



TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY BULLETIN

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY
ISSUED MONTHLY BY THE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

ISSN 1908-7101
Issue No. 160
March 2026

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TSU, CHED to implement sports clinics for Tarlac Province



Tarlac State University, as the first recipient of the Community Sports and Wellness grant from CHED, officially launched its Community Sports Club on Thursday morning (March

19) at the TSU Gymnasium. The Community Sports Club falls under the Community Sports and Wellness-Promotion of Awareness, Teamwork, and Health (CSW-PATH),

a program funded by the Commission on Higher Education that aims to reach grassroots communities, including out-of-school youth, student athletes, coaches, and the elderly, to

foster a healthy community powered by sports.

Through this program, Tarlac Province is targeted to become the "Center for Sports

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TSU, CHED to implement sports clinics for Tarlac Province

Maria Adelaida D. Calayag

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Excellence" by engaging the 511 barangays in the province and involving underrepresented sectors and differently-abled individuals throughout planning and implementation.

"As we move forward, may this collaboration continue its part, action, different partnerships, and sustain our shared vision of building future-ready [and] resilient communities. Ang tunay na tagumpay ng programang ito ay hindi lamang masukat sa mga kasunduang ating nilagdaan kundi sa mga buhay na ating mga estudyante, ng mga youth na mababago," TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco said in his speech.

Coach Ana Dulce Yango, project lead, delivered an overview of CSW-PATH and proposed ways to engage various sectors and use sports as a platform to strengthen tourism in Tarlac Province.



The program works on two pillars: establishing a Provincial Sports and Wellness Tourism Council and creating Community Sports Clubs, which are set to start in April to May 2026.

The Sports Club

Clinics will hold a nine-week summer clinic program in the 17 municipalities and one city of Tarlac, targeting around 3,000 out-of-school youth and student athletes as participants, with the help of the local government units and the Department of Education's Tarlac Province and Tarlac City divisions.

"We create and activate community sports camps across all our lives and municipalities. This is about an accessible line of learning. We expand community access through organized sports and wellness programs," Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Jasper Jay N. Mendoza said during his presentation.

Included in the Sports Club Clinics are physical literacy fundamentals, Filipino

martial arts and combat, like Arnis, Taekwondo, and boxing, capacity-building for coaches, and multi-sport sampler clinics for basketball, volleyball, and badminton at the barangay level.

There will also be an Inclusive and Adaptive Sports Day intended for differently-abled individuals, the elderly, Indigenous Peoples, and people of all ages. Meanwhile, the aquatic and racket sports will be intended for young and adult participants at the municipal level.

For May 2026, the clinic will feature track and field development, wellness and mind-body sports, team sports, and provincial mini games to promote positive youth development and instill discipline among the youth.



TSU joins prov'l gov't in advancing health, DRRM, digitized public service

Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan

Tarlac State University entered into a partnership with the Provincial Government of Tarlac through its Center for Engineering and Environmental Research (CEER) and the Office of University Research Development (OURD).

Two memoranda of agreement were signed on March 25, 2026 at the Diwang Tarlac, with TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco and Provincial Governor Hon. Christian Tell A. Yap formalizing collaborative efforts in research, development, and extension.

The OURD will work with the Provincial Government of Tarlac on a project titled "Project M.A.P.A. Kalusugan sa Tarlac: Monitoring at Aksyon sa Pagbuti ng Antas ng Kalusugan sa Tarlac," which aims to improve health outcomes in the province through systematic monitoring and evidence-



based interventions.

Meanwhile, the agreement with CEER covers a long-term research program titled, "Tarlac Spatial Data Infrastructure (TSDI): A GIS-Based Digital Mapping and Data Integration Project for Provincial Planning and Public Service Delivery," along with

the extension program, "E.A.R.T.H.S.H.I.E.L.D. (Enhancing Awareness, Resilience, and Tactical Hazard Management in Securing Humanity through Innovation, Environmental Leadership, and Sustainable Development)."

The TSDI project utilizes a geographic information system (GIS) — a computer-based tool for analyzing and visualizing spatial data to support evidence-based planning and decision-making. The research components will be developed as integrated domain layers to help visualize the province's multifaceted landscape.

