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TSU enters global collab with South Korean university

Tarlac State University and Daegu Haany University, based in South Korea, inked a partnership for faculty and student mobility in early childhood education at the Main AVR on January 21, 2025.

With this two-year partnership, both universities will collaborate on faculty and staff mobility, the English Language Proficiency Program (ELPP), and

cultural exchange.

According to Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Agnes M. Macaraeg, the partnership will benefit the Early Childhood Education program under the College of Education regarding internationalization efforts for its program accreditation and the university's SUC leveling.

Part of the faculty

mobility is an exchange program that will be conducted for special courses through seminars, lectures, workshops, and training.

Moreover, the partner universities will collaborate to share their best practices in line with their inclination of services and processes.

Per the agreement, TSU will assign faculty

members to teach in the ELPP, where international students will also be immersed in Filipino culture.

"I hope to see a deep collaboration between our two universities in research, student exchange, and culture exchange... I hope this will (be a) meaningful opportunity for us to learn more about [the] Philippines' culture

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CCLGSPD Director vows to assist basic units of gov't

Mary Joy B. Manalo



Tarlac State University, through its Center for Community and Local Governance Studies and Policy Development, entered into a partnership with barangays Baras-Baras and Sinait in Tarlac City to strengthen youth governance and local policy development.

The partnership was formalized through a memorandum of agreement signing held on January 22, 2025 at the Main AVR.

Through Project KAPABILD (Kabataan Advancement: Profiling, Consultancy, and Capacity Building Initiatives for the SK and KK in Baras-Baras, Tarlac City), the

CCLGSPD and the College of Public Administration and Governance will provide assistance and consultancy for data collection and analysis in profiling the Katipunan ng Kabataan to formulate and implement programs and services attuned to the issues and concerns of the barangay's youth.

Last April 13, 2024, CCLGSPD and CPAG already conducted the project's phase I, where they gathered data and information about the youth's status in the barangay.

Moreover, TSU will also conduct capacity-building activities for Sangguniang Kabataan youth leaders and the Katipunan ng Kabataan

to enhance their competence and skills, focusing on the ten centers of youth formation.

Additionally, advocacy materials promoting youth empowerment and development will be developed under this initiative.

Meanwhile, Project AKAP (Aksyon Kaagapay ang Pamahalaan Project), piloted in Brgy. Sinait, aims to strengthen local governance and policy development through capacity-building activities for barangay leaders to improve their governance and leadership skills.

As part of the project, a barangay database system will be developed to streamline processing requests from

barangay beneficiaries.

Brgy. Chair Mario B. Sapad of Baras-Baras and Brgy. Chair Catalina P. Tonelada III of Sinait thanked the TSU community for its continuous support and assistance to their barangays.

"Rest assured po na ang partnership na ito ay hindi lamang po sa ballpen dahil pagsisikapin po namin ng council, SK, at ng mga mamamayan ng Sinait na maisakatuparan ang programang ito sa pinakamataas na antas. Ipapakita po namin na ito ay magtatagumpay para po sa ikakaunlad ng aming barangay," Hon. Tonelada said.

TSU alumni association, alumni office officially close 1st basketball league

Mary Joy B. Manalo

The Tarlac State University Alumni Association, Inc. and the Office of Alumni Affairs concluded the first season of the Inter-Alumni Basketball League with an exhibition game and the awarding of alumni scholars on January 24, 2025 at the TSU Gymnasium.

Aimed to foster alumni engagement, promote sports development, and raise funds for alumni scholars, the basketball league, which began on November 10, was initiated by TSUAAI President Hon. Reynaldo L. Catacutan.

"One of the goals of this tournament is to bring back our graduates – our alumnus and alumna – here in TSU para at least 'yung camaraderie and love for the state university ay hindi maalis. 'Yung pabalik-balik sila dito ay it brings back old memories," Hon. Catacutan said.

To officially mark the end of the first season, the TSUAAI Board of Directors played an exhibition game against some members of the

university's administrative council, with the latter emerging as champions in a close 58-54 match.

