



TSU receives 3 stars in QS Stars Ratings

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



TSU Alumni Park soon to rise at Lucinda Campus

Page 7



Daejin University of Korea meets with TSU officials for partnership

Page 9



Again, Tarlac State University garnered international recognition after being rated by the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Intelligence Unit as a “3 Stars” institution per the results sent via email last September 14, 2022.

TSU scored highest, with 5 Stars, in the categories of Academic Development and Social Responsibility, followed by 4 Stars in the Teaching and Facilities categories.

This is the university’s first venture in the QS Stars Ratings and is valid until July 13, 2025.

University President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco was elated and regarded this milestone as “very wonderful news.” He also showed gratitude towards all the faculty and personnel involved in the evaluation.

Continued on page 10

TSU welcomes students this 1st semester 2022-2023 for limited in-person classes

■ Maria Adelaida D. Calayag ■ Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan ■ Jazzel Llanelli Manabat



Tarlac State University started its limited in-person classes on September 6, 2022 for the first semester of academic year 2022-2023.

University President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco welcomed the students during the flag raising ceremony, discussed the start of the limited face-to-face classes, and reminded everyone of the university’s health and safety protocols.

“It’s na po ‘yung new normal -- naging agile na po tayo, resilient. Parte na po ng buhay natin ito. We have confidence naman na we are protected by [the COVID-19] vaccine. Mag-ingat pa rin po tayong lahat. May temperature check pa din po tayo and alcohol stations. Let’s have our mask on always,” said Pres. Velasco.

Mhlemiles Cuchon, a third-year student from the College of Public Administration and Governance, is among the students who attended classes on September. In an interview, she shared her classroom learning experience after two years of studying online, transitioning to wearing school

Continued on page 12

TSU holds last graduation rites for 2022, awards 3 doctoral degree honor graduates

■ Maria Adelaida D. Calayag

Tarlac State University recorded its highest number of Latin honor recipients from the graduate program, with one bene emeritus and two meritissimus graduates under the Doctor of Education Major in Educational Management, awarded during the 33rd Commencement Exercises last September 16, 2022 at the Kaisa Convention Hall in Tarlac City.

The three honor graduates are Chrisitan Paul Sunga, meritissimus and loyalty awardee; Joemar Bancifra, meritissimus; and Arnold Reyes, bene meritus and loyalty awardee.

Sunga, who received the highest GWA, delivered his valedictory address via a video message as he currently works as a teacher in the United States. He attended his graduation through the live stream provided by the Office of Public Affairs.

“I was not born with a silver spoon in my mouth. I needed to work extra hard to pioneer the first-generation teachers of our family. With post graduate education, I wanted to leave poverty and I want to have a comfortable life for myself and for my family. Despite this, I am grateful that I have never felt incomplete because of my amazing grandmother, Erlinda Suga, and my beloved tita, Reynaldo Domingo. Salamat sa pagbibigay sa akin ng kalinga. Hindi na tayo muling maghihirap. Maraming salamat sa [pagtitiwala] at pagsuporta... sa aking mga pangarap kayo ang aking ‘bakit,’” Sunga said in his recorded valedictory address.

Per the Graduate School Manual, the meritissimus award is given to students whose general weighted average ranges from 1.0 to 1.08.

Moreover, the university invited Tarlac Province Governor Susan Yap as the guest of honor and commencement speaker, who also delivered her message via a recorded video.

“Graduating is a wonderful achievement. I hope you carry with you all the lessons that you have obtained. Your education is not yours alone; share it with others. You can be a game changer in our society. You can be an advocate in your community. Now that you are graduating,



most of you will be hunting for jobs or will be pursuing further education. I wish you the best in your future endeavors, and more importantly, I am looking forward to see the best version of yourselves,” Gov. Yap said in her recorded speech.



A total of 314 graduates from bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degree programs marched and received their diplomas in the hybrid ceremony.

Meanwhile, Rev. Fr. Junjun Jonatas, TSU alumnus and the first meritissimus awardee, received his medal during the baccalaureate services held at the TSU Gymnasium a day before the graduation ceremony.

He finished his doctoral degree in 2020 with a 1.03 general weighted average.

Fr. Jonatas, parish priest of Mother Teresa of Calcutta in Brgy. Nipaco in Paniqui town, presided the Holy Mass of the baccalaureate services.

“Those who have the ability to be grateful are the ones who have the ability to achieve greatness and success. Hence, my challenge to you, graduates of TSU -- let your attitude be gratitude. Ang tanong ngayon, ‘Father, paano namin magagawa ito?’ Dalawang kongkretong pamamaraan ang maibibigay ko sa inyo. Una, every day,



be appreciative of your blessings. Anong big sabihin po nito? Mula ngayon, lalo na kapag sinimulan niyong tahakin ang inyong mga pangarap, kilalanin ninyo araw-araw ‘yung mga blessings ninyo. Be appreciative of your blessings, count your blessings,” he said in his homily.

PANIDRM and TSU conduct 1st International Conference on NSTP and Risk Managers

■ Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan



The Philippine Association of NSTP Implementers and Disaster Risk Managers, Inc. (PANIDRM), in partnership with Tarlac State University, organized the 1st International Conference on NSTP (National Service Training Program) and Risk Managers 2022 with a kick-off program held on September 21, 2022 at the Kaisa Convention Hall in Tarlac City.



This three-day event, which ran from September 21-23, served as a venue for an open exchange of ideas and resources among plenary speakers and participants, leading to concrete plans and actions to prevent and mitigate disasters and calamities.

The activity bears the theme “Empowered, Dedicated NSTP Implementers and Disaster Risk Managers: A Key Milestone Towards UN SDG and Ambisyon 2040’s Realization” in connection with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the Philippines’ development goals.

Dr. Susana L. Fernandez, GSC PA (Res), PANIDRM president and

NSTP/DRRM coordinator of Pangasinan State University, welcomed over 500 participants from state universities and colleges (SUCs) and local government units across the country.

In her message, she said that this event is an excellent opportunity to share knowledge and experience on how Filipinos can respond and cope with the grimmest challenges in human existence – environment-related disasters, technology risks, safety, and security concerns.

