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CCLGSPD ups Project START to Project START-UP

In a significant step toward community development, Tarlac State University strengthened its partnership with eight municipalities in Tarlac Province through the ceremonial signing of memoranda of agreement for the Project START-UP, an initiative designed to support and uplift child

development workers (CDWs).

Project Sustainable Training Assistance and Revitalized Teaching Upskilling Performance (START-UP) aims to sustain the skills and elevate the competencies of CDWs in the local government units of Anao, Gerona, Moncada, Paniqui, Pura, Ramos, San Manuel, and Victoria

through seminars, training sessions, and capacity-building activities focused on early childhood care and education (ECCD).

The MOA signing was held on November 20, 2025 at the Alumni Center in Lucinda Campus.

“Ang pagbibigay lakas

at patuloy na pagsasanay ng ating mga CDWs ay hindi lamang programa, ito ay isang pangmatagalang pamumuhunan para sa kinabukasan ng bawat pamilyang Tarlakenyo,” Atty. Wilmark J. Ramos, Vice President for Research, Innovation, and Extension, said in his opening

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OGAD, SFAU launch scholarship project for indigent, solo parents, IP students

Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan



Tarlac State University's Office of Gender and Development, in partnership with the Scholarship and Financial Assistance Unit, launched Project DIEMS on November 17, 2025 at the ground floor of the Student Center, Lucinda Campus.

DIEMS, which means Diversity, Inclusivity, and Equality for the Marginalized Scholarship, is an initiative that aims to financially assist students who are solo parents, indigent, and those belonging to Indigenous Peoples communities. The selected students will be supported every semester until they graduate as long as they maintain passing grades without incurring any incomplete grade.

TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco reminded the recipients how lucky they are to be chosen as scholars.

"Napakapalad po ninyo mga anak because wala pong scholarship noong time namin. Be a dreamer—walang dahilan para hindi ninyo matapos ang inyong pag-aaral. Huwag ninyong sayangin itong opportunity na binigay ng GAD sa inyo. The greatest gift that you can give your life is for you to finish your studies. Walang makakapag-limit sa mga pangarap ninyo," he said in his message.

Vice presidents Dr. Jasper Jay N. Mendoza and Atty. Gherold C. Benitez also gave words of support for the project.

Former OGAD Director Dr. Rita E. Pulmano, the initiative's main proponent, shared that she pushed for the approval of the DIEMS project before her retirement.

"Although retired na ako, nandito pa rin ako supporting this project and all

the advocacies and endeavors of the Gender and Development Office," she said.

Moreover, she also imparted words of encouragement to the marginalized students.

"We all experienced the same struggles when we were studying, but we did not stop. Those struggles, those experiences have made us stronger. 'Yun 'yung mga ginamit nating paraan to continue life and to say to ourselves na, 'Malalampasan mo 'yan. Darating ang panahon, magiging maganda din ang buhay ko.' But never compare yourself to others," she reminded.

Dr. Pulmano was invited to give a seminar on gender equality. She talked about SDG 5 (Gender Equality), including its targets and goals, barriers, and driving progress towards gender equality.

In her closing remarks, OGAD OIC-Director Prof. Christine Janelle M. Santiago said this scholarship is one of the ways that will bridge the gap between inequality and development.

"This is not just a program but a promise that no learner will be left behind—that every dream deserves a chance, that opportunity must never be determined by any circumstance. Let this opportunity fuel your determination na maabot natin ang ating pangarap. You are not defined kung saan ka nanggaling," she said.

Present also in the event are Student Affairs and Services Institutional Student Program and Services Asst. Director Dr. Dexter Manzano, SFAU OIC-Head Ms. Sarah Gonzales, OGAD Unit Head Prof. Jovy Tomas, and representatives from the Cashiering Unit.

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remarks.

Furthermore, TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco also emphasized the value of investing in early childhood development through the initiative, noting that strengthening children at a young age contributes significantly to building stable and productive communities.