In addition, the E.A.R.T.H.S.H.I.E.L.D. extension program focuses on strengthening disaster risk reduction and management capacities through training,

consultations, and technical studies. It highlights the use of advanced software and tools such as real-time hazard monitoring and predictive analytics to enhance community preparedness and resilience.

The agreement with the OURD will be valid for two years, while the partnership with CEER will be valid for three years.

Joining Pres. Velasco during the signing are OURD Director Dr. Robert V. Marcos, CEER Director Dr. Murphy P. Mohammed, Ms. Frances Margaret Canlas, Local Economic Development and Investment Promotions officer, Mr. Macquel Serrano, who represented Provincial Health Officer Dr. Jeanette A. Lazatin, and Engr. Fernando P. Gallieto, Provincial Planning and Development coordinator.



DBM, TSU to work for target accomplishment

Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan



Representatives from the Department of Budget and Management Region III conducted the annual on-site Full-Time Delivery Unit (FDU) validation for the Fiscal Year 2025 year-end agency performance review for Tarlac State University on March 3, 2026 at the Main AVR.

The activity aims to assess the university's physical and financial accomplishments, including income performance, and to monitor the implementation and progress of infrastructure projects.

"From there po,

doon natin makikita 'yung mga gaps and challenges kung saan pwede tayong magtulungan and mag-develop ng catch-up measures to efficiently po ma-achieve ni TSU 'yung kanyang targets. Magkakasama po tayo at magtutulungan," Ms. Camiel P. Santos, Budget and Management Specialist II, said.

Joining Ms. Santos are Ms. Thelma Abigail N. Macalino, acting supervising BMS, and Ms. Melissa Joy L. Suba, BMS I, who reviewed the university's outcome and output targets and

accomplishments, some of which include board performance, program accreditation, research and extension programs, as well as budget allocations and obligations.

"All the inputs from the DBM are much welcomed to [improve further] our services for our clients bilang TSU. We will humbly comply with all the input coming from you. We expect something wonderful will happen, because we will be one in pushing for the development of Tarlac State University," TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco said in

gratitude to the DBM team.

Afterwards, the team visited the Lucinda Campus to inspect completed and ongoing infrastructure projects.

The university executives present during the review include Vice President for Administration Atty. Gherold C. Benitez, Vice President for Research, Innovation, and Extension Atty. Wilmark J. Ramos, and Dr. Brendalyn A. Manzano, College of Arts and Social Sciences dean, who represented the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs.



TSU, DTI Tarlac extends collab for ARBOs

Maria Adelaida D. Calayag



Tarlac State University forged a partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry-Tarlac on Tuesday afternoon (March 10) at the Main AVR to promote financial literacy and empower Agrarian Reform Beneficiaries Organizations (ARBOs).

The collaboration between TSU and DTI aims to cater to Sta. Maria Kapatanian Agricultural Cooperative, Fonacier Agrarian Reform Farmers, Mayantoc Bakir Farmers, Five Star MPC, Raniag Primary Multi-Purpose Cooperative, Mayantoc Sweet Potato Clean Planting Materials Producer Cooperative, and Ventinilla Marketing Cooperative.

This year, TSU and DTI will conduct learning sessions and workshops, including four marketing seminars, one on organizational and management,

and one on finance.

DTI Tarlac is set to focus on product development-related activities and marketing seminars, following the DTI Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) Program Management Office, to promote entrepreneurship and empower Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MS-



MEs) within the agrarian sector.

"We reaffirm our commitment to our duties and pledge to uphold every provision of this agreement with excellence and integrity. Our goal remains clear—to equip MSMEs with the tools they need to stay competitive. We recognize that our MSMEs are the backbone of the community," Ms. Florencia Balilo, acting provincial director of DTI, said in her message of commitment.

DTI, a long-time partner of TSU, will extend its partnership for the next four years.