“It is a great honor and privilege for spearheading the conduct of this said activity that seeks to remind everyone of



the important task to delve the resilience of the Philippine society and protect the country and its people from future disasters. Let us continue being one with the government in working in a proactive and responsive manner to achieve its vision,” she said.

Meanwhile, on behalf of TSU President Dr. Anorld E. Velasco, Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Agnes M. Macaraeg congratulated the

organization for their successful event. She also delivered the president’s message.

“As leaders and educators, we have an immense responsibility to persuade the next generation to promote and practice civic consciousness and defense preparedness by developing their sense of patriotism. As the consultant and legal adviser of this organization, I am proud that all the hardworking individuals behind this successful event exerted their effort to come up with this useful conference. This can be reechoed to our colleagues later on for knowledge transfer,” she read.

The event’s guest of honor and speaker was Tarlac Province governor Hon. Susan A. Yap. In her stead, 2nd District Board Member Hon. Christopher C. Delos Reyes read her message.



“We are not just here to talk and forget as soon as we leave this hall. More than that, this event exists because it calls

Continued on page 4

PANIDRM and TSU conduct 1st International Conference on NSTP and Risk Managers

■ Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan

From page 3

us to orient ourselves and recalibrate our ways of thinking to address pertinent issues such as climate change and disaster risk management. It is a milestone indeed that we are all gathered here to sort out the future of our communities against climate change and its repercussions,” her message said.

“I am with you as we celebrate this milestone. Communities are the most essential unit of the state. It is not a competition to show who does the job better. As an alternate perspective, I would like to think of it as an emulation of what works best rather than just a cheap, insignificant competition among ourselves. I can’t stress this enough: our efforts are futile without our collective synergy--the same cogs that run this engine in serving for the greater good,” Hon. Delos Reyes finished.

The conference focused on the following topics: 1) Key revisions of the NSTP Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR); 2) Global Approaches of United Nations in Strategizing Disaster Risk Reduction Management; 3) Multi-dimensional Domains of Disaster Risk Managers: Towards Community Involvement and Resilience; 4) Effective Curriculum Planning and Sound Disaster Risk Management Manual of Operations: A Perspective of SUC and LGU Partnerships; Responding to Mental Health Issues during Catastrophe: A Global Outlook; 5) Challenges of NSTP Implementers and Disaster Risk Managers in the Philippines: Towards Readiness to Turbulence; and 6)

Luzon Islands: An Archipelagic Voyage to a Disaster Resilient Communities.

Among the international guests invited were Mr. Matthew Moore from Australia, Mr. Steven T. Plant Jr. from the United States of America, and Mr. Wayne A. Bacon from New Zealand.



TSU launches Career Fair 2022

■ Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan

Tarlac State University’s Career Fair 2022 kicked off with an opening program on September 13, 2022 at the TSU Gymnasium.

This annual activity establishes linkages to different industries creating employment opportunities for graduating TSU students and alumni.

Themed “Point Your Search in the Right Direction: TSUians Career Ready,” this hybrid two-day event was organized by the Career Education and Job Placement Services led by Dr. Niña C. Garcia in collaboration with DOLE-Tarlac (Department of Labor and Employment) and PESO-Tarlac (Public Employment Service Office).

Nearby industry partners graced the first day of the activity, while the second day was held online for companies who cannot join onsite.

University President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco expressed his gratitude to the industry partners for their participation as well as the students’ enthusiasm to join the workforce.

“We organized this event to be an opportunity for you [to land on] your desired job. We are confident that you have the potential skills na makikita ng ating mga esteemed companies that are here with us this morning. This is our desire – to hone them to be ready for the job that they are supposed to be applying [for] this morning. And we can assure you, sa ating mga companies that are here with us, that you will not regret accepting our



graduates. To our applicants, be confident. Ipakita natin kung gaano ka-competent ang TSU graduates,” Pres. Velasco said.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Agnes M. Macaraeg and Student Welfare Services Unit Head Dr. Grace Anne C. Hasegawa seconded Pres. Velasco’s remarks about the conduct of the event.

Other representatives of

government agencies delivered messages during the opening program expressing their support for the university’s career fair. These include Mr. Jumel Vitao of DOLE-Tarlac, Ms. Angelica Suba of PESO-Tarlac Capitol, PESO-Tarlac manager Engr. Arnold Samson, and TESDA Provincial Training Center-Tarlac administrator Mr. Leonardo R. Tabamo.

TSU organizes inaugural Talakayan, Gigz for students, employees

■ Maria Adelaida D. Calayag

Tarlac State University launched its first “Talakayan” with students and employees last September 30, 2022, at the conference room of the university hotel and was streamed live via the official Facebook page of the Office of Public Affairs.

The Talakayan is a forum where students, employees, and other stakeholders’ concerns, sentiments, and queries are addressed and answered by the university president and other key officials.

It is one of the flagship projects of TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco, as stated in his inaugural address during the Presidential Investiture last July 2022,

which acts as a bridge between the administration and its stakeholders.

“Sa lahat siguro ng mga HEIs at SUCs, ito ‘yung ayaw nila na mabigyan ng time because most likely babatuhan ka talaga [ng mga tanong]. Lahat ng bato ay mapupunta sa [administration]. But with my administration, we [want to] make it monthly because we really want to hear the concerns and sentiments [of] the students, employees, and the non-teaching [staff]. And we are very much willing po to [listen] because it’s from you,” Pres. Velasco said in his speech.

Before the activity, students and employees sent their concerns and questions through an online form

that were raised to a panel composed of the university’s executives: President Velasco and vice presidents Dr. Agnes M. Macaraeg (Academic Affairs), Dr. Murphy



Continued on page 6

TSU organizes inaugural Talakayan for students, employees

■ Maria Adelaida D. Calayag

From page 5

P. Mohammed (Research and Extension Services), and Dr. Grace N. Rosete (Administration and Finance).

The Supreme Student Council (SSC) officers delivered the students' sentiments, which the College Student Council governors supported.

During the program, the university's Administrative Council members were also present to shed light on queries connected to their respective colleges and offices.

Some students' concerns were WiFi access, shuttle services, and class suspensions, especially after the onslaught of Typhoon Karding that occurred in the same month.

President Velasco exhibited empathy for students and espoused open communication with his decision



After the discussion, the program proceeded with the TSU Gigz, where employees could showcase their talents in singing, dancing, poetry, and stand-up comedy, among others. It is also a platform for employees to unwind and enjoy a lighter atmosphere promoting work-life balance.

