing, and how her son helped reignite her hope.

The session ended with “Isang Simpleng Hakbang”—a call to take small but meaningful actions for better mental health. Dr. Cura encouraged schools to develop mental wellness programs tailored to both educators and learners.

The two-day seminar series offered rich, multi-dimensional learning that underscored how educators must be financially literate and emotionally equipped to guide young minds.

The seminars concluded with certificate distribution, group photos, and renewed inspiration among the attendees. With the continued leadership of Dr. Maria Agnes P. Ladia and the unwavering support of TSU and DepEd South A

District partnership, LUGUD 2.0 continues to sow the seeds of transformation across schools in the region.



HIRAYA: A Women’s Month Tribute to Strength Behind Bars

Asst. Prof. Izelle F. Gabion and Mr. Red Christian R. Bais



As Women’s Month drew to a close, the College of Public Administration and Governance (CPAG) reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to inclusivity and empowerment through a heartfelt extension activity under the banner Project HIRAYA: Reclaiming Her Power – Empowering Women in Prison. This special event placed the spotlight on one of the college’s long-term partners—the female Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs) at the BJMP Female Dormitory in Tarlac City.

The event began with an enlightening talk by Dr. Alfred V. Rigor, former Gender and Development (GAD) Coordinator, who traced the evolving role of women in society and emphasized that leadership and change are possible for every woman, regardless of her circumstances.

CPAG’s current GAD Coordinator, Ms. Danica S. Dela Cruz, followed with an inspiring discussion on women’s agency and notable Filipina trailblazers, encouraging the PDLs to embrace their potential: “Kung kaya nila, kaya niyo rin!”

The celebration featured interactive activities, including group reflections, team-building games, creative expression exercises, and a “dream wall” where the participants wrote aspirations as symbols of hope. These experiences created a space for connection, healing, and personal growth.

More than a one-day event, Project HIRAYA reflects CPAG’s long-term commitment to human development and transformative community engagement. Through initiatives like this, the college continues to extend compassion and education beyond traditional settings, affirming that hope, change, and strength can thrive, even behind bars.



TSU Seminar Boosts Financial Skills for Pura's Livelihood Groups

 Rachel Ann Vistan

On March 10, the College of Business and Accountancy – BSA Department of Tarlac State University (TSU) conducted the seminar-workshop “Journal It Down, Profit It Up” in partnership with LGU-Pura. The initiative aimed to enhance the financial literacy of community-based livelihood groups through hands-on training in journalizing and income statement preparation.

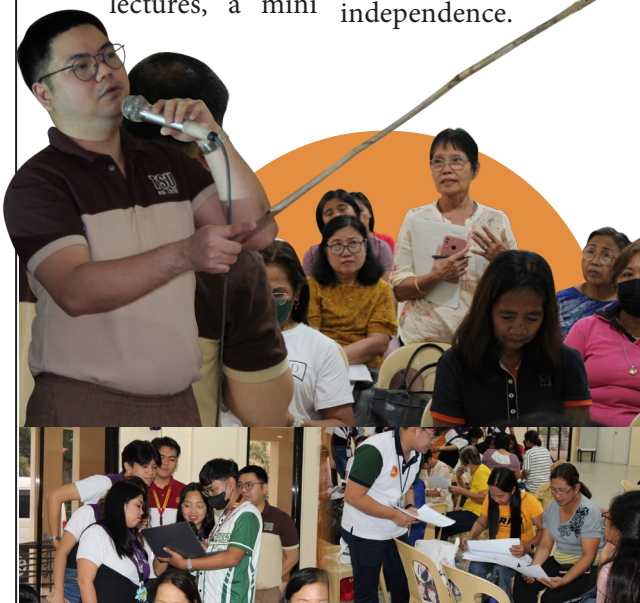
Held in Pura, Tarlac, Mr. Lawrence D. Sempio delivered the workshop in Filipino, making accounting concepts both accessible and practical. Participants learned how to use daily sales journals, calculate profits through income statements, and better understand their expenses, sales, and capital to assess their actual profits.

