



TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY BULLETIN

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opai@tsu.edu.ph TarlacStateU



TSU, DOST seal agreement for pioneering “food ambulance” facility in CL

Aimed at empowering farmers and addressing food security concerns, Tarlac State University partnered with the Department of Science and Technology-Tarlac to establish the first on-site mobile food processing

facility in Central Luzon to help reduce post-harvest losses.

The project, dubbed HI-SAGiP: Hybrid Innovation for Sustainable Agri-Goods Mobile Food Processing in Region III, will serve as an

on-call “food ambulance” that converts the oversupply of crops, specifically squash, tomatoes, okra, and mangoes, into marketable goods.

The partnership was formalized through a memorandum of agreement

signed on August 19, 2025 at the TSU Main AVR.

Funded by DOST-Tarlac through its Regional Grants-in-Aid Program, the 3.3 million peso project will

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TSU Chorale earns international choir awards

Mary Joy B. Manalo



Photo Credits: Cultural Center of the Philippines

Once again proving their singing prowess, the Tarlac State University Chorale bagged awards during the 6th Andrea O. Veneracion International Choral Festival held from August 20-24, 2025 at the Hyundai Hall, Areté, Ateneo de Manila University.

The TSU Chorale bested 17 participating groups from various countries, securing a gold diploma and third place overall in the Folk Song and Indigenous Music category and a silver diploma in the Mixed Choir category.

In an interview with the Office of Public Affairs, choirmaster Joshua Ysmael D. Fontanilla said they did not look forward to winning the competition, as being selected as one of the participants alone is already a rewarding experience.

“First time naming sumali [sa AOVICF] kasi isa ’yun sa mga pinakamahirap na competitions na sinasalihan ng mga choir. High caliber lahat ng sumasali, from several top choirs

in the country. Kaya noong napili kami, it was already a big award to us na-acknowledge ’yung sarili namin doon,” Fontanilla said.

He shared that the group prepared for five months, balancing rehearsals with final examinations and sacrificing vacation time to practice.

When asked about their experience, Fontanilla said that aside from winning, the university-wide choir group cherished the opportunity to watch and learn from their idols.

“Mas marami kami natutunan kaysa sa tuwa na nanalo kami. Kasi doon pa lang sa learnings—na makapanood kami ng mga idol naming choir—babaunin na namin ’yun sa mga susunod na competition,” Fontanilla said.

“Mas naging masaya ’yung group at mas nagkaroon kami ng ilu-look forward sa mga susunod na competition. Ang laking factor na ang daming choirs ang nakakilala sa amin—na parang naitayo namin ang

pangalan ng TSU doon sa stage na ’yon. After that, parang kinilala na kami as one of the best chorale groups in the Philippines,” he added.

Despite being one of the smallest groups in the festival, with only 30 members, the chorale performed a total of seven songs.

Three of these were under the Folk Song and Indigenous Music category, representing the Philippines, one Asian country, and one European country.

At present, the TSU Chorale is preparing for the CAASUC III competition in November and the Macau International Chorale Competition, where they received an invitation to participate.

Moreover, Fontanilla is encouraging more TSUians to audition for the TSU Chorale to mentor more members because, inevitably, other members are bound to graduate.

Training potential

members is necessary since the group consistently participates in various local and international competitions. In addition, it helps students grow not only academically but also as performers, while boosting self-confidence.

This year’s AOVICF was organized by the Cultural Center of the Philippines (CCP), in collaboration with the Philippine Madrigal Singers and Ateneo de Manila University.

The biennial competition features six categories: Children’s Choir, Equal Voices, Folk Song and Indigenous Music, Mixed Choir, Musica Sacra, and Popular Music.

Competing choirs were judged based on intonation, sound quality, interpretation of the score, and overall artistic impression.

Established in 2013, the festival honors National Artist for Music Andrea O. Veneracion, founder of the world-renowned Philippine Madrigal Singers.

From to front page

be developed by the College of Industrial Technology using a repurposed old TSU coaster.

The college, led by Dean Engr. Larry A. Suboc, also the project proponent, will handle the vehicle reconditioning as well as the fabrication of the trailer, roofing, plumbing, and HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning).

Moreover, to support its food processing requirements, the Center for Solar and Emerging Technologies will integrate an 8KW hybrid solar system with flexible solar panels.

This hybrid energy system will power the food ambulance’s essential food processing operations, built-in water system, and a stainless-steel mini kitchen.

Meanwhile, the Department of Food Technology under the College of Science will oversee the food safety standards compliance and the development of market-ready products, such as squash and mango jam, pickled mango, okra fritters, tomato sauce,



TSU, DOST seal agreement for pioneering “food ambulance” facility in CL

Mary Joy B. Manalo



and vegetable powders, among others.