The second Talakayan will be held in front of the Administration Building at the Main Campus.

to consider their welfare by suspending classes when the province and neighboring areas were placed under signal no. 4.

Meanwhile, most questions raised by employees pertain to the qualifications of job order employees for contractual items.

"I asked the Vice President [for] Administration and Finance and the NASA (Non-Academic Staff Association) to form a committee to examine and evaluate those [who] are really qualified to be given contractual [items] kasi gusto ko pong maibigay ito sa mga deserving talaga," President Velasco said.

Chief Administrative Officer Ms. Winniefe Gutierrez further explained that the administration considers the employee's length of service, skills, and character for promotion.

Last July 19, 2022, 121 employees took oath for their contractual and temporary employment status with President Velasco as the presiding officer.



TSU Alumni Park soon to rise at Lucinda Campus

■ Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan



Tarlac State University and the TSU Alumni Association Inc. (TSUAAI), through the TSU Alumni Affairs Office (AAO), led the groundbreaking ceremony of the upcoming TSU Alumni Park on September 20, 2022 at the Lucinda Campus.

The grounds where the Alumni Center, Interfaith Chapel, and College of Criminal Justice Education building are located will be converted into a recreational space not only for students and personnel but also for visiting alumni and other guests.



The TSU Alumni Park is a concept of the TSU AAO, led by Director Dr. Winston F. Abalos, as early as 2019. This is in collaboration with the university for the landscaping design and the TSUAAI for the financing.

Said project will be implemented in three phases: Phase 1 for the initial landscaping and construction of benches, light posts, and arc; Phase 2 for garden beautification; and Phase 3 for the provision of additional roofed benches and food kiosks, creating a food park to

be manned by TSU working students generating additional income.

TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco, represented by Vice President for Research and Extension Services Dr. Murphy P. Mohammed, said that creating, improving, and promoting places to be



physically active can improve individual and community health.

"I am stunned by this project of the TSU Alumni Association. This will not just beautify our campus here in Lucinda but also provide us [with] a spot to gather with families, friends, and co-workers. This signifies that we are advocates of a beautiful, clean, and green environment," he said.

Phase 1 of the TSU Alumni Park will be completed and inaugurated on the Alumni Day (October 22, 2022) during the university's 116th founding and 34th charter anniversary celebration.

Aside from the Alumni Park, the Alumni Center is envisioned to be renovated with a construction of a second floor, according to TSUAAI president and BOR alumni representative Hon.

Reynaldo L. Catacutan.

"We will start with the [total budget of] four million pesos, na two million pesos na nahingi ko po kay Gov. Susan Yap. Nakahingi po ako ng one million pesos kay Cong. Christian Yap (2nd District), and nakahingi po ako ng one million pesos kay Cong. Bong Rivera (3rd District) for next year. Lahat po ng pondo ipapadala sa TSU at ang TSU po ang magpapabid then tayo po ang magi-implement," he said.



The Alumni Center's conference room, located on the first floor, will be renovated, and two LED walls will be installed. Meanwhile, the second floor will house additional rooms as well as additional function rooms.



PAFCPIC renews scholarship MOA with TSU

■ Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan

Tarlac State University and the Philippine Army Finance Center Producers Integrated Cooperative (PAFCPIC) signed an updated memorandum of agreement (MOA) last September 23, 2022 at the TSU Hotel, Lucinda Campus.

This is PAFCPIC's second year in renewing its contract with TSU to provide scholarship grants to students who are indigents, persons with disabilities (PWDs), and Indigenous Peoples (IP).

Part of the contract renewal is the addition of six scholars, which was requested by the university's Scholarship and Financial Assistance Unit (SFAU). These new scholars will complete the 85 slots as agreed upon in the initial MOA signed last November 9, 2021, since six had already graduated during the 33rd Commencement Exercises this year.

Moreover, the agreement stipulates an increase in monetary allowance to help students with their needs concerning their studies.

On behalf of University President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco, Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Agnes M. Macaraeg read his message during the program.

"This MOA between TSU and PAFCPIC will open doors to our indigents, PWDs, and indigenous peoples to be ready [for] the changes that occur around us. Thus, Tarlac State University affirms its commitment to PAFCPIC to provide scholarship grants in the tertiary education. The respective institution we represent agrees to uphold the terms, duties, and responsibilities of the memorandum of agreement. Thank you very much, and more power to PAFCPIC," the message read.

VP Macaraeg also greeted the PAFCPIC delegates with an expression of gratitude.

"We are really working hard for this in order for the indigent



students, indigenous peoples, and other marginalized sectors like the PWD to be given financial assistance. These would really mean a lot to them, kasi po nanggagaling pa sila sa malayong lugar. Minsan, bigla na lang [sila] magda-drop because they do not have transportation allowance. Wala silang pangkain. At nung nagka-pandemic, wala po silang connectivity. And we thank you because this is already your second year with us," she said.

Meanwhile, PAFCPIC Board Chairperson BGen. Francisco M. Paredes (RET) shared they have spearheaded, organized, and culminated several programs and projects that promote the community's sustainable growth and development over the last 40 years. However, he noted that their scholarship program is at the forefront of their social

responsibility initiatives.

"This is consistent with the much-accepted principle that education is the best investment -- not in terms of the profit that flows to our coffers, but the intangible benefit that flows with it that inures to the beneficiary, to the family, and eventually the community. To the new [scholars], welcome to the orbit of academic elitism. Join your predecessor scholars, [and] hurdle all impediments along the way with perseverance, grit, and prayer," he said.

Larsen B. Dignos, one of the six scholars who recently graduated, finished BS Information Technology specialized in Technical Service Management as cum laude.

As a PWD, he was recommended for the PAFCPIC scholarship. He admitted that he wasn't aware of the grant's inclusions during the application. He was surprised by the generous benefits after he was accepted.

"Laking pasalamat ko po kasi hindi ko po akalain na ganoon po kalaki 'yung benefits ng provider. Wala rin po akong gadget no'n; buti na lang po merong tablet po. Sa IT po kasi mahirap po talaga kapag walang device, lalo na po gumagawa kami ng thesis. Hirap na hirap po ako sa coding, sa mga research po," he said.