Beyond the lectures, a mini



consultation allowed participants to share their business concerns and receive personalized advice. The session was facilitated by Mr. Joshua Q. Poquiz, Mr. Jerome O. Mendiola, and Mr. Ralph L. Renzo Melegrito, with added support from the student volunteers of TSU Junior Philippine Institute of Accountants (JPIA), namely, Hazel Ann Nichole Tiamzon, Andrea Kate Espiritu, Renzo Louis Lim, Joana Canlas, and Ericka Jane Giron.

Under Project PURA, this initiative reinforced TSU's commitment to inclusive growth and sustainable community partnerships, equipping local entrepreneurs with essential skills for financial independence.



Tech-Ready Future: Advancing VNHS Students with ICT Skills



 Carlyn T. Nono

From February 20 to March 6, the College of Computer Studies (CCS) at Tarlac State University (TSU) provided Grade 12 students at Victoria National High School (VNHS) with essential Information and Communication Technology (ICT) skills through a hands-on training program. The initiative, aligned with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 4: Quality Education, aimed to prepare students for both academic success and

future career opportunities.

The program consisted of three sessions: ICT Networking on February 20 and 21, led by Mr. Gilbert G. Gonzales, where 660 students learned network configuration and cybersecurity basics; ICT Photo Editing on February 26 and 27, taught by Mr. Larsen B. Dignos, where 538 students explored photo editing tools for creative design; and Microsoft Office Training on March 5 and 6, facilitated by Mr. Rengel V. Corpuz, with 587 students mastering advanced MS Word and PowerPoint

functions.

A total of 1,785 students participated in the program, gaining valuable technical skills in networking, creative design, and productivity tools. The success of the program was also attributed to the dedication of faculty experts, who ensured a smooth learning experience.

Through this initiative, CCS continues to contribute to digital literacy and inclusive education, preparing young learners for success in a technology-driven world.



CIT assesses classroom facilities at Delos Remedios Elementary School

 Roberto D. Santiago Jr.

On February 13, faculty experts from the College of Industrial Technology (CIT) of Tarlac State University (TSU), led by Prof. Erwin L. Sibal, Mr. Dennis Michael C.



Gutierrez, Engr. Raul D. Canlas, and Engr. Chino Jose T. Pineda.

The team conducted a technical assessment

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CIT assesses classroom facilities at Delos ...



of classrooms at Delos Remedios Elementary School. They identified issues such as poor lighting, outdated electrical fixtures, overcrowded classrooms, inadequate ventilation, and safety concerns like exposed wiring and insufficient fire safety measures.



Following discussions with Principal Mr. Rodrigo T. Sicut, CIT faculty experts recommended upgrading electrical systems, improving lighting, reconfiguring classroom layouts to reduce congestion, enhancing ventilation, and strengthening fire safety measures.

This initiative highlights the university and CIT's commitment to improving learning environments and supporting educational infrastructure development.

e-Kwento Natin: Preserving IKSP Through Digitized Stories



Irish Kaye M. Bondoc

Another successful extension activity under the KASUDLONG Long-Term Project of the College of Education was conducted on March 24, at Maruglo Elementary School. The beneficiaries

were Indigenous Peoples (IP) representatives from Sitio Yangka, Capas, Tarlac. This project aimed to preserve and promote the community's Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSP)

by developing digitized stories that reflect their



traditions, beliefs, and daily practices. These narratives offer a rich insight into their history and culture.

The activity

was led by Mr. Deyo Carlos Dela Cruz, Project Component Head, together with Mr. Christian Lingad, Dr. Chona P. Conte, and volunteer Ms. Alecs Kaye Talavera, who collaborated closely with the IP representatives. Their active consultations ensured the stories authentically represented the community's identity and cultural heritage. These digitized stories will serve as valuable tools for documenting and promoting indigenous traditions, preserving them for future generations.