When not in use for community deployment, the food ambulance will serve as an additional education resource for food technology

students and can also assist local micro, small, and medium enterprises in processing their produce.

Upon project completion, farmers can tap TSU, DOST, and their

respective local government units for the HI-SAGiP assistance.

Present during the MOA signing are TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco, Vice President for Research, Innovation, and Extension Atty. Wilmark J. Ramos, and DOST Provincial Science and Technology Director Ms. Karen Danez.



TSU ramps up recordkeeping initiatives

Jon-Ville Caliboso | OHRDM

The Office of Human Resource Development and Management and the Records and Archives Unit conducted a seminar and workshop on basic records and archives management from August 28-29, 2025 at the TSU Amphitheater, Lucinda Campus.

The seminar-workshop aims to strengthen the knowledge and skills of TSU employees in sustainable and organized recordkeeping, with

Prof. Augusto N. Lulu Jr., the executive assistant of the Vice President for Administration, emphasizing the importance of records and archives in institutional development.

Ms. Gina Mahor-Papa, Training Specialist V and Chief of TID, led the discussion on the first day, covering Republic Act 9470, its salient features in archives management, the Records and Archives Management Program (RAMP),

and records creation and control.

Ms. Mahor-Papa also tackled mail management and files management, further deepening the participants' understanding of practical applications in records administration.

On the second day, Mr. Kevin B. Barrientos, Records Management Analyst I, discussed records disposition administration, which provided essential knowledge on proper

records handling and disposition processes.

Meanwhile, Ms. Jhoanna Marie M. Ong, Senior Records Management Analyst, delivered her comprehensive lecture on records center administration, archives administration, and security of records. Her session reinforced the participants' knowledge on safeguarding institutional records and ensuring systematic access and preservation.



Educators gain skills to teach adult learners

Jon-Ville Caliboso | OHRDM



Photo Credits: Office of Human Resource Development and



Selected faculty members from various colleges attended a seminar-workshop on andragogical practices from July 30 to August 1, 2025 at the TSU Amphitheater, Lucinda Campus.

Titled "Advancing Higher Education Instruction: A Seminar-Workshop on Andragogical Practices," the three-day activity aims to upskill faculty members with knowledge and strategies on teaching methods and approaches for adult learners, particularly in higher education.

Dr. Brendalyn A. Manzano, College of Arts and Social Sciences dean and Office of Curriculum and Instruction director, emphasized the importance of continuous professional development for educators and the need to embrace innovative and learner-centered approaches in higher education.

The OCI, Office of

Human Resource Development and Management, and the College of Education's Professional Continuing and Education Department spearheaded the activity.

Resource speakers for the first day are Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Jasper Jay N. Mendoza, who discussed trends and issues in teaching and learning in higher education, and Dr. Joana Rose M. Espiritu, OVPAA technical assistant, who covered classroom management.

On the second day, the seminar-workshop delved into focused and practical sessions to better understand curriculum development and assessment strategies in the context of higher education.

The morning session, led by OVPAA Executive Assistant Mr. Deyo Carlos L. Dela Cruz, is anchored on understanding the school curriculum.

Mr. Dela Cruz discussed the pressing issues in curriculum development within the global and university landscape, emphasizing the need for higher education institutions to respond to emerging trends, technological advancements, and the evolving needs of adult learners.

Meanwhile, Ms. Melody P. Sapad from the COEd held a session on assessment and evaluation, focusing on the use of the Table of Specifications (TOS) and the key principles of test construction.

She guided the participants in the process of aligning assessments with learning objectives, ensuring content validity, and applying best practices in formulating test items. Her session emphasized the role of assessment in supporting both instructional quality and student learning outcomes.

Concluding the

three-day learning activity are discussions on instructional innovation and learner-centered strategies in higher education.

Mr. Ryan Paul M. Delgado, COEd faculty, lectured on technology for teaching and learning, introducing the 5E Instructional Model—Engage, Explore, Explain, Elaborate, and Evaluate—as a guide for effectively integrating technology into the teaching process.

Moreover, COEd Associate Dean Prof. Elizabeth P. Balanquit tackled the methodologies in teaching college students. She underscored the importance of using appropriate and evidence-based teaching methodologies tailored to adult learners and strategies such as collaborative learning, experiential activities, and critical thinking exercises that align with learner diversity and higher education outcomes.

TSU pushes for 'quality, significance, innovation' through international rankings

Jazzel Llaneli E. Manalo-Manabat



Tarlac State University gave credit to the workforce behind its recent international rankings with an awarding ceremony held on August 5, 2025 at the Engineering AVR.