Furthermore, he said that not

From page 8

only did the PAFCPIC scholarship help him finish his studies, but it also helped his family in times of need.

Joining VP Macaraeg in the said event are Vice President for Research and Extension Services Dr. Murphy P. Mohammed, Student Affairs and Services Director Prof. Gherold C. Benitez, and SFAU Head Dr. Elsie M. Canlas.

Aside from PAFCPIC Board Chairperson BGen. Paredes (RET), other officials from the PAFCPIC delegates in attendance are PAFCPIC Director and Scholarship Committee Chairperson Col.

Regidor M. Dela Cruz (RET), PAFCPIC President and Scholarship Committee Vice President BGen. Fernando S. Zabat (RET), Assistant Chief of Staff for Personnel, G1, PA Col. Ramon P. Flores, Office of the Army Sergeant Major CMS Rogelio P. Caacbay, and Vice President for Membership Education and Community Services Ms. Arlene O. Villaflor.

PAFCPIC is a multi-awarded cooperative offering financial services through deposits and loans to its members serving in the Armed Forces of the Philippines. This scholarship program is part of their initiative to reach out to different communities as part of the Community Development Program.



Daejin University of Korea meets with TSU officials for partnership

■ Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan



Delegates from Daejin University of South Korea visited Tarlac State University for an exploratory meeting and consultation for potential areas for partnership last September 14, 2022 at the TSU Hotel.

The two universities are eyeing to forge partnerships on faculty and student exchanges, student field experience, cultural experience programs, research facilities sharing, joint seminars, and other collaborative education programs.

In a welcoming message, Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Agnes M. Macaraeg wishes that the two universities will collaborate not only in academic activities but also in research and community programs.

Moreover, TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco expressed his gratitude towards this potential partnership as higher education institutions (HEIs) now place a greater emphasis on internationalization.

"I commit to fortifying ties with foreign institutions and organizations like the Daejin University, represented by its diligent president, by working with the people from the institution to develop

stronger internationalization initiatives," he said in his message of commitment.

Pres. Velasco also thanked the Provincial Government of Tarlac, fronted by provincial governor Hon. Susan A. Yap,



for linking TSU with Daejin University.

Meanwhile, Daejin University President Dr. Young-Moon Leem said that today is the first step to future

collaborations and cooperation for strengthening the educational systems of the two universities. He also expressed his gratefulness to TSU for the warm welcome.

"There are seven colleges and over forty (40) majors in our university. I think there are many fields and majors to come together - Daejin University and TSU. So, after more investigation and discussion, we can then make more specific programs between the two universities. In the near future, we can make some MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) and further agreements. So, I hope we will get some good programs together," Pres. Leem said.

After the presentations, an open forum was held where questions and suggestions from both universities were discussed and shared.

The International Affairs and Linkages Office organized this event led by its director and College of Teacher Education dean, Dr. Jasper Jay N. Mendoza, in collaboration with the Provincial Government of Tarlac, represented by Hon. Melissa Yeung-Yap.



Continued on page 9

TSU receives 3 stars in QS Stars Ratings

■ Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan

From page 1

“I am proud and honored to be working with hardworking individuals in the university. Let us maintain the standards of excellence and quality of our institution.

The QS Stars evaluation will be considered for the improvements of the university. This will be of great help to give us a vision on how to improve our programs and in realizing our dream of becoming one



of the top 1000 sustainable universities in the world,” he said.

Meanwhile, Vice President for Planning and Quality Assurance Dr. Niño B. Corpuz said that this milestone is significant for the university’s international academic reputation.

“This international award is a product of the university’s continuing quest for quality and excellence in the field of higher and advanced education. It allows the university to boost its international branding against a range of performance indicators, various categories, and international standards,” he said.

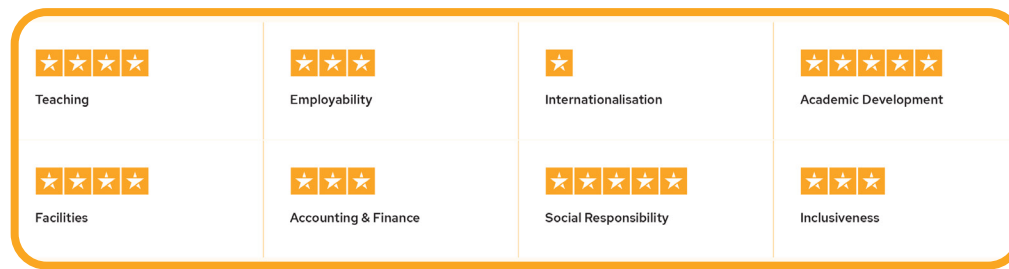
Furthermore, he added that the QS Stars evaluation highlights TSU’s unique value, strengths, and achievements based on global standards across multiple academic and operational areas.

“Being a QS Stars awardee, it will act as a powerful mechanism for communicating distinct areas of strengths to students, parents, employers, partners, and the wider community. It is not purely a recognition in itself, but it entails a lot of responsibility, accountability, and advocacy to sustain educational and career development,” he added.

TSU was evaluated in four areas: Core Criteria, Learning Environment, Specialist Criteria, and Advanced Criteria.

The Core Criteria collectively focuses on the key building blocks of a university. Its categories include Teaching, Employability, Internationalization, and an option between Research and Academic Development.

Meanwhile, the Learning



Environment criterion looks at the students’ experience within their environment, which will be assessed through Facilities or Online Learning.

Moreover, the Specialist Criteria may be assessed either through Subject Ranking or Program Strength that highlights the university’s outstanding programs.

Lastly, the Advanced Criteria has four categories: Arts and Culture, Innovation, Social Responsibility, and Inclusiveness – two of which may be chosen to best showcase the university’s strengths.

The university chose eight categories, namely 1) Teaching, 2) Employability, 3) Internationalisation, 4) Academic Development, 5) Facilities, 6) Programme Strength, 7) Social Responsibility, and 8) Inclusiveness. This is more than the minimum requirement needed to proceed with the audit, which is seven.

Tarlac State University’s QS Journey

Preparations for the QS Stars Ratings evaluation commenced as early as January 2021 through former TSU President Dr. Myrna Q. Mallari’s directive to attain a higher level of quality and excellence.