The success of this initiative was made possible through the support and collaboration of various partner organizations, including the Tarlac Masikhay Eagles Club, Philippine Air Force-Tarlac, and the International Rotaract Club of TSU Maharlika. The local government units of Capas, Tarlac City, and the Province of Tarlac also contributed to the project. Their collective efforts helped raise awareness and foster a deeper appreciation for the culture and heritage of indigenous communities.

CIT hosts technical skills seminar for SINAG members

Roberto D. Santiago Jr.

The College of Industrial Technology (CIT) of Tarlac State University (TSU) organized a seminar titled, "Empowering SINAG through Technical Skills", focusing on Shielded Metal Arc Welding (SMAW), Automotive Technology, and Electrical Installation and Maintenance. The event, held on February 15, aimed to assess and address the technical skills development of Solid Indigenous New Adventure Guides (SOLID) members.

Prof. Arnel A. Punla delivered a lecture on

the importance of technical skills, covering concepts, safety protocols, and applications. Participants then engaged in hands-on workshops, including SMAW welding, automotive fluid checks, and electrical tool handling with technical facilitation of Engr. Erico L. Garcia.

The event concluded with a forum where participants expressed gratitude for the opportunity to develop practical skills that would enhance their livelihood opportunities. The seminar demonstrated the university and CIT's commitment to community development and skill empowerment.



TSU trains entrepreneurs on patents and permits



 Rachel Ann Vistan

The College of Business and Accountancy – Entrepreneurship Department (CBA-Entrep) of Tarlac State University (TSU), in collaboration with the College of Engineering (COE) and the Office of Innovation and Business Development (OIBD), conducted a seminar-workshop titled, “Protect. Patent. Permit: Empowering Innovators Through Legal and Regulatory Pathways” on January 28.

The event aimed to strengthen the legal and regulatory knowledge of local entrepreneurs from Local Government Unit-Pura, guiding them on how to protect their innovations and scale their businesses through formal channels.

Engr. Julius Tj M. Serrano, an Intellectual Property expert from OIBD, opened the seminar with a comprehensive discussion on intellectual property rights, including patents, trademarks, copyrights, and trade secrets. His session highlighted how each form of protection plays a vital role in safeguarding creative and entrepreneurial outputs.

The focus then shifted to regulatory compliance with Engr. Dick S. Tuazon, a faculty expert from COE, who walked participants through the step-by-step process of obtaining a Food and Drug Administration – License to Operate (FDA-LTO). He emphasized key requirements such as facility standards, accurate

product labeling, proper documentation, and adherence to safety protocols, enabling entrepreneurs to meet industry standards and enter broader markets.

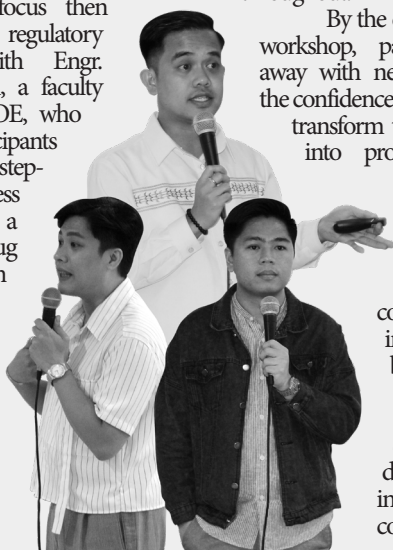
In an interactive session, Atty. Jayriz D. Dungca, Director of OIBD and faculty member of



COE, introduced participants to the world of licensing agreements. He explained how entrepreneurs can structure legally sound contracts that allow others to use their products, technology, or brand, while retaining full ownership and quality control.

Further support came from Asst. Prof. Aldrex G. Laxamana and Engr. Jayson M. Llarves, both representatives of OIBD, ensured the workshop ran smoothly and participants received guidance throughout.

By the end of the seminar-workshop, participants walked away with new knowledge and the confidence and tools needed to transform their local products into protected, compliant, and scalable enterprises. The initiative stands as a milestone in TSU's commitment to inclusive innovation, building legal confidence, and sustainable economic development in grassroots communities.