Project START-UP is the second phase and expansion of Project START, both under the Center for Community and Local Governance Studies and Policy Development (CCLGSPD), led by Dr. Cynthia G. Quiambao, director and overall project head.

Project START will conclude in December 2025 after a three-year run, while Project START-UP, with an approximate funding of two million pesos from partner LGUs, serves as another three-year extension program that will commence in January 2026.

"The most important years of a child's life are from 0 to 7 years old. Maraming salamat dahil TSU pala ang aming missing link sa best education na pwedeng ibigay sa kanila. You have changed their lives forever. Napakaswerte ng ating mga susunod na ECCD students because of TSU," Hon. Doña Cresencia R. Tesoro, San Manuel

CCLGSPD ups Project START to Project START-UP

Mary Joy B. Manalo



municipal mayor, said.

Through the enhanced Project START-UP, TSU will deliver advanced and continuous coaching, mentoring, guided observation, and evaluation for CDWs in classroom education and feeding program execution, with particular focus on managing children with special needs, hygienic procedures, and early childhood education methodologies.

The university is also set to establish a responsive

feedback and monitoring system to support informed decision-making and continuous program improvement.

Present during the ceremonial signing were municipal mayors Hon. Gian Pierre O. De Dios of Anao; Hon. Ramon Benito M. Aquino of Moncada; Hon. Kathleen C. Roxas of Paniqui; Hon. John Paul M. Balmores of Pura; Hon. Celso L. Banag of Ramos; Hon. May B. Eclar, represented by Gerona Municipal Councilor Hon. Jason Benar Palomar; and Hon. Rex C. Villa Agustin, represented by Victoria Vice Mayor Hon. Tristan Reevo P. Guiam, together with the respective heads of their Municipal Social Welfare and Development Offices.

From Project START to Project START-UP

During the presentation of project objectives, Prof. Vien Jamaica D. Samson, Local Government and Policy Development department head and one of the project component heads, discussed the development of Project START into Project

START-UP.

According to Prof. Samson, Project START was created to address the limited capacity of childcare services in the province, identified through focus group discussions with CDWs, MSWDOs, and parent representatives in 2022.

Since then, the CCLGSPD, together with TSU's pool of experts from various colleges, has crafted intervention programs to equip CDWs with essential skills and knowledge on child development education, aligned with the guidelines of Administrative Order No. 15, s. 2011, issued by the Department of Social Welfare and Development.

TSU also partnered with private institutions specializing in special education and with the U.S. Peace Corps Volunteers, who specialize in early childhood and special needs education, in conducting seminars and training sessions.

From 2022 to present, Project START has served 232 CDWs and conducted 26 training

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OLMS celebrates 75th anniv, library month

Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan



Marking a major milestone, Tarlac State University's Office of Library Management and Services kicked off their 75th anniversary celebration and the 35th Library and Information Services Month last November 18, 2025 in front of the Administration Building, Main Campus.

Adopting the national theme, "LACE-UP: Libraries – A Hub for Cultural Exploration and Unity Through Partnership," this year's celebration emphasizes the role of libraries in fostering community connection, knowledge sharing, and cultural enrichment.

"Ang library ay hindi lamang lugar ng libro kung 'di espasyo ng koneksyon, kultura, at kaalaman. Kaya sa pagbabasa, natututo at humuhusay tayo... Remember, the library is the heart of the university. And together, through reading, we build a brighter, more hopeful

future for all," OLMS Director Ms. Cynthia M. Bognot said in her message during the program.

She also shared a brief history of the university's library from its establishment in 1950, under the leadership of the late Hon. Mario P. Manese, the principal of the Tarlac Trade School (now TSU).

"Mula sa maliit na dalawang classroom lamang po ang ating library, lumago ito at naging buhay at sentro ng pagkatuto, pananaliksik, at edukasyon," she said.

Moreover, she thanked the TSU administration, faculty, students, and library partners for their unwavering support and trust.