This was spearheaded by the International Accreditation Unit (IAU) led by its then Unit Head Ms. Maricor Cheska B. Santos under the Quality Assurance Office’s (QAO) supervision headed by Dr. Ma. Socorro D. Valdez.

According to Ms. Santos, benchmarking activities with Bulacan State University and Central Luzon State University were first conducted to get a glimpse of the QS Stars evaluation process. The mentioned SUCs provided guidance and helped TSU in its preparations.

This, along with Vice President Corpuz’s optimistic urging, helped her gain the confidence to write a letter of intent, which was repoded accordingly by QS Regional Director (Southeast Asia and Japan) Mr. E Way Chong.

Through Mr. Chong’s request, the QAO and QS representatives met virtually to discuss the background of what to expect

during the audit and address queries.

Afterwards, the QS Stars Evaluation Committee was created where members were designated to different categories. The members also underwent a four-day orientation seminar to prepare each group for their respective tasks. Finally, the QAO staff, through Ms. Karen Agcamaran, gathered necessary documents that were formatted using the QS template.

TSU was subjected to two validation stages using the QS Methodology version 5.1, according to Ms. Santos. The first stage is where an analyst reviews the submitted evidence and then sends questions or requests for additional evidence. In the second stage, a second analyst reviews all evidence, kickstarting the evaluation process.

“The evaluators were very understanding of our situation as we applied during the COVID-19 pandemic. They allowed flexibility in our document submission because most of the members of the committee were working from home, and most of the needed documents are in our respective offices,” Ms. Santos said.

According to her, this has been the primary struggle throughout the international audit.

The university adopted alternative work arrangements, such as the skeleton workforce and work-from-home set-up, starting March 2021 to lessen the number of personnel reporting to work to minimize the risk of COVID-19 transmission. This was extended accordingly until the end of 2021.

The same sentiments were echoed by the current IAU head Ms. Liana Faith Q. De Leon, who assumed the position of Ms. Santos in May 2022.

She shared that even though TSU is already at the second validation stage, the analyst still accommodated additional documents so TSU could increase its points.

“If they think na meron ka pang maidadagdag, baka possibly meron kayo sa mga documents, sasabihin nila kung

From page 10

among document ang kailangan. Then they will ask kung kaya pa bang gawin ito para madagdagan ‘yung points for that specific area. Or baka meron na tayo, hindi lang siya properly documented. So, they still offer opportunities for the institution,” she said.

She recalled an instance where they had already submitted the university’s maps, yet the analyst wanted to see the layout of each building particularly the areas for persons with disabilities (PWDs). The Facilities Development and Management Office (FDMO) developed maps that are compliant with the audit requirements.

After learning the results of the QS Stars evaluation, Ms. Santos said that she felt a sense of fulfillment wash over her.

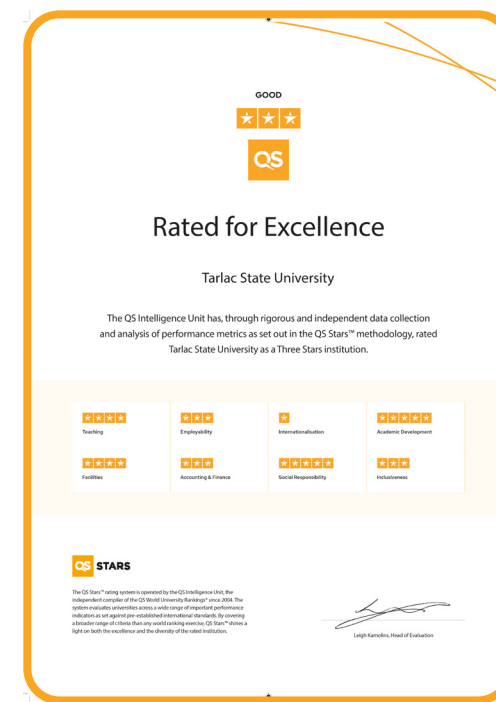
“This is something new for the university. It’s expected that it won’t be smooth sailing. Pero ‘nung natanggap na ‘yung results, para sa akin, fulfilling siya. Lalo na sa lahat ng tumulong... this is the

fruit of their hard labor. This also increases the prestige of our university. Pwede na natin sabihin na may QS Stars tayo at internationally recognized,” she said.

Meanwhile, Ms. De Leon said she had mixed emotions upon learning about the results.

“After ma-submit lahat ng documents, dahil meron naman kaming guidelines at nandoon ‘yung pointing system, we tried to compute. And although possibly, we could get 3 Stars, there are still standards per category that may hinder that. So even though we had already anticipated the 3 Stars, we were still pleasantly surprised that we were able to receive it. This is another milestone for the university, and we are very proud to have been a part of it,” she said.

Like Ms. Santos, Ms. De Leon was grateful for the cooperation and support of all offices involved. She also expressed her gratitude to Ms. Santos, who meticulously guided her, as well as VP Corpuz and Dr. Valdez for their support.



TSU TBI inks accord with SULONG Central Luzon Start-up Consortium

■ Jazzel Llanelli M. Manabat (with report from Zepaniah L. Lacsina [TDTCO])

Joining a larger incubation ecosystem, Tarlac State University’s Technology Business Incubator known as TALAHIB (Technological Advancement for Livelihood and Holistic Innovation for Businesses) sealed a startup consortium with SULONG Central Luzon through an agreement signed on September 23, 2022 at the TSU Main AVR.

Along with TSU, the consortium is composed of the Department of Agriculture-Regional Field Office III and four other higher education institutions in Central Luzon, namely Bulacan State University, Bataan Peninsula State University, Holy Angel University, and Pampanga State Agricultural University.

The consortium agreement seeks to strengthen the startup ecosystem in the region by supporting the establishment of the Startup Ecosystem Leveraging on Opportunities and Networks for Growth (SULONG) Central Luzon.

Furthermore, SULONG Central Luzon was established to create a pool of networks, form strategic alliances, and maximize resources across the regional startup ecosystem that will eventually develop an inclusive and startup-friendly community, according to the agreement.

It also aims to put up a pool of mentors with mentorship programs for



startups and startup enablers, like TBIs, to increase funding viability and implement collaborative programs and activities.

