



# TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY BULLETIN

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## Pres. Velasco to TSU admin: 'Go beyond counting outputs, measure impact'



Charting the course for 2026 to 2027, Tarlac State University's Board of Regents, key officials, and the administrative council convened for the annual university planning held on February 20, 2026 at the TSU Hotel.

Themed "Defining TSU's Journey Towards Higher Quality and SUC Classification," the planning sessions featured presentations of plans for 2026 to 2027 under the seven roadmaps, as well as a brief recounting of 2025

accomplishments, with TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco underscoring the essence of making an impact through communal achievements.

"Strategic planning is not about the number of slides and accomplishments

our presenters have, but about the lives that we touch and the legacy we leave behind," Pres. Velasco said.

Moreover, he emphasized the significance of collective decision-making in

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shaping the institution's future. "We are here [today] because the best futures of TSU depend on the decisions we make — all of us together now — and the unity we demonstrate today," he added.

Overall, university officials reaffirmed their commitment to align programs, policies, and resources with SUC-leveling standards. With targets set for 2026–2027, they emphasized sustained coordination and accountability to steer the institution toward higher quality and improved classification.

**Roadmap targets alignment with SUC levelling**

In line with the university's bid for a higher state universities and colleges (SUC) levelling reclassification, members of the Board of Regents who attended the planning encouraged the administration to align all targets with the guidelines and criteria set by the Commission on Higher Education.

Under Roadmap A, Hon. Winifredo Luis, faculty regent, and Hon. Christine Anne Corazon A. Lamorena, private sector representative, urged the



**Pres. Velasco to TSU admin: 'Go beyond counting outputs, measure impact'**

Mary Joy B. Manalo

administration to find ways to support better and encourage faculty participation in research.

In response, Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Jasper Jay N. Mendoza shared that the university is developing coaching and mentoring programs to support teaching personnel in producing research outputs and is reviewing institutional promotion policies.

In terms of budget allocations, the regents reminded the administration to spend wisely and find alternative sources of income.

Hon. Maricar N. Banting, non-academic staff representative, also commended the centers under the Vice President for Research, Innovation, and Extension for securing external research funding. However, she encouraged them to develop strategies to mobilize these centers fully for long-term sustainability.

Moreover, she reminded the administration to secure Environmental

Compliance Certificates (ECC) from the DENR for the Lucinda and San Isidro campuses, noting that the Main Campus has held one since 2018.

The regents likewise lauded the accomplishments and comprehensive plans presented under Roadmap D by Dr. Nino B. Corpuz, Office of Quality Assurance director.

"We hope this continues, and we will be expecting more," Hon. Luis remarked.

For Roadmap E, Dr. Marlon V. Gamido, Office of Management and Information Systems director, assured the board that efforts are ongoing to strengthen internet connectivity and expand access points across the university's three campuses.

Meanwhile, under Roadmap F, Dr. Grace N. Rosete, Office of International Affairs and Linkages director, confirmed that the board has already approved policies for faculty and student international mobility programs.

**Hopeful for TSU's future**

This planning session

marked Hon. Banting's first appearance as the newest member of the BOR, during which she highlighted the university's continued progress.

"TSU's journey is not just about growth; it is a legacy in motion. With all our efforts, initiatives, perseverance, and sacrifices, I believe that the best chapters are yet to come," Hon. Banting said.

Meanwhile, Hon. Brixter L. Millo, student regent, encouraged stakeholders to approach the planning process with reflection and accountability.

"I hope we see this planning as a responsibility to keep things grounded and as an opportunity to pause and reflect — to see what we need to improve and where we may be falling short," he said.

Now serving his final term as president, Pres. Velasco also took the opportunity to thank the TSU community.

"I will always be a proud son and supporter of TSU, and I will carry its good name and honor for the rest of my life," he said.



**TSU taps provincial sports and tourism for council formation**

Mary Joy B. Manalo



To strengthen grassroots sports development in the province, Tarlac State University initiated the Provincial Sports, Wellness, and Tourism Council Formation last February 26-27, 2026 at the TSU Amphitheater, Lucinda Campus.

The council formation helps unify stakeholders and establish the vision, mission, and organizational structure, along with the actionable programs and legal framework, for the Tarlac Community Sports and Wellness Center (TCSWC) located at the TSU San Isidro Campus.

Invited participants include tourism officers and sports coordinators from the province, city, and municipalities; Sangguniang Kabataan officials; and sports coordinators from the Department of Education's Tarlac Province and Tarlac City divisions, as well as from other schools and higher education institutions within Tarlac.

Coach Ana Dulce Yango, project lead for the Sports Development Management Programs of the Office of Student

Development Services under the Commission on Higher Education, gave an overview of the CHED Community Sports and Wellness Program. She also presented the CHED grant programs and their implementation.

Dr. Harrold Bueno, dean of the College of Hospitality Management at Far Eastern University, delivered a talk on sports tourism as an economic driver, emphasizing the importance of attracting visitors for revenue and leveraging sports tourism through promotion and boosting economic potential.