The OLMS scheduled a diverse week of activities for its celebration, ranging from a trivia challenge, the annual book fair, to the exhibit for the OLMS' 75th anniversary.

LIS Month and OLMS anniversary activities

The Library Trivia Challenge was held during the flag-raising ceremony, wherein the winners were awarded 500 pesos worth of gift certificates.

Afterwards, the "Fiesta Book Fair" was launched with a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The annual book fair, located along the Main Campus pathway, is a venue where partner publishers and vendors can showcase their books, journals, and references from various academic fields.

Also located along the pathway is a gallery of old photographs and library materials, collectively titled "Memorabilia Exhibit: 75 years of OLMS." The exhibit will be available at the university's Museo-Archivo for extended public viewing.

Online activities were also available for the TSU community, namely the LISM 2025 Profile Frame Contest

and an online orientation on e-resources via Zoom scheduled on November 19 and 20.

The week-long activities concluded on November 21 at the TSU Gymnasium with a focus on health and community spirit through the "LIS Zumba: LACE-UP for Wellness."

Milestones and plans

In an interview, Dir. Bognot, together with some of the OLMS unit heads, shared some of their memorable milestones through the years.

One of these is the renovation of the Main Campus library in 2023, which the OLMS director noted as the first time the library has been renovated since its transfer to the CBA building in 1989.

"Bungalow lang dati 'yung old library – diyan malapit sa puno ng mangga halos tapat ng (old) CPAG.

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TSU pioneers univ-based disc golf course in PH

Mary Joy B. Manalo

Tarlac State University and the Disc Golf Association of the Philippines led the inauguration and ceremonial signing of a memorandum of agreement for the first permanent university disc golf course in the Philippines on November 28, 2025, at the Lucinda Campus grounds.

The 9-hole course around the campus, initiated by PDGA Asia Ambassador and DGAP founder Ms. Maria Luisa Bartolome Robins, was developed through the Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) Marco Polo Grant Project, which supports the growth of disc golf in developing regions.

In a message read by DGAP Tarlac coordinator Ms. Roxan S. Santos, Ms. Robins, a TSU alumna, said the project marks a significant step for the sport in the country.

"Today marks a historic moment, not only for TSU but for the entire Philippine disc golf community... Seeing this course finally come to life on the grounds of the university that shaped me is beyond meaningful. What started as a vision years ago has now become a movement embraced by athletes, educators, and communities nationwide,"



Ms. Santos read.

Under the partnership, TSU and DGAP will collaborate on workshops and training programs, academic and research activities, hosting of local and international tournaments, and capacity-building for students and faculty members aspiring to become certified disc golf trainers and coaches.

DGAP previously conducted a two-day seminar and practical application at TSU

last October, attended by the Bachelor of Physical Education faculty and students.

Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Jasper Jay N. Mendoza reaffirmed the university's full support for the initiative, adding that TSU is considering integrating disc golf into its sports programs and academic curriculum.

Meanwhile, BPEd program chairperson Dr. Zuriel Ross C. Tabian said in an interview that the development of the course aims to promote disc golf as both a competitive and recreational activity for the TSU community.

Dr. Tabian recently became the first tertiary-level faculty member in the Philippines to pass the PDGA Certified Rules and Officials Exam.

Some national disc golf athletes also attended the inauguration, including TSU student James Benedict Simbulan from the College of Computer Studies.

Simbulan, who has represented the Philippines three

times in the Lipad Pilipinas PDGA Asia Tour, encouraged students to try the sport, citing its health and leisure benefits.

The disc golf course at TSU is currently open to the public for free, and the university has already welcomed foreign visitors coming to play.

Mr. Derek Jonathan Robins, UK Disc Golf founder and PDGA Hall of Famer, said the sport has grown steadily in the Philippines, which initially had only one disc golf course and two PDGA-registered members.

He emphasized the role of students in expanding the sport in their communities.