TBI manager Mr. Aldrex G. Laxamana welcomed the SULONG team members led by Engr. Christian Lance Arojado. Mr. Laxamana’s message during the signing ceremony expressed his commitment to the consortium by “engaging in various collaborative

programs and activities that will champion the culture of innovation, especially in Region III.”

TSU was represented by Vice President for Research and Extension Services Dr. Murphy P. Mohammed, TBI manager Mr. Laxamana, and TALAHIB TBI members Engr. Dick Tuazon and Ms. Emmery P. Balbas.

Continued on page 11

TSU welcomes students this 1st semester 2022-2023 for limited in-person classes

■ Maria Adelaida D. Calayag ■ Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan ■ Jazzel Llaneli Manabat

From page 1

uniforms, and meeting her classmates at the university.

“Mas maganda po ‘yung face-to-face. Nakikita po namin ‘yung teacher, nadi-discuss po ng maayos ‘yung mga lessons at ‘yung mga topics po kaysa po nasa internet. ‘Di naman kami nakikita so may tendency na ‘yung iba ay ‘di naman nakikinig,” Cuchon said.

She added that she is still adjusting to her new class schedule and dynamics with her classmates. Her professors often give them group activities to loosen up and get to know their classmates.

“Maganda po ito para hindi po kami kinakabahan. Hindi nagkakaroon ng culture shocks,” Cuchon said.

Cuchon belongs to the batch of students who started their first year through online classes. This is their first time attending in-person classes.

Last March 17, 2022, TSU also held limited in-person classes for the BS Nursing program laboratory courses and selected engineering courses. Some classes also had face-to-face term exams during the second semester of academic year 2021-2022.

The reopening of campuses is in line with the Institutional COVID-19 Four-Level Alert System Protocols issued on March 2, 2022, which states that limited face-to-face classes are allowed under Alert Level 1. Tarlac Province has been under Alert Level 1 since March 2022.

Moreover, all students and higher education institution (HEI) personnel can now participate in face-to-face classes regardless of their COVID-19 vaccination status, according to Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Chairperson Popoy De Vera in a press conference last August 29, 2022.

“So much has changed over the past seven months as we continue to ensure the safe reopening of classes. Our decision-making is always data-driven, based on science and the advice of experts. Given the high vaccination coverage in the higher education sector, changes in the characteristics and behavior of the virus, classification of the country as low-risk, and benchmarking of policies with other countries, it is now time to change the 2021 policy,” Chair De Vera said.

CHED issued a joint memorandum circular with the Department of Health in December 2021 about the implementation of limited face-to-face classes in higher education.

Food Tech students attend in-person lab classes at FTRC

The university’s Food Technology and Research Center (FTRC) at the Lucinda Campus opened its doors to BS Food



Technology (BSFT) students for the first week of in-person classes.

The FTRC is a shared facility for laboratory courses in Food Technology, Hospitality Management, and Technology and Livelihood Education. It is the center’s first time entertaining students for their classes since its formal inauguration in January 2021.



According to FTRC Director Prof. Leah T. Matias, the center first coordinated with the College of Science for the class schedules to prepare the needed rooms and laboratories. The center and college also devised health and safety protocols by strategically placing handwash and alcohol stations.

Second-year BSFT student Fatima Lya Esabra said it was better to have in-person laboratory classes rather than online.

“Mas challenging po and exciting po pala kapag face-to-face ‘yung [laboratory class] po namin. Mas mahirap po siyang intindihin through virtual (sessions) compared sa on-the-spot na nakikita mo na. Challenging din

po ‘yung balancing and exact measurement ng substance para po magkaroon kami ng perfect outcome,” she said.

Meanwhile, Jackileyn Lingat, also a second-year BSFT student, faces a different kind of challenge as a single mother to her five-year-old child. She said adjusting to face-to-face classes is a bit different for her compared to her classmates.

“Kailangan ko pa pong i-prepare ‘yung gamit ng anak ko sa pagpasok po niya sa kindergarten. Kailangan ko pong magising ng 4:00 AM dahil sa travel. Medyo malayo po



kami – sa Care po. Buti na lang po marunong na siyang maligo, magbihis ng sarili niya. Tinuruan ko po,” she said.

Despite this, she is still excited to have face-to-face classes.

BSFT faculty member Mr. Jhan Ervin Marcelo observed that in-person laboratory classes are more beneficial for students as he

Continued on page 13

From page 12

facilitated his class. According to him, he is happy to teach in-person classes again.

“Iba po ‘yung feeling. Kapag online, parang mahirap mag-reach out sa mga estudyante. Hindi mo alam kung nakikinig ba sila... Unlike sa face-to-face (classes) na natutukan ko sila and mas nabibigay ko ‘yung full potential ko para i-share ‘yung knowledge na kailangan i-impart po sa kanila,” Mr. Marcelo said.

“Kanina halos nagtagal kami sa unang grupo. Hindi ko po in-expect kasi po kahit gaano ko i-explain sa kanila online (before), iba pa din po ‘yung sila ‘yung humahawak mismo ng apparatus and device,” he added.

In a previous meeting with his class, Mr. Marcelo said he gave proper instructions and orientation for their activity. He gave a refresher about laboratory safety policies and university rules and regulations, including appropriate attire.

“Napakasaya po na natututunan nila physically and naa-apply po nila ‘yung mga tinuturo sa lectures. Hopefully, magtuloy-tuloy na po itong ating setup nang sa ganon po ay maibigay po natin ‘yung 100% na maituturo sa mga estudyante. And in the future, maging globally competitive professionals po sila. ‘Yun po ‘yung goal,” he finished.

While Dir. Matias shares the same sentiments with the students about their in-person laboratory classes, she would also like to remind them about the strict observance of the university’s health and safety protocols.

“Everything is already provided for them. So better yet, mag-enjoy sila sa mga learnings. Make the most out of it – ‘yung mga available na facilities and even other equipment for their undertakings lalo na sa research. Since ongoing pa din ‘yung observance natin sa implementation of health protocols, they should be observant enough. Actually, it’s not only for themselves but also others na probably pwede pa ding ma-infect,” she said during the interview.

Moreover, Dir. Matias said that the FTRC also accommodates other BSFT students doing their thesis or research and on-the-job training (OJT). Students are given alternating



schedules to ensure that close contact will be minimized.