"We are no longer serving alone, because this memorandum of agreement between TSU and DTI is a covenant. We

share a promise that the resources of government, the expertise of our faculty, and the potential of our students will be moving together into something far greater than any one of us could accomplish on our own," Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Jasper Jay Mendoza said.

For the past three years, TSU has conducted 12 seminars for ARBOs, such as Entrepreneurial Mind-Setting, Basic Financial Management, Digital Marketing, Bookkeeping and Recording, and Strategic Business Planning.

Both parties trained more than 360 ARBs, hitting the 100% target for seminars and a "very satisfied" customer satisfaction feedback (CSF).

TSU alumnus, UK honors recipient gains alumni recognition

Maria Adelaida D. Calayag



The Tarlac State University Alumni Association honored Mr. Edison David with a "Distinguished Alumni Award" after being awarded the Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (MBE) by His Majesty King Charles III in the 2025 New Year Honours List.

The London-based Filipino educator, who completed his Master of Arts in Education major in Administration and Supervision at TSU in 1997, was recognized by the TSUAAI on March 5, 2026 at the Alumni Center, Lucinda Campus.

The MBE is the third-highest rank in the Order of the British Empire. It acknowledges individuals who are committed to service and have made a significant impact on their communities.

Mr. David was awarded the MBE, particularly for his services

to the education sector in the United Kingdom.

He is an executive headteacher of two London primary schools, namely Granton Primary School and Kings Avenue Primary School, both outstanding-rated schools in the London Borough of Lambeth.

"When I learned about the news, I did not think about the medal—I thought about my mother. I thought about her sacrifices, her long hours in the classroom, her quiet prayers, and this honor belongs to her and her alone... It also belongs to all Filipino teachers who work tirelessly, often without recognition. It belongs to you, Tarlac State University. It belongs to Tarlac as a city and as a province," Mr. David said.

Meanwhile, in the Philippines, he started his teaching profession in 1994 at San Manuel High School in Tarlac City before moving to

the UK.

"Sir Edison, your accomplishments bring great pride and distinction to our institution, and your journey remains a powerful force of inspiration, guiding and motivating the whole TSU community to pursue excellence and service," TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco said in a message delivered by Asst. Prof. Maricor Cheska B. Santos, presidential communications secretary.

Outstanding services to education

In 2012, the Office for Standards in Education (Ofsted), the United Kingdom's highest inspectorate board, approached Mr. David to serve as one of its inspectors. He accepted it and treated it as an opportunity to transform schools in the UK.

The board conducts

school inspections every four years, with less than 24 hours' notice before each visit.

"We inspected without fear or favor. On those days, we are not allowed to drink any of their coffee or water. They will not give us anything because they are expecting 'without their favor.' And if a school is not providing good quality of education, then we recommend the closure of schools. I've closed a good number of schools in England because they are not a good value for money and because the children are not getting good enough quality of education," Mr. David said in his speech.

Two years later, he became the lead inspector for Ofsted. He also became a lifetime Fellow of the National College of Teachers in England, where only 12 individuals hold the

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COLLEGE OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE EDUCATION

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE
NEWLY LICENSED TSUIAN CRIMINOLOGISTS!

**FEBRUARY 2026 LICENSURE
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| | |
|----------------------------|--------|
| FIRST-TIME TAKERS | 100% |
| INSTITUTIONAL PASSING RATE | 100% |
| NATIONAL PASSING RATE | 66.11% |

TOP 1 PERFORMING SCHOOL
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**MARCH 2026 ELECTRONICS ENGINEERS
AND ELECTRONICS TECHNICIANS
LICENSURE EXAMINATIONS**

| | ECE | ECT |
|----------------------------|--------|--------|
| FIRST-TIME TAKERS | 83.33% | 75.00% |
| INSTITUTIONAL PASSING RATE | 76.19% | 75.00% |
| NATIONAL PASSING RATE | 61.62% | 78.16% |

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FEATURE

Velasco: From a TCT student to the TSU President

Mary Joy B. Manalo



When Dr. Arnold E. Velasco stepped into the office as the sixth president of Tarlac State University on April 1, 2022, it wasn't just a career milestone—it was a homecoming nearly forty years in the making.