"The competitive and membership side is just [a] small part of the whole activity of disc golf. For most people, it will be recreation—something they do for fun, to spend time with friends, or to spend time in nature. As long as people are getting that, that's the most important thing," Mr. Robins said.

TSU is now part of the 10 disc golf course sites currently established in the Philippines.

RTU delegates benchmark TSU's PRIME-HRM practices

Jodie Andrea G. Pangilinan



Delegates from Rizal Technological University visited Tarlac State University's Office of Human Resource Development and Management on November 13, 2025 at the School of Law Building, Main Campus to benchmark its PRIME-HRM best practices and system procedures.

Since 2013, the TSU OHRDM has held the Maturity Level II accreditation from the Civil Service Commission. Its excellence in human resource management was later recognized in July 2019 with the National Bronze Award for PRIME-HRM.

This recognition is granted to government agencies

that achieve process-defined levels in all core HRM systems.

TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco welcomed and thanked the group, hoping they would learn much from the activity.

"Gone are the days na may competition but cooperation among SUCs because we are under one roof – CHED. Iangat po natin ang bawat isa. We hope that we will learn from you as well," he said.

The RTU group, led by Ms. Gabriela Felipe, RTU Human Resource Management Office deputy director, expressed that this engagement is an opportunity to strengthen their systems and processes and align their institutional standards with

CSC's strategic framework for HRM.

"Thank you po for allowing our university to learn from your exemplary HR practices and for your continued collaboration for promoting excellence in the public service," she said.

OHRDM Director Mr. Marlon C. Dela Cruz started the discussion by providing an overview of the office's framework and the PRIME-HRM pillars. He also presented the TSU-PRAISE (Program on Awards and Incentives for Service Excellence).

Afterwards, representatives from the four units under OHRDM shared their best practices and system

procedures.

The presenters were Ms. Leighton Jer S. Tabunda, Recruitment, Selection, and Placement OIC-head; Ms. Renalyn L. Talavera, Performance Management head; Ms. Ma. Katrina M. Rivera, Training and Organizational Development head; and Ms. Erica Marie T. Lorenzo, representing Employee Welfare Head Mr. Elmer D. Granil.

The Program to Institutionalize Meritocracy and Excellence in Human Resource Management (PRIME-HRM) is an initiative of the CSC that aims to recognize excellence in human resource management systems, practices, and competencies of government agencies.



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sessions covering curriculum planning, learning material development, creative activities, managing children with special needs and disabilities, food safety, and collaboration with parents and barangay officials.

Project START culmination

In the afternoon, the 232 CDWs from partner LGUs received their certificates of completion for the 104 training hours rendered under Project START.

In her opening remarks,

continued support and service.

"Akala ko po noon ay marami na kaming kaalaman sa pagtuturo, ngunit hindi pala doon natatapos—kailangan pa naming patuloy na linangin ang mga ito upang makasabay sa makabagong panahon. Kaya naman kami po ay lubos na nagpapasalamat sa TSU," San Manuel CDW Ms. Marie Paz V. Halaman said.

"Maraming salamat po dahil kami ay nagkaroon ng karagdagang kaalaman sa tulong ng mga intervention programs upang masigurong ang mga bata



Dr. Quiambao highlighted that the university's three-year partnership has cultivated a strong and meaningful partnership between TSU and the various MSWDOs.

She emphasized that the sustained connection has allowed both TSU and the LGUs to work hand in hand in addressing the evolving needs of CDWs.

Meanwhile, the beneficiaries expressed their gratitude to the university for its

ay ligtas at protektado sa aming daycare centers," Anao CDW Ms. Franceska D. Gaspar added.

In his closing remarks, VP Ramos recognized the efforts and dedication of the CDWs in serving the youth.

"Patuloy nating itaguyod ang kalidad at malasakit sa bawat batang ating tinuturuan, sapagkat sa kanilang mga ngiti at tagumpay nasusukat ang tunay na bunga ng ating pagsisikap," VP Ramos said.