Criminology students undergo drills for their first week of in-person classes

Fourth-year BS Criminology students faced the first week of limited in-person classes



with militaristic drills in preparation for their OJT this first semester of academic year 2022-2023.

The future criminologists lined up for training were spotted at the Lucinda Campus football field on September 7.

According to College of Criminal Justice Education dean Dr. Roel Alviar, this training before OJT deployment is meant to strengthen students’ stamina and recall the basic facing and other militaristic commands.

The college targets to deploy its trainees to partner bureaus (PNP, BJMP, BFP) towards the end of September.

Dean Alviar also shared that the current OJT setup is still blended, a combination of face-to-face training and attendance to a series of webinars with speakers from the partner bureaus.

He added that they organized webinars as their internship program during the height of online classes due to the pandemic. Through the webinars, criminology students still learn from invited experts about how the bureaus work on the ground.

“Noon purely online lang ang OJT. May series of webinars with bureaus and ‘yung mga speakers galing din sa mga bureaus. Ngayon naman blended na. May face-to-face OJT na may rotation sa mga bureaus tapos may series of webinars pa rin,” Dean Alviar said.

Meanwhile, fourth-year student and CCJE governor John Denver Meimban said



their batch only experienced minimal adjustments with the face-to-face drills because they had already undergone in-person ROTC exercises.

Meimban was a first-year student when the Duterte administration imposed the Luzonwide lockdown.

“Matagal po kami na-stuck sa pandemic. Hindi na-practice ‘yung drills, hindi na nagawa kasi two years po kami sa pandemic era. Pero hindi naman po naging mahirap sa amin kasi nire-recall na lang po namin ang commands,” he said.

As the student council governor, Meimban expressed his concern for the first to third-year criminology students because they have not been exposed to face-to-face ROTC activities.

“Iyon po kasing mga third year po ngayon, second year, and first year, hindi po sila naturuan ng basic facing, ‘yung mga standard po na commands. ‘Yung ROTC naman po kasi nila online po, more on activities and lessons po sila. Hindi po sila naturuan nung mga ganito pong execution talaga,” he said.

However, National Service Training Program director Prof. Louis Adonis Silvestre said that face-to-face activities for ROTC are planned to be conducted as long as Tarlac Province stays under Alert Level 1.

Dean Alviar also shared that drills and training will be integrated into the limited in-person classes of first to third-year criminology students.

TSU-DRRMC leads inspection of campuses due to Typhoon Karding aftermath

■ Jazzel Llaneli M. Manabat

The Tarlac State University-Disaster Risk Reduction Management Committee, through the Facilities Development and Management Office and Pollution Control and Safety Unit, led the inspection and clearing operations of the different campuses within Tarlac City on September 26, 2022, in line with Typhoon Karding's aftermath.

The university's vice presidents, Dr. Agnes M. Macaraeg, Dr. Grace N. Rosete, and Dr. Murphy P. Mohammed, visited the campuses with FDMO director Ar. Cherry Fabianes and university safety officer Prof. Federico Estrada Jr. to check and address the hazards, risks, and damages in the university's infrastructure, facilities, and equipment. There were no reported major damages among the Tarlac City campuses.

Moreover, TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco called for a meeting with the university's executives in the afternoon to discuss the output of inspections and its implications for the resumption of classes.

"With the damages all around the Tarlac Province due to Typhoon Karding, including power outage leading to limited internet connectivity, it is proper to suspend classes tomorrow (September 27) in consideration of the varying situations of students and faculty members," Pres. Velasco said.

In a separate message, VP Macaraeg said the students could use this time to help their respective families in their clearing operations at home.

Pres. Velasco and VP Rosete also called on the non-teaching personnel to support the continuation of FDMO's clearing operations, prompting the resumption of office work on September 27.



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EDITORIAL

Last September 25, 2022, a natural crisis ravaged Central Luzon. Typhoon Karding left the Tarlac State University campuses in ruins, especially the ten-hectare Lucinda Campus. This crisis, however, was not left unattended. Despite the moderate damages incurred, the university immediately bounced back with the enforced clearing operations through the university leaders' instructions and open communication with subordinates – a wise move worth emulating.

Unresolved issues that blow out into the open become a crisis – and this crisis may affect the public's perception of an organization or institution. This is according to a crisis management training by the Asian Institute of Journalism and Communication. An able and capable leader must facilitate discussions and deliberations to resolve issues before they escalate into a crisis and keep the organization's reputation intact.

Consequently, a crisis can be reverted into an issue. Once the crisis has been subjected to corrective action and placed on the table for discussion, it is now downgraded as an issue. In the aftermath of Typhoon Karding, the crisis instantly became an issue because the TSU key officials were quick on their feet

to coordinate with the offices concerned. The morning after, the vice presidents visited the campuses with the university's safety and pollution control officers for assessment. Afterwards, the clearing operations ensued with the help of some maintenance personnel. In the afternoon of the same day, TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco called for a meeting with the vice presidents to decide on the immediate concerns of students and employees. In crises, high-ranking executives must be visible to assure the public that they are on top of the situation, which is what the university's executives have done.

This good move of the university is currently being translated into a "best practice." To sustain open communication and good relations within and among the TSU community, the administration launched the "Talakayan," akin to a people's council, this month. It is a forum where students, employees, and other stakeholders can raise their grievances, concerns, and issues to be addressed by the executives, college deans, and office directors. This forum is one of the flagship projects of the new university administration led by Dr. Arnold E. Velasco, which is also one of his key points during the TSU President Search

last March 2022. With the conduct of this kind of forum, in a way, a looming crisis could be prevented.

The administration breaks the traditional barrier separating the top management from the rest of the organization through the "Talakayan." Inadvertently, the organization's middle and bottom portions are also empowered with the thought that their plights are being heard. With discussions, deliberations, and compromises come a more unified and intricately woven social fabric -- the TSU community. And this is an incomparable feat. Moreover, letting the public know how crises and issues are dealt with may give them a sense of comfort.

Failure of the administration to discuss concerns and issues is costly to the entire organization. Years or months spent on image building can easily crumble if problems are left unattended. A platform where ordinary employees and students can be heard can boost morale and uplift spirits with a feeling that these people are valued. On top of it all, eliminating crises by discussing the issues with leaders' involvement is the best preventive action an organization can have.