Moreover, student-athletes Michael Vincent A. Celon from the College of Business and Accountancy and Jim Matthew R. Salas from the College of Public Administration and Governance were the first scholars to receive 5,000 pesos each from this initiative.

Both members of the TSU volleyball team will serve as TSUAAI's scholars until they graduate, funded by proceeds from the basketball tournament, which will now take place every year.

Afterwards, the awarding ceremony for the league's first season also took place with Team Norism hailed as the champion in the senior division and the Team Alumnus claiming the title in the open division.

According to Hon. Catacutan and OAA Director Dr. Winston F. Abalos, both offices are planning to host different sports events, such as volleyball, futsal, badminton, tennis, and golf, for the TSU alumni to enjoy.

SENIOR DIVISION	
First runner-up:	Team Non-Academic Staff Association (NASA)
Champion:	Norism

SENIOR DIVISION MYTHICAL FIVE	
Mark Bonifacio	
Jun Enriquez- Most Valuable Player	
Arnold Lumba	
Miguel Reyes	
Romeo Valencia Jr.	

Luis Paras- Most Defensive Player	
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OPEN DIVISION	
First runner-up:	MD MILLENIAL DOCTORS
Champion:	Alumnus

OPEN DIVISION MYTHICAL FIVE	
Sherwin De Vera	
Nelmar Espiritu	
Edgar Lavetoria	
Neil Clark Limiac- Most Valuable Player	
Kevin Jay Llabres	

Dexter Dela Rosa- Most Defensive Player	
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Tarlac City gov't accountant to January grads: 'You hold the power to write your story'

Mary Joy B. Manalo



Two hundred fifty-seven graduates were conferred with their respective degrees during the 36th Commencement Exercises of Tarlac State University on January 24, 2025 at the TSU Gymnasium.

The graduates completed their degrees during the first semester of the academic year 2024-2025.

Rhea W. Sales, a cum laude graduate of the Bachelor of Elementary Education with a major in General Education, delivered the valedictory speech for this batch.



Sales, the daughter of a modiste and a tricycle driver, shared her struggles and triumphs during her university journey. She recounted moments of doubt, mainly when she had to extend her time at the university after shifting to a different major, which placed an even greater financial burden on her parents.

"The thought of my parents' struggles weighed

heavily on me. I often found myself wondering, 'Will I ever reach the finish line, or will I ever be able to give back to them the life they deserve?'" the batch valedictorian said.

Apart from this, Sales also spoke about the challenges of being an irregular student, which sometimes left her feeling isolated. She recalled moments of uncertainty, eating alone, sitting quietly in empty classrooms, and navigating group projects without the comfort of a consistent circle.

"Despite being an irregular student, I was able to not only reach my dreams but surpass even my own expectations... Let my story stand as a beacon of hope that no matter where you start, no matter how winding the path, you can achieve your dreams and sometimes even go beyond what you dared to imagine," she added.

Sales dedicated her success to her family, expressing gratitude for her parents' sacrifices.

"Every stitch you made, every ride you gave—it all built the path that led me here," she said.

Apart from Sales, another notable graduate from this batch is Dr. Ruth D. Jimenez,

the current DepEd Tarlac City Schools Division School Governance and Operations Division chief.



Dr. Jimenez obtained her Doctor of Public Administration degree major in Administration of Socio-Economic Development.

Furthermore, TSU also presented a posthumous award to John Henry G. Dueñas, a civil engineering graduate, who passed away last November 2024.



Meanwhile, the university welcomed the accountant of the Tarlac City Government, Hon. Roland S. Domingo, as the guest of honor and speaker for the graduation

ceremony.

In his message, Hon. Domingo, also an alumnus of TSU, advised the graduates to stand firm and bravely face the future with courage and power to write their own stories.