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TSU brings home CAASUC 2025 4th place overall trophy

Franc Lewis R. Juanatas, John Michael D. Esteban



Tarlac State University landed fourth place overall out of 13 Central Luzon state universities and colleges in the 2025 Regional Culture and Arts Festival of the CAASUC III, which concluded last November 25, 2025.

Contributing an additional 15 points to the overall tally is Patricia Laly Pascual, who secured a back-to-back win for TSU as Ms. CAASUC III 2025.

With her crowning in the said pageant, the university's points soared from 72 in the partial tally to 87 in the final and official results, allowing TSU to

climb from fifth to fourth place. Aside from Pascual's victories, TSU delegates in Essay Writing, Pagkukuwento, and Short and Sweet Play (Drama) were also hailed first placers. They will represent Region III in the national PASUC competition in Cebu in 2026.

TSU sent a total of 194 delegates to the various RCAF categories this year, comprising 130 students and 64 administrative officials, staff, and coaches.

The RACF competitions of the Culture and the Arts

Association of State Universities and Colleges in Region III, themed "Sining at Kulturang Hinulma ng Panahon: Diwa ng Nagkakaisang Gitnang Luzon," commenced last November 22. Meanwhile, the opening ceremony took place on November 24 at Pampanga State Agricultural University, the host institution, in Magalang, Pampanga.

In an interview, Prof. Douglas C. Ferrer, Office of Culture, Arts, and Languages director, expressed confidence in the delegation and encouraged

them to embrace the experience with enthusiasm and purpose.

"Napaka-positive ng spirit ko na mas marami tayong ipapanalo. Napakahusay ng ipinakita noong mga practices at 'yung skills nag-level up. Madaming nagbago sa batch na'to, sana pagtulungan natin ipanalo. Damihan natin ang ginto at lahat tayo sasama sa national cultural competition," he said.

He also conveyed his gratitude to the university administration for their support of cultural and artistic endeavors.



EDITORIAL

Rise of big establishments in Tarlac City — is this development?

Last November 13, Tarlac City faced, yet again, another "carmageddon." This time, the widespread traffic jam was attributed to the anticipated opening of the membership shopping establishment in Brgy. San Rafael. Adding to the pile-up of vehicles is the ongoing road and drainage construction in the same area. With these societal changes, the question arises: "Is this development?"

SDG 9, or Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure, talks about the three interconnected elements of sustainable development and economic growth. The construction of transport infrastructure, such as road and drainage improvements along the stretch of McArthur Highway going south, and the development of a shopping center to increase job opportunities and boost economic growth in Tarlac, align with SDG 9 and are seen as symbolic of progress in an urban area. Returning 'Tarlaqueña' Kris

Aquino even quipped on social media just this month that a city, town, or province is prosperous if it has numerous ATMs, well-lit, mainstream, and 24/7 gasoline stations, a long line of fast-food chains, big-shot malls, and the like. Is this really how development looks?

Looking back at the history of development, the high regard for infrastructure stems from the remnants of World War II. Development, as a jargon and idea, was first used in the context of nations and their economic status only after the war, and the focus of development then was the rehabilitation of war-stricken infrastructure. However, people's lives remain in anguish even after the economy recovered through refurbished and rebuilt structures and roads.

In society today, whenever people see new buildings, commercial spaces, or even huge construction equipment, they equate these with development. In hindsight, these common folk may have

failed to assess whether these "developments" impact their lives positively or negatively. If a massive shopping center were built, would people have the purchasing power to shop there for their needs or wants? Overall, this is where the idea "development of people, not of things" emerged.

Investing in the development of people is equally important as investing in infrastructure. There is wisdom in building the capacity and capability of citizens who will eventually occupy buildings to work. And while building people's capabilities, each infrastructure that will rise must be based on a sound, data-driven, and science-informed urban or rural development plan—one that will not compromise the social and cultural lives of people.