For the first time in TSU history, the university was led by one of its own: a man who once walked these same corridors not as an administrator, but as a young dreamer just trying to get by the day as a working student and a breadwinner.

Nearly four decades later, standing before the same academic community, Pres. Velasco would look back on that journey not only with pride, but with purpose.

"I entered the portals of TCT (now TSU) in June 1984 as

a first-year Electrical Engineering student. After 38 years, I am now TSU's 6th president," he shared during his investiture rites in 2022, framing his story as a possibility not just for himself, but for students who come from similar beginnings.

Soaring higher

Over the course of his term at TSU, the university recorded a series of institutional milestones made possible by the collaborative efforts of his administrative officials and staff, as well as his unwavering support.

In 2022, the university earned a three-star rating from Quacquarelli Symonds and ranked among the 15 HEIs and eight SUCs in the Philippines

in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings. Apart from the quality assurance milestones, Pres. Velasco's governance framework for TSU, along with the Board of Regents, was strengthened in the same year with the enactment of a new university charter.

In 2023, TSU expanded its strategic direction by introducing new roadmaps focused on internationalization and technology development. It sustained its ISO 9001:2015 certification, maintaining quality management standards, and became the first state university in the Philippines to participate in the Complementary Pathways program in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Department of Justice.

Still in 2023, Pres. Velasco was awarded the "World Diamond Leader Award" by the Thailand International Folklore Festival on August 24, 2023 for his "significant" support in promoting culture and arts in the Philippines, together with then Office of Culture, Arts, and Languages Director Prof. Marcelino P. Balanquit.

By 2024, TSU's progress extended further into research, innovation, and infrastructure. In terms of innovation, the university received its first Platinum Award from the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines' ITO 2.0 Clustering. In the research area, TSU hosted its first International Multidisciplinary Research Conference and co-hosted an international forensic science conference. Meanwhile, the university also ventured into infrastructure developments, including the groundbreaking

of a new simulation laboratory building for the College of Science at the Lucinda Campus and the expansion of facilities at the La Paz Campus. Partnerships also continued to grow, including collaborations with local and international organizations.

Outstanding accounting and finance practices of TSU were also recognized from 2024 to 2025 by the Government Financial Management Innovators Circle, Inc. for the effective use of the enhanced electronic New Government Accounting System (eNGAS) and the Association of Government Accountants of the Philippines, Inc. as one of the most outstanding accounting offices.

Furthermore, TSU's academic performance continued to soar higher with graduates topping board examinations, colleges attaining passing rates higher than the national average, and sustaining recognitions as a top-performing school, particularly in the Criminology Licensure Examination.

Alongside these developments, the university maintained its strong presence in global rankings, including the World University Rankings for Innovation and the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings.

Service with humility

Yet beyond these measurable outcomes, Pres. Velasco's governance has often been described in more personal terms.

Members of the TSU community frequently note his presence in spaces that extend beyond formal obligations—attending team-building activities, staff events, and student gatherings.

From the onset of his presidency, Pres. Velasco signaled a leadership style grounded in inclusivity, empathy, and connection. In his early messages to the university community, he emphasized the importance of respect, unity, and shared purpose, often describing TSU as a space that should feel like a community rather than just an institution.

"I really want the TSU community to have this unity. I want them to be empowered; I want them to have a heart in realizing the vision of the university. Kahit na 'yung pinakamaliit na empleyado ay meron siyang participation," he said in an interview in April 2022.

Furthermore, he added that no matter how impossible the vision could be, if the faculty and non-teaching staff are contented, satisfied, and happy, they can serve better and provide better quality education and services to students.

In a message delivered during the 2024 Service Awards, he shared a 'hot chocolate' story, a metaphor that has since become a cornerstone of his legacy: "Life is a hot chocolate—your job, title, and positions are the cups. The cup you have right now does not define or change the quality of life you have. Sometimes, by concentrating only on the cup, we fail to enjoy the chocolate God provided us," he said.

As his term draws to a close on March 31, 2026, Pres. Velasco leaves behind a term defined not only by institutional progress but also by the very core values he proposed for TSU: truth, service, and unity.