Innovation in Action: Project ATAG Strengthens Digital Governance in Gerona



 Carlyn T. Nono

Gerona, Tarlac — Project ATAG, which stands for Advancing Technology, Advancing Governance: Gerona LGU and CCS Partner for ICT Governance and Development, continues to enhance local government services through its ongoing partnership between the Tarlac State University (TSU) – College of Computer Studies (CCS) and the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Gerona. Since its launch in 2023, the project has focused on strengthening the LGU's digital systems. In early 2025, three major initiatives were completed to support this goal.

and services through technology.

The Network Server Configuration and Testing Project, conducted on January 20, focused on establishing a secure and dependable server network for the LGU. With support from Mr. Ronald C. Abellar and Mr. Mario F. Obena of the Office of Management



Information Systems (OMIS), the team successfully connected different LGU departments to streamline

internal communication and information sharing. This setup reduces technical issues and helps employees work more efficiently, ultimately benefiting public service delivery.

The Consultancy and Technical Specifications Identification for the E-Library, held from February 7 to 28, provided technical guidance for the planned LGU E-Library. CCS experts reviewed the existing setup and recommended appropriate digital tools and infrastructure. The aim is to create an accessible online

Under the leadership of Dr. Marlon V. Gamido, overall project head, and with the contributions of project component heads Dr. Heidilyn V. Gamido, Prof. Edjie M. De Los Reyes, Prof. Valarie D. Simbol, Prof. Jerome C. Legaspi, and Prof. Dennis Y. Virtudazo, Project ATAG continues to assist the LGU in improving its processes

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Innovation in Action: Project ATAG Strengthens Digital ...



library that will support students, teachers, and the general public by offering easy access to learning materials and digital resources.

The Maintenance of the Civil Registrar Information System (CRIS) Printing Module, conducted from February 14 to March 14, focused on maintaining and updating the system used for printing civil documents such as birth, marriage, and death certificates. With assistance from Prof. Carlos P. Flores Jr., the team ensured that the printing module functioned smoothly to prevent service delays and maintain the accuracy of records.

The collaboration between TSU-CCS and LGU Gerona serves as a strong example of how universities and local governments can work together to improve systems and provide better services to the community. Project ATAG is not only about upgrading equipment—it's also about making government processes more responsive, organized, and efficient for everyone.

TSU and DOST-Tarlac Partner for Renewable Energy Playground at Sitio Dueg

 Stephanie S. Carmen

The Tarlac State University (TSU) and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) - Tarlac have partnered to create a renewable energy-generating playground for Sitio Dueg, San Clemente, Tarlac. Conducted in the first quarter of 2025, the project brings together expertise from TSU's College of Engineering in electrical, electronics, mechanical, civil, and industrial engineering.

The initiative aims to incorporate sustainable energy solutions into the community with energy-generating equipment and a comprehensive design plan. The project seeks to create an eco-friendly, functional space that benefits the residents of Sitio Dueg, combining renewable energy with community development. *Key contributors from each engineering team include:*



Civil Engineering: Engr. Neil Andrew I. Meneses, Engr. Justine Bernard Hasegawa, Engr. John Christian Ilaga, Engr. Luis Angelo Lacson, Engr. Dave Mendoza, Engr. Kervin Melchor, Engr. Randy Policarpio, Engr. Veronica David, Engr. Leonides Tatu, Engr. Bonjoe Bello, Engr. Edwin Dela Vega, Engr. Orlando Sico, Engr. Susa Nina Sapad, and Engr. Emy Vasquez.

Electrical Engineering: Engr. Maan Florendo, Engr. Louise Faye Galang-Ramos, Engr. Robert V. Marcos, Engr. Crispin Flora, Engr. Cid Lapuz, Engr. Enalyn Domingo, Engr. Jonas Esguerra, Engr. Leo Piao, Engr. Michael Tomas, Engr. Nick Raymund Velasco, Engr. Rovinson Frias, Engr. Miriam Galvez, Engr. Rafael Yumul, and Engr. Alejandro Caranto.