Meanwhile, Mr. Roberto Alabado III, director of the Office of Film and Sports Tourism from the Department of Tourism, tackled the topic "Sports Tourism Management," which can help participants strategize provincial sports tourism events by drafting event plans, engaging stakeholders, and expanding their resources.

During the workshop session, participants were grouped into three and tasked

with creating and presenting a vision and mission statement and the council's core goals.

Moreover, Dr. Bueno asked the participants to identify the responsibilities of stakeholders and the roles of the local government unit, tourism offices, HEIs, DepEd, and municipal and provincial sports coordinators.

They were also asked to draft the key provisions of the council ordinance, its operational guidelines, structure, functions, powers, and shared responsibilities.

Hon. Carl Lewis Rendon, SK Federation president from Victoria town, and Level II World Athletics coach and PE instructor, shared his experiences and techniques for maximizing his training schedule.

"There's a big difference between officiating and coaching. There's a different textbook for coaches, officiating officials, and coaching per se. We have good coaches, but what we are trying to say is that we need this upscaling that is comprehensive

[coaching courses]," Rendon shared during the open forum.

According to Prof. Josephine Joy Reyes, former executive director of the National Academy of Sports, it is essential to upskill coaches and to offer summer clinics where students can train well in advance of competition dates.

"Gusto ko talagang alagaan ang mga coaches. Ang mga atleta ay hindi magiging champion kung hindi dahil sa inyo," Prof. Reyes said in response to Rendon.

The TCSWC is under the TSU PATH (Promotion of Awareness, Teamwork, and Health), funded by the Commission on Higher Education through the leadership of former CHED Commissioner Dr. J. Prospero "Popoy" De Vera. Through this center, Tarlac Province aims to become the country's center of sports excellence.

The university's TCSWC is set to be inaugurated in March this year.

## COED Golden Eagles retains intrams overall champion trophy

Mary Joy B. Manalo



The College of Education Golden Eagles were crowned overall champions of this year's Tarlac State University Intramurals through an awarding ceremony at the TSU Gymnasium on February 6, 2026.

Garnering a total of 73 gold medals, the Golden Eagles defended their title, marking a return of the intramurals after a year-long pause since the last games in 2024.

Following the COED Golden Eagles in the overall medal tally are the College of Public Administration and Governance Blue Jaguars as first runner-up and the College of Business and

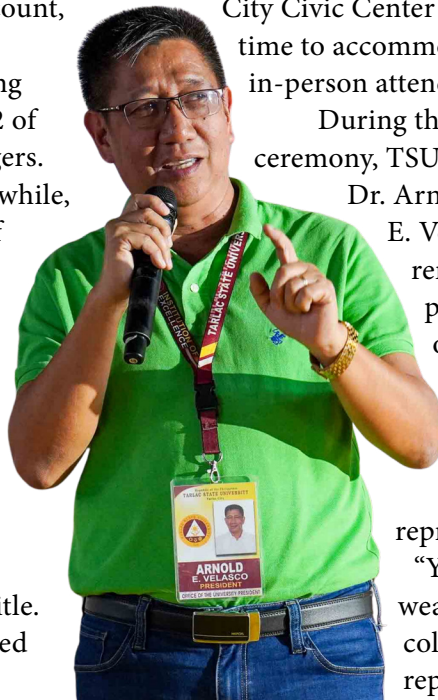
Accountancy Green Tigers as second runner-up, both earning 51 gold medals and breaking the tie through the silver medal count, with the Blue Jaguars earning 35 over the 22 of the Green Tigers.

Meanwhile, the College of Engineering Maroon Sharks were hailed as champions in the bench yell competition, marking a "three-peat" title.

Themed "TSU AURA:

Athletic Unity, Resilience, and Action," this year's opening program was held on February 3 at the Tarlac City Civic Center for the first time to accommodate more in-person attendees.

During the opening ceremony, TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco reminded participants of the unity the event



represents. "You may wear different colors and represent

different colleges, but all of you will be carrying one name with pride—TSU," he said.

He further emphasized that the intramurals is "more than a series of games; it is a festival of dreams, discipline, friendship, and unforgettable memories."

The week-long sports meet featured various indoor and outdoor sports across the university's nine colleges, along with the display of different booths and food stalls at the Main Campus parking grounds.

It also marked the introduction of disc golf as an official intramurals sport.

## TSU, Kakamay Movement organize sign language training

Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan

In partnership with the Kakamay Movement Organization, Tarlac State University launched a three-day capacity-building program on Filipino Sign Language (FSL) on February 18, 2026 at the TSU Hotel, Lucinda Campus.

Organized by the International, Differently-Abled, Indigenous, and Marginalized Student Services Unit, the training is centered on breaking communication barriers, strengthening deaf inclusion, and empowering the university to communicate with respect, dignity, and understanding as reflected in the theme, "Breaking Barriers, Building Access: Toward a Deaf-Ready University."

Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Jasper Jay N. Mendoza said he wants TSU to be a university that is very much willing to listen, especially to the needs of the deaf community.

"Ngayong araw na ito, nagtitipon tayo hindi lamang para sa isang training—nagtitipon tayo para sa isang kilusan. Hands are not mere



instruments of gestures. Hands can reach divides, hands can shatter barriers, and hands can build roads where none existed before," he said.

He emphasized that the simple dignity of being understood can help the deaf gain access to equitable education, care, justice, and most fundamental human interactions.

In an interview,

General Gabinera Palma, the organization's founder, said that he could see the excitement and eagerness of the university to pursue the program they have started.

"After the program, I expect them (participants) to start communicating with the deaf people. That is the main goal. When I say communicate, it's to speak and to listen. So, we can start breaking the barriers and start opening the doors for education," he said.

Furthermore, he shared that the reason they chose TSU for this initiative is that many of their board directors are from Tarlac Province.

"Kakamay was born in Tarlac. At sinasabi na ang yaman ng ating probinsya ay ang tao. It's fitting lang na sa atin magsimula ang mga ganitong galaw para sa kabutihan ng mga tao sa



paligid natin, lalo na sa mga deaf," he noted.

The training program was conducted until February 20, focusing on applied and functional FSL centered on academic and administrative transactions.

TSU and Kakamay Movement Organization signed a memorandum of agreement last December 2, 2025 for FSL training sessions, workshops, and awareness programs for volunteer TSU faculty, staff, and students.

The organization also recently partnered with TESDA (Technical Education and Skills Development Authority) and UPRI (University of the Philippines Resilience Institute) to integrate accessibility standards into vocational training and disaster resilience programs for the Deaf community.



## Central Luzon cardiologists hold CPR practicum for TSU

Maria Adelaida D. Calayag



Fifty-nine licensed cardiologists from Central Luzon facilitated a CPR practicum for Tarlac State University students and employees on February 20, 2026 at the TSU Gymnasium.

The training, dubbed "SAGIP CPR training: Life-Saving Skills through Module and Practicum," is a massive hands-only cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) program designed to equip students with the skills to respond to emergencies such as sudden cardiac arrest.

SAGIP (Survey, Assess, Get Help, Initiate, and Place) CPR was launched last year by Bell-Kenz Inc., a pharmaceutical company, together with the Philippine Heart Association (PHA),

with the goal of capacitating one million Filipinos to respond to cardiac emergencies.

This training was also conducted in partnership with the Philippine Medical Association, Tarlac Medical Society, and Philippine College of Cardiology.

According to Dr. Harold Sunga, former president of PHA-Central Luzon Chapter, cardiac arrest remains the number one cause of death in the Philippines, wherein one out of five Filipinos dies from heart disease.

This was echoed by Ms. Erika Danielle Asuncion, program head for SAGIP CPR and partnership activation specialist at Bell-Kenz, who


backed up the dangers of heart disease with statistics.

"Aside from taking care of the heart, we realized that here in the Philippines, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority and PHA, heart disease is the number one killer, with over 370 people dying due to heart disease alone, and yet here in the Philippines, only 2 out of 10 know how to do CPR. There are many organizations around the country, like DOH, PHA, to train more Filipinos," Ms. Asuncion said.

The session featured lectures on caring for the heart, hands-only CPR, a comprehensive guide to AEDs (Automated External Defibrillators), and an open forum.

"This morning, the experts will teach you, our students, the basics of CPR, a life-saving skill [that] one must know once faced with life-threatening situations. We hope that this morning, we adhere to [these] individuals' skills and knowledge—our future workforce. We hope that this private-public partnership is the start of [a] long-time collaboration between our organizations," Dr. Rommel Hernandez, university physician, said.

SAGIP CPR is currently in its sixth month and is being conducted simultaneously in various private and public educational institutions and local government units.



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COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

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### FEBRUARY 2026 MECHANICAL ENGINEER LICENSURE EXAMINATION

FIRST-TIME TAKERS	<b>70.24%</b>
INSTITUTIONAL PASSING RATE	<b>66.30%</b>
NATIONAL PASSING RATE	<b>51.90%</b>

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### FEBRUARY 2026 MASTER PLUMBERS LICENSURE EXAMINATION

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INSTITUTIONAL PASSING RATE	<b>57.45%</b>
NATIONAL PASSING RATE	<b>61.76%</b>

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## KKP hosts 2026 conference with TSU: a first outside Metro Manila

Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan

The Kapisanang Kimika ng Pilipinas, in collaboration with Tarlac State University's Department of Chemistry, successfully concluded its 2026 annual conference, themed "Green Chemistry for a Changing World: Empowering Sustainable Communities."

Held from February 23-24, 2026 at the Alumni Center in Lucinda Campus, this marked the organization's first time hosting its prestigious event outside of Metro Manila.

KKP President Dr. Christina A. Binag hoped that the conference would pave the way for the establishment of the KKP-Central Luzon Chapter. She also shared that the organization plans to expand its reach to other regions following its engagement with TSU.