For many within the university, his tenure will be remembered not only through the programs implemented or recognitions achieved, but through the way he engaged with the community—quietly,

consistently, and with an understanding shaped by experience.

In returning as an "anak ng TSU," Pres. Velasco did more than lead; he reinforced a connection that began decades earlier, one that continues to resonate as the university moves forward.

As he noted in a message delivered in 2024, his commitment was never about the power of the office, but about the people it serves:

"Let us make the best of everything that we have here at TSU, mababa man o mataas ang ating posisyon. Live simply, love generously, care deeply, and speak kindly to everyone."

Looking back as a TCT student

Pres. Velasco's story began in 1984, back when the university was still the Tarlac College of Technology. His college years weren't defined by the typical leisure of youth,

but by a quiet, relentless perseverance of juggling work and studies to help support their family, navigating the streets of his hometown in Sta. Ignacia, Tarlac every night as a tricycle driver.

Being the eldest in the brood of six, young Pres. Velasco would travel to different places on weekends to take on construction jobs to pay for his tuition and send his siblings to school.

"During summer, ang pinakamalayo kong napuntahan ay Abra, Benguet – gumagawa ng dam, etc. Basta may marinig akong 'construction,' kahit gaano kadami, sumasama ako... Kahit anong trabaho, tinatanggap ko. Nagpapasada ako kahit gabi. Kahit na nag-aaral ako, kahit papaano nakakatulong din sa pamilya," he said during an interview with the Office of Public Affairs last April 2022.

For five years, he got through each day with the

same meal composed of rice and tomato wrapped in banana leaves, sometimes seasoned only with a pinch of salt, wearing one pair of worn-out shoes and an old backpack full of stitches that he used for work and school.

"Mabibilang niyo po sa mga daliri ko kung ilang beses lang ako kumain ng may ulam. Palaging asin, kanin, at kamatis lang po araw-araw. Kaya ang ginagawa ko po kapag lunch time na, nagkukulong na ako sa Engineering Room 7 dahil ayaw kong makita ng mga kakalse ko na ang ulam ko ay asin lang. Pero nagpatuloy po akong mangarap bilang engineer po," he said in a message delivered during a scholarship payout in December 2022.

Academic and early professional life

Pres. Velasco pursued multiple academic degrees

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EDITORIAL

True resilience: Being proactive trumps reactive decisions

As part of the government's efforts to conserve energy and reduce fuel consumption due to the rising global oil prices triggered by the ongoing unrest in the Middle East, President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. ordered a temporary implementation of a four-day work week in some of the executive branches on March 9, 2026. Following this announcement, a memorandum circular has been released which provides additional details on the implementation that extends to all national government agencies, which includes local government units and state universities and colleges. The Commission on Higher Education and most of the SUCs adopted a compressed workweek, allowing employees to take either Mondays or Fridays off,

provided they complete the mandatory 40-hour weekly requirement.

While this measure offers immediate relief, it is fundamentally reactive rather than a sustainable energy policy.

Tarlac State University, on the other hand, had already employed this system years before in response to the administrative order issued by former President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo in 2004 (Directing the Continued Adoption of Austerity Measures by the Government).

And in 2012, the Civil Service Commission granted then university president Dr. Priscilla C. Viuya the authority to implement a four-day workweek, citing the university's significant savings in electricity and facility operational costs.

TSU's long-standing model proves that conservation is most effective when it is institutionalized, not just mobilized in emergencies. True resilience lies in shifting from reactive decision-making to proactive planning.

If our institutions must wait for international oil market fluctuations to trigger a four-day workweek, we remain perpetually vulnerable to factors entirely outside our control. The goal of energy conservation should not be a band-aid solution during times of conflict, but a structural commitment to operational efficiency.

Proactive governance requires modernizing our infrastructure which includes investing in energy-efficient facility upgrades, embracing renewable energy integration, and digitizing administrative

processes to minimize the physical demands of fuel-dependent operations.