When the road and drainage construction and shopping center location were planned, did the authorities consider the traffic jam it could

cause? Have they attempted to study the number of workers and students who could get stuck in traffic, thereby losing valuable time? Even when alternate routes were made available, the car and foot traffic were "viral" enough to affect areas in the city farther from the controversial barangays notorious for causing the pile-up.

A poem on development remarked, "Development, if any, is to be found behind the well; the way it was decided and built, how credit was fought for, in the discussions that went on during its construction." The well, representing any development initiative, must be judged based on how it impacts people's lives more than the aesthetic it provides or the economic benefits gained. Development should be holistic and inclusive. It must satisfy the environmental, economic, and social aspects of the community before it can qualify as a sustainable kind of progress for all.

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Tapos, nalipat dito sa CBA. Thirty-four years bago siya na-renovate," she said.

She also highlighted a major benefit of the renovation, stating it finally provided the library with its first-ever Director's Office and Technical Section room.

Another achievement is the 2019 Outstanding Regional Partner in Knowledge Resource Network received by the OLMS from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas. This award recognizes the efforts of partner schools or libraries in providing free information materials and online research assistance to promote greater understanding

of essential economic and financial concepts and issues.

Other notable accomplishments they shared include the improvement of the Online Public Access Catalog (OPAC) in 2016, the establishment of the School of Law library in 2017, the utilization of e-subscriptions and online resources in 2018, the continuous digitization of students' theses since 2022, and the improved security gate in 2024.

Moreover, Dir. Bognot continues to hope for the improvement of the TSU libraries across all campuses.

OLMS celebrates 75th anniv, library month

One of their plans is the establishment of a library learning commons, a modern, flexible hub that merges a traditional library with a modern setup for a more dynamic learning environment.

She also plans for a digital repository for the digitized students' theses and additional libraries for CPAG, the future College of Medicine, and Laboratory School.

Dir. Bognot has been serving the TSU community for 40 years. She started her library services in August 1985 at the Lucinda Library of the then Tarlac College of Technology

under the leadership of President Ernesto Cosme. She was designated as the OLMS director in December 2017 during the term of President Myrna Mallari.

From eleven personnel, the TSU library now has 33 staff members with five unit heads: Ms. Mia Begay, Main Campus library; Ms. Jamie Contreras, School of Law library; Ms. Yonida Mendoza, College of Engineering library; Ms. Maribel Helario, San Isidro Campus library; and Mr. Anderson Nitron, Jose V. Yap library located in the Lucinda Campus.



CHED, TSU lead community sports and wellness center inspection

The Commission on Higher Education visited Tarlac State University for an ocular inspection of the Tarlac Community Sports and Wellness Center (TCSWC) at the San Isidro Campus on November 26, 2025.

TSU is the first state university in the country to receive a 20-million-peso grant from CHED for the development of the TCSWC under the TSU PATH (Promotion of Awareness, Teamwork, and Health) Program.



CHED Commissioner Dr. Myrna Q. Mallari, together with Coach Ana Dulce Yango, sports project lead from the CHED Central Office, toured the site with some TSU key officials and the Office of

Facilities Development and Management to assess the current progress of the project.

After the inspection, a monitoring and evaluation meeting was held at the Main AVR, where Coach Yango also provided insights and recommendations on further improving the facility and strengthening the TSU PATH program.

The session was attended by the TSU Community Sports and Wellness (CSW) Committee, led by University President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco.

The TCSWC is targeted for completion and inauguration in March 2026.



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INSTITUTIONAL PASSING RATE98.82%

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FIRST-TIME TAKERS84.21%

INSTITUTIONAL PASSING RATE61.40%

NATIONAL PASSING RATE30.39%

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FIRST-TIME TAKERS

80.77%

INSTITUTIONAL PASSING RATE

77.14%

NATIONAL PASSING RATE

34.02%



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TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY

Vision

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

Mission

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

Core Values

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

Quality Policy

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