The two-day conference featured six plenary sessions, four workshops, and awards for the best posters, intending



to highlight cutting-edge research, technologies, and best practices that drive green transformations – from cleaner production and circular bioeconomy to climate-resilient innovations and community-centered science.

According to Prof. Claire C. Lagrana,



chairperson of TSU's Department of Chemistry, this is the university's second collaboration with KKP.

The organization was previously invited for a lecture series with the title, "BEYOND THE FLASK: Chemical Innovations Solving Today's Challenges A Lecture Series on Recent Trends in

Chemistry Research," on October 13, 2025 at the TSU Hotel.

Established in 1937, KKP is the oldest chemistry organization in the Philippines, aiming to unite chemists and professionals from allied disciplines to advance chemistry as a scientific field.



### PLENARY SESSIONS

Cultural Heritage as a Model for Sustainability: Chemical Analysis of a Tabique Pampango Lime Mortar	<b>Jan-Michael C. Cayme, PhD</b> DOST-PCIEERD Balik Scientist De La Salle University, Manila Archaeology
Paper-Based Analytical Devices (PAD): A Green Platform to Headspace Measurements Based on Digital Colorimetry	<b>Acad. Fortunato B. Sevilla III</b> Professor Emeritus University of Santo Tomas
Studies of Physical Properties of Crumpled Graphene Spheres	<b>Professor Chun-Hu Chen</b> Department of Chemistry National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan
Switching on Contrast, Greening Up Nanoparticles: Smarter Chemistry for Better Imaging	<b>Joel Garcia, PhD</b> Department of Chemistry De La Salle University, Manila
Tuklas Lunas Drug Discovery and Development Program	<b>Christine C. Hernandez, PhD</b> Institute of Chemistry University of the Philippines, Diliman
From Waste to Wealth: PROPRES BOOST as a Sustainable Probiotic and Prebiotic Solution for Feed and Agriculture Systems	<b>Rosalie R. Rafael, PhD</b> Chief Executive Officer Agqua Veterinary Medicine Manufacturing

### WORKSHOPS

Green Chemistry Sparks: Engaging Students with Microscale Electrochemistry Experiments	<b>Jan-Michael C. Cayme, PhD</b> DOST-PCIEERD Balik Scientist De La Salle University, Manila Archaeology
Sustainable Chemical Measurements and Green Chemistry Education through Smartphone-Based Colorimetry	<b>Acad. Fortunato B. Sevilla III</b> Professor Emeritus University of Santo Tomas
Coffee Chemistry and the Concept of Sustainability	<b>Professor Chun-Hu Chen</b> Department of Chemistry National Sun Yat-sen University, Taiwan
Experience the HITACHI Tabletop Scanning Electron Microscope	<b>Joel Garcia, PhD</b> Department of Chemistry De La Salle University, Manila

### BEST POSTERS

First Place	Patrick M. Dela Cruz, Chia-Hung Yen, Oliver B. Villaflores (University of Santo Tomas)
Second Place	Elaiza Mae R. Martin, Anacel S. Dela Cruz (NEUST)
Third Place	Bernadette E. Victorio, Jennica V. Jove (NEUST)

## TSU, AGAP reaffirm partnership with 2 new scholars

Maria Adelaida D. Calayag



Tarlac State University's College of Business and Accountancy renewed its partnership with the Association of Government Accountants of the Philippines, Inc. through a memorandum of agreement signed on February 24, 2026 at the School of Law moot court.

AGAP, which began its partnership with TSU in 2019, provides financial assistance to two economically challenged but deserving students to help them obtain quality education.

Selected as the ninth and tenth scholars of the program are fourth-year accountancy students Kaira Seval and Lyanna Dale Imperio, who are both running for Latin honors. Each scholar

will receive 20,000 pesos per semester.

According to AGAP President Marichu Palafox, TSU is the only university in Luzon with which they have renewed a partnership.

"We are honored to collaborate with such institutions that share a commitment to empowering young people through education. At AGAP, we truly believe that education is one of the most powerful investments," Ms. Palafox said.

In his speech, TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco emphasized the importance of collaboration between academic and professional institutions.

"This MOA is a testament that when academic

institutions and professional organizations, like AGAP, work together, we create pathways that extend beyond the classroom—pathways toward more success leading to employment and public service," Pres. Velasco said.

Meanwhile, Mr. Joshua Poquiz, a 2023 AGAP scholar who is now a lecturer at CBA, shared how the program helped him overcome financial struggles during his college years.

He said they didn't have an internet connection back then and only relied on mobile data during the sudden shift to online classes. Mr. Poquiz said he also received 10,000 pesos as cash assistance for his board examination review.

"Salamat po sa pag-

bibigay ng pangarap, pag-asa. At alam po natin na ang pagtulong sa mga scholars po natin ngayon, it gives a multiplier effect. Hindi man po nila maibalik direkta sa ibang scholars, maaring makatulong sa magulang, kapatid, paman-gkin na maaring ipag-aral at magkaroon ng magandang kinabukasan," CBA Dean Dr. Jhonel C. Panlilio said.