We should prioritize long-term sustainability and create an environment where conservation is a daily standard, not a desperate reaction to an external crisis. It is time for the government to move beyond cyclical, reactive decision-making and take steps toward a proactive, energy-independent future that values stability over necessity.

The true measure of our progress will not be found in the days we spend away from the office, but in our ability to build a system that is resilient enough to thrive regardless of the price of oil. The most expensive fuel is the one we are forced to waste on temporary fixes instead of building a permanent, sustainable future.

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fellowship.

Mr. David helped underperforming schools by extending his strategies to improve teaching quality and adhere to an inclusive learning environment. As a School Improvement Consultant, his expertise was also significant in advising school leaders to raise academic standards, especially for disadvantaged students, and in ensuring more positive outcomes for

students.

"But titles are not the story; children are the story. Learners are the core of everything that I do. It doesn't matter who I am talking to... We always return to the people that matter—and those are the young people, the learners," Mr. David further said.

Giving back to TSU

According to Vice President for Academic

Affairs Dr. Jasper Jay N. Mendoza, Mr. David committed his time and effort to establishing a "very good" partnership to strengthen the university's internationalization through faculty-student mobility.

"Here is what I carry with me: my father's moral compass and my mother's work ethic and the academic discipline of my beloved university, including Tarlac State University," Mr. David

said.

He also gave three learning points from his journey. First, never stop learning, skill up, and always take professional development; second, raise standards but keep humanity; and third, focus on the most vulnerable child in the room.

The event was also attended by Hon. Reynaldo Catacutan, TSUAAI president and alumni regent, and the TSUAAI officers.

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along the way: Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering, Master of Arts in Teaching Mathematics, and Doctor of Philosophy in Development Education, and passed three government licensure examinations: Registered Electrical Engineers and Registered Master Electricians Licensure Examinations, the Professional Teachers Licensure Examination, and the Civil Service Professionals Examination.

The journey to attain these titles was never easy. The "working student" DNA had become the heartbeat of his journey, as he found ways to work while also attending graduate school classes and conducting research.

After getting his professional EE license, Pres. Velasco taught at Sta. Ignacia Academy, St. Paul College of Technology in Camiling, and Trinity Arts and Technical Academy in Paniqui. Afterwards, he worked as a maintenance engineer at a private company in Taguig City.

Before returning to TSU, Pres. Velasco returned to his love of teaching at Tarlac Agricultural University, where he spent 28 years as university electrical engineer, College of Education dean, Admission and Registration Services director, Research and Development director, Project Management Committee for Infrastructure Projects chair, and, eventually, Vice President for Academic Affairs from 2021-2022.

TSU sustains 3rd ITSO Platinum Award

Maria Adelaida D. Calayag (OPA), Julius TJ Serrano (OIBD)



Photo Credits: Office of Innovation and Business Development

Tarlac State University received its third consecutive Platinum Award from the Intellectual Property Office of the Philippines during the 2025 ITSO Clustering Awards today (March 25), held at Diversion 21 Hotel in Mandurriao District, Iloilo City.

The Platinum Award is the highest distinction from IPOPHL given to institutions that meet and exceed the prescribed targets on IP filings, including patents, trademarks, copyrights, utility models, and industrial designs, all of which are under the supervision of the university's Office of Innovation and Business

Development.

These targets are set under the ITSO Clustering Framework, which serves as the benchmark for performance and growth of member institutions nationwide.

Apart from the highest distinction, the university was also awarded two Special Citation Awards for Patent and Copyright, totaling 10 patent applications and 60 copyright filings, wherein TSU was recognized as one of the top filers in these categories.

Vice President for Research, Innovation, and Extension Atty. Wilmark Ramos and OIBD Director Atty. Jayriz Dungca received the awards on behalf of

TSU during the two-day Innovation and Technology Support Office Presidents' Summit and General Assembly.

The OIBD ensures IP advancement in terms of protection and the innovation ecosystem. From being initially recognized with a Bronze Award in 2022, TSU leaped to the Platinum Award in 2023 and sustained this level of performance from 2024 to 2025.

After securing three Platinum Awards, the university aims to achieve the Palladium Award, which can only be granted to institutions with five consecutive Platinum Awards.