"The future you will be facing is scary – it is uncertain, indifferent, and is sometimes unfair. But what you can be sure of is that your future is yours and no one else. It is yours to shape and to share. Kamay ninyo ang susulat sa mga susunod na pahina ng buhay ninyo. You hold the power to write your story and don't be afraid to rewrite, rewrite, and rewrite. Hindi bawal ang erasures," he said.

He also encouraged the graduates to always strive for excellence and never stop learning in whatever they are doing.

Hon. Domingo is an accountancy graduate of TSU (then Tarlac College of



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TSU enters 2025 with curriculum, instruction enhancement

Maria Adelaida D. Calayag

Faculty members from different colleges attended the two-day seminar workshop on faculty integration for Student Workload (SWL) Institutionalization and Authentic Assessment (AuA) Adoption, which commenced on January 16, 2025 at the Priscilla Hall, TSU Hotel in Lucinda Campus.

This activity aims to enhance further the workload-based curriculum planning and authentic assessment integration of faculty members in their



respective classes.

Dr. Richard Jugar, Director of the Office of Educational Practices, Instruction, and Curriculum Development at the University of San Carlos in Cebu City and Special Advisor to the Executive Director of the ASEAN University Network (AUN), led the two-day seminar workshop.

As the resource person, he gave the participants 11 activities to assess their current needs and situations in their colleges.

He emphasized the learner's well-being, transparency in learning targets, and the teachers' responsibility.

Dr. Jugar also noted that the non-academic and support staff should also be oriented in planning and balancing the different

curriculum and program offerings.

Moreover, he said teachers must have a digital detox while doing their work.



Participants engaged in workshops on prospectus-based estimation, desk estimation, and syllabus-based estimation.

During the second day of the workshop, the participants learned the importance of student workload estimation, allocation, and distribution, which are suited for their respective programs based on the teaching and

learning activities and plans.

Following this process, students may enjoy learning in a balanced way while making it more advantageous to the teacher to maximize learning modalities and style.

"Teachers, on the first day, we realize that it is important to consider the students' workload.

At the teachers' level, we need to make sure that we are reasonable and consistent. Walang nagagalit sa disiplina hangga't reasonable ka lang at consistent. Alam po ng estudyante 'yan. Inuna natin ang student workload at the course level, because we want to emphasize that we have the responsibility to regulate by making sure that we do not load it at the same time we can attain the course and program

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CBA's lone doctoral program reaches Level 3 AACUP re-accreditation

Mary Joy B. Manalo

The Doctor of Business Administration program under the College of Business and Accountancy formally received its Level III Re-Accreditation certificate from the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines last January 28, 2025 through the Office of Quality Assurance.

Based on the summary of findings presented by OQA Director Dr. Niño B. Corpuz, the program achieved a grand mean of 4.0, with all key areas—instruction, research, faculty development, and extension—garnering 4.0 ratings.

“Indeed, there is value in perseverance. Sa wakas, the long-awaited re-accreditation award is now here with us. With our teamwork and the joint energy we have in the college, nothing is impossible,” Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Agnes M. Macaraeg said in her opening message, reflecting on the program’s two-year journey to re-accreditation.

Moreover, Dr. Corpuz said the program reached the required grand mean during its initial survey visit in 2022 but was given mandatory



requirements to fulfill.

In 2023, the program addressed its other requirements, and by August 2024, it achieved full compliance, earning its Level III Re-Accreditation.

“Hindi biro ang pinagdaanan ng graduate program... Ngayon naman ay magsisimula na ang journey for the higher level. Sabi nga nila, ‘when much is given, much is expected,’” Dr. Corpuz said.

In her acceptance message, CBA Dean Dr. Jhonel C. Panlilio emphasized the collective efforts of the college in achieving the milestone.

“It’s a manifestation

na lahat ng ginagawa natin sa ating college ay may katumbas at tama ang ating ginagawa sa pagtuturo pati na rin sa ating pagre-research,” she said.

Moreover, Dr. Elizabeth A. Amurao, CBA graduate program chairperson, called for continued support from the faculty and staff.