Electronics Engineering: Engr. Aldrin Joar Taduran, Engr. Mark Benz Pineda, and Engr. Idris Jeffrey

Manguera.

Mechanical Engineering: Engr. Adam Rombaoa, Engr. Shaye Caroline Manlupig, Engr. Angelica Pangilinin, Engr. Mary Clarenz Canlas, Engr. Raymond Tiamzon, Engr. Stephen Immanuel Galang, Engr. Rexter Quiani, and Engr. Romel Martinez.



Industrial Engineering: Engr. Renz Paul Quimbao, Engr. Dick Tuazon, Engr. Ma. Victoria Rodriguez, Engr. Ann Jeannette Lopez, Engr. Anna May Angeles, and Engr. Joycelyn Cabuang.

The design phase has been completed, and the teams are now focused on structural design, cost estimation, and



Comillas FFS Agriculture Cooperative receives consultation services from CIT



 Roberto D. Santiago, Jr.

On March 11, the TSU College of Industrial Technology (CIT) conducted a technical assessment for the Comillas Farmers Field School (FFS) Agriculture Cooperative, which aims to develop Carbonized Rice Hull (CRH) production. The consultation services were led by Engr. Larry A. Suboc, Dean of CIT, and faculty experts Engr. Raul Canlas and Mr. Ray Vincent Sarabia. The assessment focused on resource availability, machinery functionality, and operational capacity.

Cooperative leaders, including Chairman Mr. Rocky Gutierrez and Vice Chairman Mr. Noel Constantino, participated in the assessment. Key concerns identified included water supply issues, and Engr. Suboc proposed solutions to improve irrigation. The findings will guide future recommendations for equipment upgrades, ensuring efficient CRH production and supporting sustainable agricultural practices.



VANTAGE

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COS-PAFT Gift Giving 2025 Brings Joy and Support to Children with Special Needs

✍ Maria Rosario S. Cudilla



On February 11, the Parents Advocates for the Future of Tarlac (PAFT), in partnership with the College of Science (COS), held its annual gift-giving activity titled Gratitude Inspires Fulfillment in Togetherness (G.I.F.T.) at the Saint Joseph Home for the Special Children, Inc. in Brgy. San Jose, Tarlac City.

The event aimed to uplift the spirits of children with special needs by making them feel seen, loved, and supported while also providing essential supplies to enhance their quality of life. It was a day filled with joy, connection, and meaningful engagement.

The program featured an interactive art therapy session, allowing the children to express



themselves creatively, followed by fun-filled parlor games that sparked laughter and excitement.

Volunteers and faculty members joined in, helping to create a warm and inclusive environment.

In addition to the activities, the team distributed food packs, art materials, and hygiene kits to meet the children's basic needs. These thoughtful contributions served as both practical support and a gesture of compassion.

More than just a charitable initiative, the event aimed to promote empathy, kindness, and greater awareness of the challenges faced by children with special needs. Participants were encouraged to reflect on their role in fostering inclusivity and understanding within the community.

Volunteers played an essential role throughout the day, managing logistics, documenting moments, and ensuring that the event ran smoothly from start to finish.

“

The COS-PAFT Gift Giving 2025 was a heartfelt reminder of the power of gratitude, service, and unity in creating positive change in the lives of others—especially those who need it most.

Teachers Embrace Innovative Teaching Strategies at Science and Math Seminar in San Miguel



✍ Angela Rae R. Rendon

On February 21, educators gathered at San Miguel Central Elementary School for a seminar aimed at enhancing teaching strategies in science and mathematics. The event, part of the LUGUD 2.0 Long-Term Project, was titled “F.U.N. (Flexible, Useful, and Nifty) Hands-on Science & Fortifying Mathematics Teaching through the Scaffolding Technique.”

The seminar opened with remarks from Dr. Alona A. Mallari, the school's principal, followed by Assistant Professor Jayson Punzalan, who introduced innovative methods for teaching science. His interactive presentation engaged participants through a game and emphasized adapting to diverse learning styles using both online and face-to-face approaches. He also discussed the importance

of reintroducing GMRC (Good Manners and Right Conduct) to support student development.