TSU secures AACUP certificates for 4 programs

Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan



Three undergraduate programs and one graduate program of Tarlac State University officially received their accreditation certificates from the AACUP during an awarding ceremony held on March 13, 2026 at the Center for Food Technology and Research AVR, Lucinda Campus.

The BS Civil Engineering and Bachelor of Public Administration programs attained Level IV Re-accredited status, the highest level awarded by the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines, while the MS Civil Engineering and Bachelor of Technical-Vocational Teacher Education programs achieved Level III Re-accredited and Level I Accredited statuses, respectively.

In his opening remarks, TSU President Dr.

Arnold E. Velasco emphasized that these recognitions symbolize excellence, dedication, and the ongoing pursuit of quality education.

"Behind every accreditation result are countless hours of preparation, collaboration, and commitment. Behind these achievements are the people of TSU—our administrators, faculty members, and staff—whose passion for academic excellence continues to move this university forward. To all of you who worked tirelessly for this milestone, maraming-maraming salamat po," he said.

"It has been a great honor and privilege to work with such brilliant, dedicated, and hardworking people of this university. The achievements we celebrate today are not the accomplishments of one

office or one leader—they are the collective triumph of a community committed to education and service," he added.

Afterward, Dr. Niño B. Corpuz, Office of Quality Assurance director, presented and analyzed the summary of accreditation ratings, noting that all programs achieved "very satisfactory" evaluations, with scores far exceeding the minimum grand mean required for their respective levels.

In response, the deans of the College of Engineering, College of Public Administration and Governance, and College of Education thanked the department chairpersons and faculty members involved and reaffirmed their commitment to upholding academic excellence.

"We dedicate ourselves to nurturing

our students, supporting our faculty and staff, and ensuring that our programs remain relevant, responsive, and future-ready. This pledge not only reflects our compliance with accreditation requirements, but also our continuing pursuit of quality and innovation in engineering education," COE Dean Dr. Miriam S. Galvez said.

Additionally, CPAG Dean Dr. Edwin T. Caoleng shared that one of his goals for the college has finally been realized: becoming the first college of TSU to have all its undergraduate and graduate programs hold Level IV accreditation status.

"All of this will not be possible without the support of the administration. My vision for the college doesn't end here. Tuloy pa din po ang quality assurance. Ang next vision ko po is for us to

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TSU strengthens inclusive education for neurodivergent students

Maria Adelaida D. Calayag



To foster a more inclusive learning environment, Tarlac State University partnered with Focus Bear, an Australian company centered on neurodivergent individuals.

Focus Bear is an application that helps ease burnout and distraction for people with Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Through a memorandum of understanding signed on March 13, 2026 at the Business Center AVR, the partnership allows the university to provide students with assistive technology applications to improve focus, organize daily routines, and manage distractions.

"Some of our students navigate their academic journey while living with ADHD, autism, dyslexia, and

other neurodevelopmental differences. Their perspectives are unique, their creativity extraordinary, and their potential limitless. What they often need is not limitation but understanding, support, and the right tools," TSU President Dr. Arnold Velasco said in his message during the signing ceremony.

Ten neurodivergent students clinically diagnosed with ADHD will be given free access to the application for one year.

"Inclusive education is a shared responsibility. Together, we must continue to build a university where every learner feels seen, supported, and capable of achieving greatness," Pres. Velasco further said.

Mr. Jeremy Nagel, founder of Focus Bear, who was late-diagnosed with AuDHD (autistic+ADHD), said he knows what it is like

to go to the university feeling like his brain works differently from everyone.

According to Nagel, TSU is the first university in the Philippines to take a step in helping neurodivergent students.

This partnership was forged with the help of the International, Differently-abled, Indigenous, and Marginalized Student Services section under the Office of Student Affairs and Services.

The ceremonial signing was graced by Ms. Victoria Adeline Tulabot, Focus Bear partnerships manager; Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Jasper Jay N. Mendoza; Vice President for Administration Atty. Gherold C. Benitez; Student Affairs and Services Assistant Director Dr. Dexter L. Manzano; and IDIMSS Head Mr. Allan Santos.