“Sana huwag po tayong magsawa kasi habang nandito tayo ay kailangan ng ating program ang ating cooperation at pagmamalasakit,” Dr. Amurao said.

The DBA program’s Level III Re-Accreditation status is valid until August 2028.



TSU enters global collab with South Korean university

Maria Adelaida D. Calayag

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and Philippine education,” Dr. Gabjung Yoon, Child Welfare and Counseling dean, said in her commitment speech.

TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco committed to complying with the obligations stated in the memorandum he signed on behalf of the university, with hopes that the DHU “did not regret” partnering with TSU.

“We are very happy and excited about the implementation of this project because one of the visions of this university is to be globally competitive, and one way to be globally competitive is to partner with known universities like Daegu Haany University,” Pres. Velasco said.

During the DHU delegates’ three-day engagement in Tarlac, they visited public and private schools in Tarlac City and the university’s Childcare Center.

Meanwhile, the Office of International Affairs and Linkages toured the DHU students around the Lucinda Campus along with a classroom integration.

Furthermore, they were initially given a chance to experience the Philippine culture through a series of performances by the TSU Performing Arts Dance Troupe.

DHU is known for Korean medicine, cosmetics, and social welfare.



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TSU OULC advances knowledge on new procurement law

Mary Joy B. Manalo

Tarlac State University's Office of University Legal Counsel, in collaboration with the Provincial Government of Tarlac, organized a forum on the New Government Procurement Act (Republic Act No. 12009) last January 31, 2025 at the Carlos P. Romulo Library.

The activity, titled "Jurisprudence and Doctrines on Procurement Law RA 12009," aims to provide government employees and legal practitioners

with updated knowledge on procurement processes and ensure compliance with the newly implemented procurement law.

As the resource speaker, Hon. Elmira S. Cruz-Caisido, presiding judge of Regional Trial Court Camiling Branch 68, discussed the provisions of RA 12009, emphasizing its key differences from the previous Government Procurement Reform Act (RA 9184).

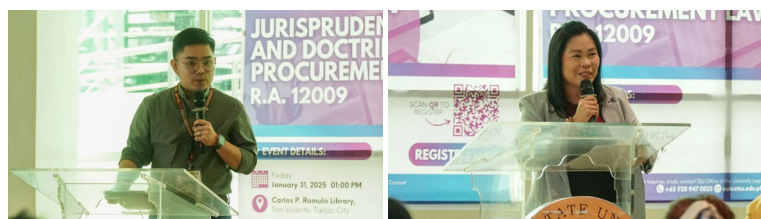
She also highlighted the critical responsibilities of the Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) in reviewing procurement documents to ensure transparency and accountability in government transactions.

Additionally, Hon. Caisido tackled the newly introduced Beneficial Ownership Declaration, which requires bidders to disclose ownership details to identify the ultimate owner and prevent collusion in

public procurement processes.

The forum was organized in response to a request from the local government of Concepcion through its municipal legal counsel, Atty. Myla Matic.

Attendees include lawyers from various state universities and colleges (SUCs) in Central Luzon, along with BAC members of courts, SUCs, Tarlac LGUs, and TSU School of Law students.



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outcomes," Dr. Jugar said.

Participants also enhanced their learning on revising the outcomes-based teaching and learning (OBTL) curriculum design by assessing student workload, incorporating new and flexible learning modalities, and adopting authentic assessment.

Meanwhile, another activity the participants engaged in was the "Authentic Assessment Spider Map," wherein Dr.

Jugar personally evaluated the outputs.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Agnes M. Macaraeg challenged the attendees to echo their learning to other faculty members while thanking Dr. Jugar for his generosity in sharing his time and resources.

"I know you are already fully loaded, but with all these insights, with all this knowledge imparted to you, I know

you will go home bringing with you this knowledge. But, the challenge is that you are not the entirety of the faculty sector. That is why I would like to thank Dr. Jugar for saying, 'You could make use of my materials,'" VP Macaraeg said.