In the afternoon, Dr. Nelvin R. Nool led a session on addressing math anxiety through scaffolding techniques. He encouraged participants to share their experiences and introduced



strategies like collaborative learning, visual aids, real-life application, and guided problem-solving to make mathematics more

accessible and less intimidating for students.

The seminar concluded with closing remarks from Dr. Maria Agnes P. Ladia, project head of LUGUD. 2.0, who emphasized the crucial role of teachers in shaping future generations. The event ended with a certificate awarding and photo opportunity, celebrating a day of professional growth and shared commitment to education.

Creating Safer Classrooms: CPAG shares insights on the Safe Spaces Act

✍ Asst. Prof. Izelle F. Gabion
Red Christian R. Bais

In celebration of Women's Month, the College of Public Administration and Governance (CPAG) hosted an educational session for senior high school teachers on March 13 at Sapang Biabas Resettlement School in Mabalacat City, Pampanga, focusing on the Safe Spaces Act (Republic Act No. 11313). Led by CPAG faculty members Prof. Izelle F. Gabion and Mr. Fred Mico M. Siron, the session aimed to provide teachers

with an understanding of the law's provisions and equip them to address sexual harassment.

The discussion covered key aspects of the law, such as who is protected and what constitutes sexual harassment, while also offering practical strategies for teachers to respond to harassment. Prof. Gabion emphasized the importance of respecting boundaries, and Mr. Siron stressed the value of teaching these principles to students and colleagues to foster a respectful environment.

The session encouraged

teachers to share personal experiences and ask questions, making it a practical and interactive learning experience. Teachers left with a stronger understanding of the Safe Spaces Act, ready to implement its principles to create

safe, harassment-free educational environments.

This event reinforced CPAG's commitment to advocating for gender equality and safe spaces, especially within schools, where dignity must be upheld.





EDUKaagapay & e-Kwento's Love at First Smile: COEd conducts outreach program for Indigenous learners

Irish Kaye M. Bondoc

On February 17, TSU College of Education, in collaboration with the University Health Services, hosted the "EDUKaagapay and e-Kwento's Love at First Smile" outreach program at Maruglo Elementary School in Capas, Tarlac. The initiative, part of the long-term KASUDLONG project, aimed to address health and educational disparities for indigenous learners. The program was led



by Dr. Jeanette M. Baquing, the College Extension Department Head and KASUDLONG Project Head, alongside Mr. Deyo Carlos L. Dela Cruz, the Project Component Head of e-Kwento: Preserving Indigenous Knowledge Systems and Practices (IKSP) through Digitized Stories.

Other key project team members included Prof. Douglas C. Ferrer, Dr. Chona P. Conte, Dr. Mellany M. Masangkay, Mr. Lyndon Q. Macanas, Ms. Alecs Kaye C. Talavera, and

Mr. Ryan Paul M. Delgado. The mission was supported by TSU Health Services, with Dr. Rommel B. Hernandez and medical staff members Dr. Jose Francisco Jr., Ms. Cherryll M. Abila, and Ms. Marisol D. Ibarra providing essential health care services.

Aside from these, other program components also contributed to the community's broader needs. The Hapag-Asa Livelihood for Sustainable Income Program, led by Ms. Lalaine Cabilangan, Prof. Paulo Xavier V. Samson, and Ms. Siti Norliza C. Musa, provided hands-on training for unemployed parents in the community. Participants learned to make sweet potato buchi, empowering them with skills to create a sustainable source of income for their families.

The Sikhay-Turo Component Program also played an important role in community engagement. The MATUTO initiative, led by Dr. Shindy Abigail Morales, Dr. Arlyn C. Cura, and Dr. Jeanette M. Baquing, focused on promoting basic literacy in Filipino, while MAKIHALUBILO, led by Ms. Janique C. Lusong, Dr.