Also present during the MOA signing were Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Jasper Jay N. Mendoza, CBA Associate Dean Dr. Henry Rufino, Ms. Liberty Toledo, AGAP Scholarship Committee chair, and Ms. Maria Theresa Yambao, AGAP Scholarship Committee member.

## EDITORIAL

### Rank down



From consistently placing fourth overall in the SCUAA III Olympics for three consecutive years, Tarlac State University managed to soar higher to third overall in 2025. However, in 2026, the university dramatically slipped to sixth, raising the question: Did TSU lose its athletic vigor, or did the other state universities and colleges level up their game?

Some would say leadership is a factor. This SCUAA III 2026 season, TSU welcomed a new sports head with fresh strategies, tactics, and human resources. The sports leader, although he had long been serving as a coach for a sporting event before this stint, was just designated in August 2025. Despite having novel ideas for the university's sports

development, his planned program is still in the works, and his performance cannot be measured this SCUAA season immediately. What is evident is his adjustments to the administrative function, following in his predecessor's footsteps. Leadership could be one contributor, but it does not encompass the entire rank down. Surely, TSU may not have seated a new sports head.

Most of the athletes and coaches are still the same faces from before—the same people who led the university from fourth to the podium. There will always be a percentage for athletes who have already finished their bachelor's degree. Still, it does not constitute even 50% of the total SCUAA athlete population. Did the

athletic spirit change, or are the athletes also undergoing a period of adjustment with the alterations in the system? A study on this reason can be conducted, as there may be multiple contributors. Blame cannot be placed solely on the athletes and coaches, who, according to records, have been preparing even before the leadership changes.

Looking at the situation from a macro perspective, only Bulacan State University and Central Luzon State University retained their podium finishes from 2025 to 2026. While TSU, Bataan Peninsula State University, and Tarlac Agricultural University ranked down, Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology and Pampanga State University (formerly

Don Honorio Ventura State University) climbed the ladder with a range of 80 to 100% increase in gold medals. Their success, measured by the increase in medal tally, may be attributed to an adjusted system, new leadership, or a reinvigorated sense of athletic and school spirit—something that all SUCs go through.

The change TSU has undergone in sports development and management is not an isolated case. Changes are inevitable. But why did TSU turn the other way around and not up in the ranking? This could be a point to ponder: changes should be planned and strategic, not haphazard or halfhearted, as they entail either positive or negative consequences—to rank up or rank down.

## SOL MDS members place TSU on top spots in Jessup PH competition

Maria Adelaida D. Calayag



Photo Credits: DivinaLaw and UST Media Team

Five School of Law students led Tarlac State University to rank in two categories of the Philippine National Rounds of the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition held last February 25-27, 2026 at the University of Santo Tomas.

The TSU SOL placed fifth in the Best Respondent Memorials category and 11th in the Overall Best Memorials category in the said competition that is considered the world's largest moot court competition in international law, with this year's moot problem: "The Case Concerning the Gordian Gorge."

"We ranked 5th in the Best Respondent Memorials category and 11th in the Overall Best Memorials

category because our written submissions were grounded in solid legal research and presented with clear structure and organization. We also devoted intensive time to drafting and revising the memorials, with consistent guidance and feedback from our coaches," Lloyd Hero B. Abuan, debate team captain, told OPA in an interview.

"In addition, strong team chemistry and discipline contributed significantly to our performance. Ultimately, preparation and teamwork were key," he added.

The competition depicts a fictional dispute before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) where competing teams prepare written memorials and compete in oral rounds.

Apart from Abuan, other representatives from TSU SOL include Angelo F. Cabilbil, Lailanie M. Roxas, Andrea Mae P. Ricafort, and Kyle Manalili, with research support from Alodia Minette G. Ando, Ericka Cao, and Agatha Lisette Lacara Urbano, all members of the school's Moot and Debate Society.

The team members underwent critiquing from their coaches, namely Atty. Vivien Claire Coleen Yalung, Atty. Ronel Buenaventura, Atty. Carisa Balilia, Atty. Hendrix Bongalon, and SOL Dean Dr. Jose I. dela Rama, Jr.

During their preparation, Abuan said most team members had to juggle their time for work, academic load, and refining their memorials.

"We experienced both mental and physical exhaustion during consecutive oral rounds, especially given that we were competing against highly established law schools with long-standing moot traditions," Abuan said.

The TSU SOL aims to join three moot court competitions this year, such as Price, Stetson, and Jessup, with different members and coaches for each team.

"We want the TSU Law legacy in the moot world to continue until we reach our fullest potential," Abuan said.

The TSU SOL MDS aims to further educate law students in international law and litigation, and to develop their legal research skills.

## TSU helps Sulu State College for State U transition

Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan

Officials from Sulu State College visited Tarlac State University for a learning exchange last February 13, 2026 at the Main AVR to know more about operations and processes focused on administrative services and quality assurance.

TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco, through Executive Secretary Dr. Ronnie A. Dungo, and Vice President for Administration Atty. Gherold C. Benitez welcomed the SSC delegation led by Prof. Charisma S. Ututalum, the college president.

"We welcome you to our humble university... I hope you will know our best practices and noteworthy performance, which will be shared today by our directors and unit heads. Your confidence in our abilities and dedication to ongoing growth will motivate us to advance and enhance our procedures," Dr. Dungo said.

Pres. Ututalum responded with gratitude for



the warm welcome and for granting their request.

"Each member of our delegation plays a vital role, so we are confident that the insights that we would learn from you will greatly help us in the day-to-day



operations of our institution. More importantly, with this visit, we hope for a future collaboration. We travelled from the south to the north, kayo lang po talaga ang pinuntahan namin," she said.

To maximize the benchmarking activity, the delegates dispersed to conduct in-depth visits to various offices and units.

Dr. Niño Corpuz, Office of Quality Assurance director, and Dr. Jay Pabustan, Office of Planning director, discussed their office functions, structures, and activities.

Meanwhile, the finance team led by Finance Director Mr. John Panlilio, alongside Mr. Jasper Yauder, Budget Management Unit head, and Mr. Ryan Ronquillo, Accounting Unit head,

highlighted the digitization of financial processes, the use of standardized forms, and the realignment of cash flows.

Procurement Head Ms. Menchie Abellar discussed contract management, systems for small-value procurement, and overall office workflows. Afterwards, Mr. Ryan Sih, Supply and Property Management Unit head, shared insights on operational manuals and asset disposal and conducted a warehouse tour.

Sulu State College is currently awaiting the decision of the Commission on Higher Education on the institution's conversion into a state university after RA 12996 lapsed into law on September 15, 2025.

## Pres. Velasco to SCUAA 3 TSU delegation: 'Maglaro nang may puso, disiplina, at respeto'

John Michael D. Esteban, Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan



The Tarlac State University delegation paraded with high hopes and confidence during the opening ceremony of the 2026 State Colleges and Universities Athletic Association III Olympics held on February 22, 2026 at Nueva Ecija University of Science and Technology in Cabanatuan City, Nueva Ecija.

TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco and Sports Development and Management Unit Head Dr. George S. De Vera led the pack of maroon and gold, composed of 280 athletes, 49 coaches, and 22 officials, which brought home 36 gold, 42 silver, and 86 bronze medals, leading to a fifth runner-up overall ranking.

In an interview, Pres. Velasco emphasized the significance of both discipline and love for sports.

Pres. Velasco also wishes every athlete to be in good health and have a winning mindset as they compete in their respective sports and disciplines.

“Maglaro nang may puso at disiplina at respeto sa iba at higit sa lahat, magdasal bago maglaro,” he added.

Meanwhile, this SCUAA III 2026 marks Dr. De Vera's first time leading the TSU delegation in the regional meet. He thanked the administration for fully supporting the athletes while hoping for the best outcome for this year's SCUAA III.

“Ibigay lang nila ‘yong best at ipakita ang values na mayroon ang TSU at importante ‘yong character nila ay nagmamamahal sa kanilang bawat

action,” he added.

During the opening ceremony, Dr. Myrna Q. Mallari made her first SCUAA III appearance as a commissioner of the Commission on Higher Education, serving as the keynote speaker.

“Ito ay competition ng pagkakaisa. We are 13 SUCs in the region. Ipakita natin ang ating lakas, ang ating disiplina, ang ating kaalaman—pisikal, espiritwal, at solidarity,” Comm. Mallari said.

At the same time, Comm.

Mallari expects the regional games to be clean, fair, and square in all aspects to avoid any forms of misunderstandings.

“It's not about being the first. It is not about the gold medals. It is about winning with pride, winning with honesty, winning with strength, and winning with camaraderie,” she furthered.

The SCUAA III 2026 formally concluded with an awarding ceremony on February 27 at the NEUST closed gymnasium.

“Hindi lamang medalya ang ating iuuwi sa ating kani-kaniyang lugar at kani-kaniyang pamantasan. Kasama po ng medalyang iyon ang lahat ng magagandang karanasan na naranasan natin dito sa NEUST. Gayundin ang nabuo nating relasyon sa ating mga kapwa manlalaro, sa ating mga kapwa coaches and trainers,” Dr. Rhodora R. Jugo, NEUST president and SCUAA III Executive Board chairperson, said.

“Ang pagkapanalo at pagkatalo ay magbubunga ng 'winning the respect of other coaches and athletes,' dahil ang TSU ay may disiplina at kinakikitaan ng pagmamahal sa iba”



## FEATURE

### Unwavering Dedication: Atty. Brigido Corpuz's Path to the Bar at 63

While most people his age look back on their achievements, Dr. Brigido B. Corpuz was busy creating a new one.