FEATURE

TSU powerlifters powers through competitions, hurdles

Maria Adelaida D. Calayag



Tarlac State University Powerlifters ranked third overall in the National Interschool and Novice Powerlifting Cup held at the Centro Hall of Sta. Lucia Mall in Manila last January 17-19, 2025.

Ken Andrey Austria, a fourth-year marketing student from the College of Business and Accountancy, broke a record and won a gold medal in the men's 105kg college category. Austria was also given a College National Record for lifting the heaviest weight during the competition.

Another gold medal was brought home by Vince Gerald Gutierrez, a first-year law student, who competed in the men's 83kg college category.

Austria and Vince Gerald are set to join the Asian University Cup, an international competition in India that will be held in May.

Moreover, first-timer Arron Bautista, a second-year nursing student, bagged a bronze

medal under the men's 105kg novice category, while Lisha Mae Gutierrez, a fourth-year secondary education student and pioneering female member of the TSU Powerlifters, won two silvers in the novice and college categories under 47kg.

"Sabi nila 'Excellence is when you break a standard,' 'yun daw ang definition ng excellence. When you can break, you can go further beyond your standards. Natutuwa ako dahil meron tayong ganito sa TSU, we are proud of all your achievements,'" TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco told the athletes during their courtesy visit last January 23.

The University of the Philippines ranked first in the competition, followed by the Our Lady of Fatima University in Pampanga.

This is the first national competition of the TSU Powerlifters, with 14 out of 28 members representing the

university together with Mr. Hilario Romen III, coach, and Mr. Wesley Equila, assistant coach.

The team is aiming to send more delegates to succeeding competitions.

National competition journey

Lisha, who garnered two silver medals, shared that she held back her tears during her last attempt at deadlift. Instead, she bowed before the crowd and only cried when she saw her teammates.

"Di ko po talaga masabi na successful e, kasi ini-aim ko po talaga 'yung gold. Kini-crave ko 'yung gold, parang kinondisyon ko 'yung sarili ko na if not gold, 'wag na lang. 'Yung mga projected ko na weights, hindi sila lumitaw. Hindi ko rin po nabuhat yung 100kg sa deadlift na dati ko namang nabubuhay sa gym. So, sabi ko, silver na lang. Pinapakawalan ko na 'yung

gold," Lisha said in an interview.

However, the female powerlifter is keen on improving for the following competitions.

"Iri-redeem ko naman po 'yung sarili ko. Pero papalakas muna po ako kasi medyo alanganin. Pero ganoon naman talaga sa sports. Nandoon pa rin naman 'yung dedication ko, 'yung passion ko, atsaka hunger for gold," Lisha added.

On the other hand, Lisha and Vince's other sibling, Zyrus Gervi Gutierrez, an elementary education student, fell short of winning a medal.

Zyrus, Caedmon Dyre Catalan from the College of Business and Accountancy, and Francis Benedict Quito from the College of Computer Studies experienced difficulties during the weigh-ins, prompting them to abruptly lose weight to match their first weigh-in results.

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EDITORIAL

Cogs in the TSU machine

Although the university ended 2024 positively due to its collective achievements, uncertainty still clouds over its rank-and-file employees, especially those whose tenure is not yet sealed tight with a permanent plantilla.

With the financial setbacks, the university made crucial and heart-wrenching decisions to downsize contractual plantilla holders. It has also been studying the population of job order employees vis-a-vis their daily tasks. Trusting the hiring officials' wisdom, expertise, and experience, they would not seek the services of these

employees if the office does not need them. Hence, from the perspective of affected offices, it would seem futile to study the nitty-gritty of each one's daily activities. However, in hindsight, the observable reality of the university's situation regarding financial health cannot be taken for granted and must be warranted with prompt action.

The core of the employees affected by this decision is the non-teaching sector. Almost half of the 1,470 TSU employees recorded in 2023, including teaching and non-teaching staff, are part of the affected sector. From this data,

511 are with contractual plantilla and job order status. Some of these employees consider TSU their bread and butter, their primary source of income to support their respective families. Moreover, TSU can be viewed as a major employer in the Tarlac Province. Reducing their number could result in a significant loss in the province's employment rate and, most notably, might lead to increased poverty.