TSU, DOST-PTRI collaborates to advance textile education and research

Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan



DOST Philippine Textile Research Institute sealed a partnership with Tarlac State University as the fourth academic institution, and the first outside Metro Manila, for the integration of textile science in the academe.

Both parties signed a memorandum of agreement and understanding on March 18, 2026 at the Main AVR, primarily aiming to develop a standardized curriculum in textile science, align academic offerings for national recognition, and address gaps in the country's textile workforce.

The collaboration also aims to promote knowledge

exchange through joint instruction, research projects, and extension initiatives, including academic programs, collaborative studies, and skills training.

"It's really an honor and a pride, in behalf of the department, and of course the institute, to be welcomed here and to be able to push the boundaries of textiles and the frontiers of science, technology, and education with Tarlac State University," Dr. Julius L. Leño, DOST-PTRI Director IV, said.

TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco thanked the agency for their trust and for sharing their expertise and

vision.

"Today we are not merely formalizing a partnership, we are weaving together a shared vision for the future of textile science and innovation in the Philippines... At Tarlac State University, we firmly believe that meaningful partnerships such as these are vital in fulfilling our mission as a higher education institution not only to educate but empower, innovate, and serve," he said.

This partnership is part of DOST-PTRI's Textile Academy, a forward-looking platform that seeks to develop advanced competencies in the

textile sector. The program will focus on enhancing skills and expanding capabilities that will equip students, professionals, and communities through specialized training, applied research, and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

Present at the event are Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Jasper Jay N. Mendoza, Center for Food Technology and Research Director Dr. Lea B. Milan, College of Education Dean Dr. Erwin P. Lacanlale, and DOST Provincial Science and Technology Director Ms. Karen Dañez.

of the college during the accreditation survey visit.

"Hindi lang ho sa College of Education ang nagtatrabaho ay 'yung department na nagpapa-accredit. It's been a practice,

which I consider one of our best practices, that we work together. Kasama po 'yung ibang departments na nagtatrabaho to help the program under survey," he said.

The accreditation status of BSCE and BPA is valid until October 2030; MSCE, until October 2029; and BTVTED, until October 2028.

TSU launches OGAD Helpline desk during Women's Month kickoff

Mary Joy B. Manalo



Tarlac State University, through the Office of Gender and Development, officially launched the OGAD Helpline desk during the university-wide kick-off program for the 2026 National Women's Month Celebration held on March 10, 2026 across its three campuses during the simultaneous flag-raising ceremonies.

The OGAD Helpline desk, available via a Facebook page, will serve as an accessible channel for members of the TSU community to reach out for assistance, report concerns,

and access gender and development resources.

In a message, Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Jasper Jay N. Mendoza called upon the TSU community to be "united, purposeful, and unstoppable" in supporting women's rights.

"Let us all stand as one. Tayo dito sa TSU ay iisang pamilya—and a family that celebrates its women, celebrates its strength. A family that protects women, protects its future," VP Mendoza said.

Meanwhile, Vice President for Research,

Extension, and Innovation Atty. Wilmark J. Ramos reaffirmed the university's commitment to inclusive initiatives through research and innovation.

"Ang talino at tapang ng Pilipina ay walang limitasyon... Patuloy nating sinusuportahan ang mga proyekto at inobasyon na nagbibigay boses at pagkakataon sa lahat," VP Ramos said.

The simultaneous kick-off program officially opened the university's National Women's Month activities, anchored on the 2026 theme "WE for Gender

Equality and Inclusive Society: Lead Like the Babaylans, Filipinas!"

Following the ceremony, several students, faculty, and staff participated in "Lakad Juana," a campus-wide march advocating women's rights and gender equality.

OGAD OIC Director Prof. Christine Janelle M. Santiago also announced that the office prepared a series of seminars, awareness campaigns, pampering services for TSU women, and student-led activities throughout the month.



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be a Center of Excellence, hopefully," he said.

COED Dean Dr. Erwin P. Lacanlale also expressed pride in the collective effort



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.