At 63, the Tarlac State University faculty member and administrator successfully passed the Philippine Bar Examinations on January 7, 2026, proving that perseverance and lifelong learning can lead to extraordinary milestones.

A graduate of Agricultural Engineering at the University of the Philippines – Los Baños, Dr. Corpuz started his career as a research assistant at the National Tobacco Administration. After a year, he transferred to TSU as a faculty member of the College of Arts and Social Sciences.

He continued his studies, acquiring a master's degree in Teaching Mathematics, a diploma in Philippine Studies, and a doctorate in Education with a major in Educational Management. He held various administrative functions, from directorships to becoming Vice President for Planning, Research, and Extension in 2006 and Vice President for Production in 2008.

Currently, he serves as the Executive Assistant under the Office of the University President and continues to teach in the graduate program.

Outside of the academe, he also acts as an executive for various organizations such as the PanAsia Training and Research Institute, Inc., ISO Development Education Institute [DEVED], Inc., and ADHIKA (Asosasyon ng mga Dalubhasa, may Hilig, at Interes Sa Kasaysayan ng Pilipinas), among others.



He later enrolled in the TSU School of Law following its establishment in 2008, citing its proximity as a practical advantage.

After graduating in 2012, Dr. Corpuz faced a decade-long climb to the Bar. With unsuccessful attempts in 2012 and 2013, and a missed opportunity in 2020-2021 due to a bout with COVID-19, he still refused to give up. By taking a focused study leave in 2025, he successfully cleared the exams, joining 5,593 other new lawyers.

The TSU School of Law produced 27 new lawyers, contributing to the 58.69% institutional passing rate against the national passing rate of 48.98%.

Dr. Corpuz took the

examination at the University of Santo Tomas together with other seniors and individuals with disabilities on September 7, 10, and 14. In an interview, he shared that their testing room began with approximately 20 examinees. However, the number gradually dwindled down to 16 by the final day.

While many expected a 'digital immigrant' to struggle with a computerized format, Dr. Corpuz found the digitized Bar Exam to be a distinct advantage.

With the help of his children, Brissette and Gideon taught him how to navigate websites and handle technical requirements such as account registration and other files for download. He also credited the Supreme Court of the

Philippines' instructional videos for making the transition seamless.

Interestingly, he also noted that typing worked in his favor. Reflecting on his 2012 and 2013 attempts, he believes his poor penmanship was an obstacle. The digital platform finally allowed him the flexibility to review his work, allowing real-time revisions and grammatical checks, which were not possible during the years of the written examinations.

During the interview, Dr. Corpuz said that he was, of course, happy about the results of the exam.

“Since passing the bar, I became a kinder, more gentle,

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## FEATURE

### From Gasera to the Bar: A Journey Fueled by Faith and Community

Mary Joy B. Manalo



Success stories are often told through individual triumphs. But for new lawyer, Atty. Jeric A. Villanueva, passing the 2025 Bar Examinations is not a victory he claims as his own alone.

Atty. Villanueva, who currently holds the position of legal assistant under the Office of the University Legal Counsel and concurrent OIC Board Secretary, sees the milestone as a collective achievement of the many

people who believed in him along the way.

“Hindi ko [naman] achievement ito. Achievement ito ng mga tao behind me... Maraming taong pinadala si Lord para tumulong sa kin,” the lawyer said, reflecting on the long journey that brought him to the legal profession.

Born into a humble family, Atty. Villanueva grew up as one of seven siblings. His father bought and repaired damaged jewelry

for a living, while his mother occasionally took in laundry to help make ends meet.

Due to financial difficulties, the bar passer’s early academic journey meant studying under limited conditions in their home in Paniqui, Tarlac.

“Walang connection ng kuryente, mag-aaral ka under gasera or kandila tapos lalakaran mula bahay hanggang school,” he recalled.

Despite these challenges, his perseverance paid off when he graduated as the elementary batch valedictorian, opening doors to scholarship grants in high school.

Although his scholarship covered most of the tuition, he still had to pay a partial amount and could not afford books or the fare going to school.

“Nanghihiram ako ng bike kapag papasok sa school. Wala akong pambili ng books.

Ang ginagawa ko noon kapag malapit na ang exam, hihiramin ko yung books ng mga teacher ko, papa-photocopy ko,” he shared.

Kindness from strangers, teachers, and classmates sustained him from elementary to college. He told the Office of Public Affairs that his high school teacher would fetch him from home when he lacked fare, ensuring he never missed class, and also helped pay his tuition. His classmates also

His classmates also

chipped in to cover his tuition and field trip expenses so he could join them.

Transitioning from the later years of high school into college, he found refuge with the family of a classmate who offered him free lodging and food every day, allowing him to stay closer to school.

He also received scholarships and private sponsorships, allowing him to graduate from high school as valedictorian.

Upon entering college at Tarlac State University in 2012, he was granted an academic scholarship that covered only part of his tuition.

There were moments when he could not take exams due to unpaid balances. “May time noon na midterm exam na tapos hindi ako pumapasok kasi wala akong permit,” he said.