Then again, the interests of each sector involved must be balanced. Sustaining the university's operations demands budget, and a "business decision" must be established. But should

it always be the people who must bear the burden? Could there be other means to make the budget work without sacrificing the non-redundant workforce?

As cogs in a machine, each employee's contribution aids in making the university work. The leadership should ensure the machine is well-oiled to run its daily operations. With crucial and heart-wrenching decisions, how can the university patch things up with the affected sectors? An explanation from the administration is anticipated to iron out the situation.



TSU powerlifters powers through competitions, hurdles

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As a result, they felt a little weaker during the competition, given their small food intake and few hours of sleep.

On improving their performance, overcoming struggles

Zyrus said he is currently preparing for a "comeback" on "stealing a chance" to return on the podium this year. During the Northern and Central Luzon competition, Zyrus bagged a gold medal along with his siblings.

In addition, he started conditioning himself for the Luzon Regionals in April with Quito, who is also into bodybuilding and was once a duathlon athlete.

Meanwhile, some members are also preparing for the Central and Northern competition in September this year.

Yet, according to team captain Austria, some members

hesitate to join competitions due to financial constraints since their training would require athletes to shell out money for the right equipment, among other expenses.

"Maraming nag-tryout sa team, kaso 'yun lang 'yung mga main points, hindi lahat mapo-provide in terms of financial (matters). Kaya 'yung mag-join lang sila, 'yung matapak lang sila sa platform, big achievement na 'yun kahit wala silang nakuhang medal, 'yung nag-show up lang sila," Austria told OPA.

Aside from financial concerns, the eldest Gutierrez said stress was a significant factor during their preparation and training. Like their body, they also need to train their minds to focus on the competition while balancing academics.

Regarding female recruitment, the powerlifting team now has two new lady lifters joining Lisha.

Tarlac City gov't accountant to January grads: 'You hold the power to write your story'

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Technology) in 1988.

The baccalaureate services were held on January 23, 2025, with a Holy Mass presided over by Rev. Fr. Jason C. Aguilar.

Dr. Ma. Irelyn P. Tamayo, Tarlac City Schools Division superintendent, was the baccalaureate speaker who urged the graduates to embrace purpose, innovation, and service as they embark on their professional journeys.

"As a graduate of TSU, you will step into a world filled with challenges and opportunities, and it is in thinking beyond ourselves, offering your time and energy



for the betterment of others, that you truly find purpose

and fulfillment. Remember, the degrees you have earned are not symbols of personal achievement but tools to make a difference in the lives of others," she said.

Dr. Tamayo also emphasized the importance of innovation as a driving force for progress. She encouraged the graduates to think critically, adapt to change, and harness technology to tackle real-world issues.

"Your generation has the creativity and courage to drive meaningful change—use these gifts wisely to propel progress in our society," she added.

36th Commencement Exercises





TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF ARCHITECTURE AND FINE ARTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY LICENSED TSUIAN ARCHITECTS!

JANUARY 2025 LICENSURE EXAMINATION FOR ARCHITECTS

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42.86%

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TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY

Vision

A globally competitive university recognized for excellence in sciences and emerging technologies.

Mission

TSU shall develop highly competitive and empowered human resources fostering responsive global education, future-proof research culture, inclusive and relevant extension programs, and sustainable production projects.

Core Values

T-ruth in words, action and character
S-ervice with excellence and compassion
U-nity in diversity

Quality Policy

Tarlac State University is committed to continuously strive for global competitiveness and excellence in the delivery of instruction, research, extension (training and consultancy), and administrative support services, compliant to regulatory and statutory requirements for the utmost satisfaction of its valued customers while ensuring safe and healthy working conditions for its students, employees, clientele and reducing environmental impact of its operations.