Joanne Marie I. Escalona, and Dr. Niño B. Corpuz, provided emotional support and personal development. Meanwhile, the MATUTO for Basic Literacy and English Literacy, spearheaded by Dr. Mellany M. Masangkay, Dr. Norbina Genver M. Castro, Mr. Lyndon Q. Macanas, Ms. Ellaine Rayza Romero, and Mr. Aris G. Madrid, conducted reading comprehension tutorials to enhance students' literacy skills.

The success of the event was also due to the active participation of various student organizations, including the Association of Prospective Technical Educators (APTE), Educators of Technology and Livelihood Education, League of Prospective English Educators (LPEE), Student Teacher Organization (STO), Guild of Elementary Mentors (GEMs), and MAHARLIKA.

This demonstrated the power of teamwork in delivering comprehensive solutions for the well-being of indigenous communities. The mission's success highlights the dedication of all involved in creating a lasting, positive impact on the lives of those in need, showing that a smile, fueled by love and care, can make a meaningful difference.

STEP UP Seminar Prepares ANHS Students for University Entrance Exams

Irish Kaye M. Bondoc

The College of Education (COEd) of Tarlac State University (TSU) successfully conducted the Strategic Test Enhancement Program for University Placement (STEP UP) Seminar at Amucao National High School (ANHS), aimed at helping students prepare for university entrance examinations.

Held over four sessions on January 27 and 31, and February 3 and 7, 2025, the seminar provided practical support for Grade 12 students, equipping them with essential skills and strategies to

improve their test performance and increase their chances of gaining admission to their chosen universities.

The STEP UP program addressed common concerns such as choosing the right course, understanding application requirements, and preparing academically for entrance exams. It offered a structured approach—from course selection to exam readiness—designed to guide students through university admissions.

Renowned extensionists Prof. Laarni T. Capinding and Engr. Emir Lenard S.F. Sicangco led the sessions, sharing

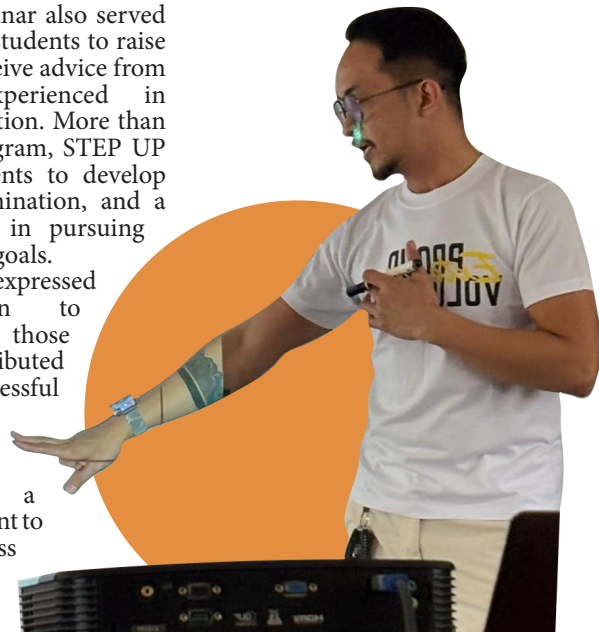
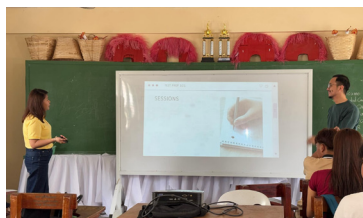
expert insights on critical thinking, problem-solving, time management, and effective study techniques. Through dynamic lectures and hands-on activities, students gained valuable knowledge and practical tools to tackle entrance exams with greater confidence.

The seminar also served as a platform for students to raise questions and receive advice from professionals experienced in academic preparation. More than just a review program, STEP UP encouraged students to develop discipline, determination, and a focused mindset in pursuing their educational goals.

ANHS expressed its appreciation to TSU and all those who contributed to the successful implementation of the seminar. The STEP UP initiative reflects a shared commitment to academic readiness and student development,

paving the way for brighter educational opportunities.

This extension activity reaffirms the university's role in supporting public education through meaningful programs that build student potential and readiness for higher learning.





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