During his undergraduate years, his family faced a major problem, forcing him to become the breadwinner, juggling studies with jobs such as tutoring math, teaching at Kumon, and working in a call center during the summer.

The bar passer credited the Department of Social Welfare and Development’s Pantawid Pamilya Program as one of the most pivotal factors in his journey.

As a 4Ps monitored child, he received a monthly

stipend for tuition and a book allowance per semester, enabling him to sustain his studies.

“Lagi kong sinasama ang 4Ps sa kwento ko kasi hindi ako magiging abogado kung wala iyon. Iyon ‘yung naging way [kaya] nakatapos ako ng college,” the bar passer said.

In 2017, he completed his Bachelor of Science in Accountancy degree and passed the Certified Public Accountants board examination.

Even in that moment of triumph, he carried the marks of his humble beginnings, having learned of his CPA passing not from the internet but from a friend’s phone call.

“Hindi ko man alam na lumabas ang result ng board exam kasi nga walang kuryente sa bahay... Nagising na lang ako ng gabi. May tumatawag sa ‘kin... ‘Kuya Je, pasado ka,” he said.

After passing the CPA boards, he began working as an instructor and tax

consultant.

In 2019, after working as a teacher and tax consultant, the CPA pursued his lifelong dream by enrolling at the TSU School of Law.

Financial difficulties continued to test him, but scholarships and support from mentors, classmates, and friends kept him going.

Atty. Villanueva recalled that in 2023, after pausing law school for two years due to the pandemic, SOL Dean Dr. Jose dela Rama Jr. encouraged him to return to his studies.

“Balik ka na. Nahanapan na kita ng mag-iisponsor sayo,” he remembered being told by Dean dela Rama, not knowing that it was also Atty. Villanueva’s birthday that day.

He was able to continue his juris doctor degree under Atty. Karen Cayetano-Tinoyan’s scholarship and the Integrated Bar of the Philippines Pampanga chapter book scholar through the help of Atty. Socrates Adan Padua.

His dedication to law led him to top the national Project Jurisprudence-Philippines Merit Exam in July 2023, where only 79 out of 504 passed.

During his bar review, colleagues from the Office of the Legal Counsel provided moral and financial support, even minimizing his workload so he could focus on studying.

According to Atty. Villanueva, the bar was far from easy. At one point, his laptop froze during the final test, costing him nearly 20 minutes while others kept typing, yet he remained calm.

“Somehow, I still felt relaxed... Alam ko maaayos pa rin siya,” the lawyer shared.

When the results were released, he waited quietly at home, unsure of the outcome. As the names of passers were read online, anxiety slowly built until someone sent him a screenshot confirming his name on the list.

“Umiyak na ako lalo... sinabi ko na sa nanay ko. Nag-iiyakan kaming dalawa,” he said.

Looking back, Atty. Villanueva rejects the idea that poverty alone can fuel success.

“Isang malaking kalokohan yung sinasabi nilang hindi hadlang ang kahirapan... Ang hirap kayang mangarap kapag mahirap ka. It just so happened na may mga taong tumulong,” the bar passer said.

Now a lawyer and public servant, Atty. Villanueva hopes to honor the many people who helped shape his journey by paying the kindness forward.

“You give back kasi ang dami kong natanggap— hindi ko hiniling, hindi ko ini-expect. Kung wala yung mga nagbigay sa akin, hindi ako abogado ngayon,” he added.

For Atty. Villanueva, the true measure of success is not only reaching one’s dreams, but ensuring that others have the chance to pursue theirs as well.

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quieter, and more prayerful person. I cannot ask for more from Our Lord God Almighty,” he shared.

He even joked that being an elder passer has its advantages.

“Kapag tinatawag akong ‘attorney’ para bang I’ve been an attorney, by my physical appearance, as if I’d been an attorney for the past thirty years.

Pero, for the past three days lang pala,” he said.

He also wanted to personally share the good news with his 94-year-old mother, Feliza. He didn’t inform her of his plans to take the bar exams to protect her from unnecessary worry. However, his children beat him to the surprise.

“Gusto ko sanang sabihin sa kanya face to face, pero tinawag na naman ng mga anak ko sa kanya. Nakausap

ko siya noong gabi na. Natuwa naman siya. Noong nagbakasyon kami ng Christmas, nagkakantiyawan sila kasi ‘yung nanay ko, astig. Noong namatay si misis, hindi [siya] umiyak. Noong namatay ‘yung asawa niya, hindi [siya] umiyak. Pero noong nalaman niya [‘yung results], umiyak daw siya. Tears of joy daw,” he shared.

Dr. Corpuz took his oath and signed his name on the Roll of Attorneys, the official

registry containing the names of all individuals authorized to practice law, on February 6, 2026, at the Philippine Arena in Bocaue, Bulacan.

When asked about why he pursued to be a lawyer, he said, “I encourage everyone to study law because if one has knowledge and complies with the law, there will be one less lawless person in the world.”



# 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.