TSU reinforces partnerships for curriculum, student development

■ Maria Adelaida D. Calayag

Tarlac State University has strengthened its partnership with the San Sebastian College-Recoletos Manila to extend an existing agreement for the Master of Laws program and the Provincial Government of Tarlac for undergraduate students' internships.

Representatives from the San Sebastian College-Recoletos Manila Graduate School (SSC-R) and TSU officials engaged in an exploratory meeting last September 30, 2022 at the TSU Main AVR. Through the forum, both parties discussed measures to improve internal policies on offering the Master of Laws program through the TSU School of Law (SOL). Among the internal policies that were reviewed are the enrollment system and collection of fees.

Moreover, with the concerns and necessary actions presented, both parties agreed to amend the current memorandum of agreement with a provision to extend the partnership



until 2025.

Other provisions to be amended include the responsibility of TSU to oversee the application and initial admission of students, while the SSC-R shall manage the collection of fees and processing of initial and final payments. The SSC-R shall also take charge of the faculty members' allowances, transportation, and accommodation.

The MOA was first signed in 2019 with hopes of helping and considering law graduates and lawyers

aiming to pursue a master's degree in law but are having concerns and problems studying in Manila or other places away from home. With the consortium offering of the said program, TSU made a way to offer the degree within the province, which also aims to make lawyers more competent in the legal profession and legal education.

Meanwhile, the university inked an agreement with the Provincial

Continued on page 16

From page 15

Government of Tarlac for prospective interns or on-the-job trainees last August 11, 2022 at the Session Hall of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan Building.

The agreement stipulates that students will be trained by competent internship coordinators and will undergo training to improve their skills, especially for nursing students. The provided training supervisor or cooperating teacher will also serve as the student's mentor.

Part of the training is the provision of course-related work and hands-on experience in the industry. Students shall also be exposed to actual situations where they can analyze, provide solutions, and apply skills acquired from the university in preparation for their chosen field.



Four programs undergo online accreditation survey visit

■ Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan

Four programs of Tarlac State University were subjected to the online program accreditation survey visit of the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines, Inc. (AACUP) last September via Zoom.

College of Engineering and Technology's (CET) BS Industrial Engineering (BSIE) went through AACUP's Level IV Phase 2 survey visit, the highest program accreditation level, last September 7-9, 2022. Meanwhile, the programs BS Environmental Science (BS EnviSci), BS Food Technology (BSFT), and BS Mathematics of the College of Science (COS) underwent the Level II Phase 3 survey visit last September 12-15, 2022.

These programs are the last to be accredited by the AACUP this year.

In separate messages, University President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco showed gratitude towards the accreditors, local accreditation task force, faculty members, directors, and unit heads involved for their effort and determination. He also expressed his commitment and willingness to adhere to the accreditors' recommendations.

"Let us keep in mind the suggestions and recommendations of our accreditors. It will give us [a] vision [of]

how to improve our programs. With you, our dear accreditors, [these] will be of great help to us to realize this dream for our dear university. Let us maintain the standards of excellence and quality of our institution through accreditations and evaluations," Pres. Velasco said.

Deans of the programs under survey echoed similar sentiments in their statement of commitment and acknowledgment.

Dr. Maria Elena A. Aparente of Cebu Technological University, BSIE program accreditation overall coordinator, congratulated TSU for their BSIE department. She acknowledged the university's efforts to set goals for quality education and service for its stakeholders and clientele.

Continued on page 17

From page 16

"The Level IV Phase 2 is a great achievement of the department. Reaching this level is a good point for you as a university, and I commend those faculty in [BSIE] who really excelled in all areas, especially on research and community service being a DAP awardee," Dr. Aparente said.

Meanwhile, the overall coordinator for the three programs of COS, Dr. Francis N. Baleta of Northern Negros State College of Science and Technology, reminded everyone during the closing meeting of the importance of accreditation.

"I hope that you have had a new learning experience from this survey visit. We would like to express our sincerest thanks and gratitude for subjecting your programs to accreditation. It is an indication of the untiring efforts of the university to uphold excellence and assure its stakeholders that this pandemic will not hinder in delivering quality education to Tarlaqueños and to the rest of the nation. Though we experience challenges coping



with a new normal, we do hope and pray that you will continue to soar high and achieve the vision and mission of Tarlac State University," Dr. Baleta said.

As Level IV is the highest level of quality that a program may gain in accreditation, CET's BSIE had prepared to meet excellent outcomes in the following areas: 1) Research; 2) Performance of graduates; 3) Community service; 4) International linkages and consortia; and 5) Well-developed planning process, which supports quality assurance mechanisms.

Meanwhile, for the preparation of Level II accreditation, COS had to prepare the standard ten areas of an

- institution offering an academic program: 1) vision, mission, goals, and objectives; 2) faculty; 3) curriculum and instruction; 4) support to students; 5) research; 6) extension and community involvement; 7) library; 8) physical plant and facilities; 9) laboratories; and 10) administration.

In both levels, the process involves a triangulation consisting of browsing documents, conducting interviews, and validating with respective counterparts. Afterwards, the evaluation results will be forwarded to AACUP, which will be deliberated by the AACUP board of trustees and sent to the National Network of Quality Assurance Agencies, Inc. (NNQAA) for conferment.

CSC Month Celebration



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY LICENSED TSUIANS!



SEPTEMBER 2022 REGISTERED ELECTRICAL ENGINEER AND REGISTERED MASTER ELECTRICIAN LICENSURE EXAMINATION

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RME

81.82%

INSTITUTIONAL PASSING
RATE

59.52%

63.16%

NATIONAL PASSING RATE

50.21%

63.08%

The TSU community is very proud of you!



TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY

Vision

Tarlac State University is envisioned to be a premier University in the Asia Pacific Region.

Mission

Tarlac State University commits to promote and sustain the offering of quality and relevant programs in higher and advanced education ensuring equitable access to education for people empowerment, professional development, and global competitiveness.

Towards this end, TSU shall:

- 1.) Provide high quality instruction through qualified, competent and adequately trained faculty members and support staff.
- 2.) Be a premier research institution by enhancing research undertakings in the fields of technology and sciences and strengthening collaboration with local and international institutions.
- 3.) Be a champion in community development by strengthening partnership with public and private organizations and individuals

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.