Earlier this year, TSU improved its performance in the World University Rankings for Innovation 2025, moving up from 279th in 2024 to 256th this year, and the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact Rankings 2025, ranking up through the individual SDG submissions.

Program champions, project leaders, and committee members for both WURI 2025 and THE Impact Rankings 2025 were recognized with certificates and tokens, showing gratitude to the effort poured into the preparation of entries and data.

“Committee heads and members are motivated to put in even greater effort when their contributions receive acknowledgment. Performing individuals who receive recognition stand out for their hard work and inspire others to do the same,” TSU President Dr.

Arnold E. Velasco said through an inspirational message.

“So, this is our simple way of saying thank you to all our innovators at Tarlac State University,” Office of Quality Assurance Director Dr. Niño B. Corpuz added.

In his statement of purpose, the QA Director shared the three reasons for the activity, namely quality, significance, and innovation.

“TSU is always complying with national and international standards. We even exceeded minimum requirements. And TSU will always make sure that we comply with these requirements and prerequisites for quality... We always sustain quality kaya nandito tayo, kasama kayo sa quality culture ng TSU,” Dr. Corpuz said.

“Another reason why we are here is about significance. Significance can be equivalent to reputation, and reputation can establish our significance as an institution. We always make sure that we give relevant services to our clientele,” he added.

Dr. Corpuz also underscored innovation and its byproduct, the awards received by the university.

“Of course, another reason why we are here is innovation, pero dapat we go beyond rankings. Rankings, awards—these are just bonuses na lang. We (must) make sure that we always innovate in our own systems and processes,” Dr. Corpuz said.

In the WURI 2025 performance of TSU, the “Katatagan Plus: A Resilience-Building Mental Health Program for Youth” entry under A1 (Student Support and Engagement) placed 43rd out of the top 100 entries amidst 541 global entries.

Aside from Katatagan Plus, TSU submitted five other entries under A1, which were also awarded certificates.

Moreover, “WESSA: Work Ethics and Safe Spaces Act” emerged as rank 19 among the top 87 entries in A6 (Ethics and Integrity). The total global entries are 261, including one more entry from TSU.

Under B3 (ESG Trend), the sole entry of the university, “Project START: Sustainable Training Assistance and Revitalized Teaching,” ranked 20th in the top 47, with a total of 193 global entries.

Meanwhile, THE Impact Rankings committee members of TSU were assigned one SDG entry each and worked with the available data in 2023 from the university repository and online platforms. All entries marked significant improvements in various parameters.

The awarding ceremony also served as an avenue to discuss empirical data from the international rankings to fuel the university’s strategic directions.

Furthermore, Dr. Corpuz endeavored to invite some members of the university’s Board of Regents, who are mostly internally affiliated with TSU, to seek their “usual and strong” support for the university’s quality journey. Hon. Cherie Lyn F. Onia, TSU Non-Academic Staff Association President, was the only regent who witnessed the activity.



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FEATURE

Fate sealed by faith

Mary Joy B. Manalo



AR. RODDY PETE D. MERCADO

A faculty member from the College of Architecture and Fine Arts was listed among the passers of the August 2025 Environmental Planners Licensure Examination, released by the Professional Regulation Commission on August 22, 2025.

Ar. Roddy Pete D. Mercado, a temporary Instructor I under the Department of Architecture, is one of the 404 newly licensed environmental planners in the Philippines. CAFA Dean Ar. Marco F. Bildan even noted that Ar. Mercado is one of the promising faculty members

from their department.

He finished a Master in Management degree with a specialization in Environmental Planning at the Philippine Christian University in Manila in 2024, giving him the opportunity to take the board exam.

Apart from this, he has been a licensed architect since June 2014, after completing his Bachelor of Science in Architecture at Tarlac State University.

To him, achieving this new license humbly strengthens his credibility as a professional and an educator.

Now, he can bring

not just theoretical knowledge but also practical skills and first-hand insights from his experiences. He said this will further allow him to share academic lessons and strategies that he applied to his practice.

"I see this success as a way to inspire my students at TSU. I want them to believe that with discipline, hard work, and faith, they can also reach their dreams. By being both [a] mentor and a role model, I hope to contribute to shaping future architects and planners who will uphold TSU's tradition of excellence and service to

the community," Ar. Mercado said.

Moreover, Ar. Mercado sees an opportunity to apply his newest license to his projects, and he aims to pursue studies in sustainability and climate-resilient planning.

"My goal is not only for personal success but also to contribute to community development. I envision myself [becoming] a key contributor in environmental planning projects and [mentoring] future environmental planners," he said in an interview.

In taking up architecture, Ar. Mercado was influenced by his parents to pursue his passion for the arts. At first, he was not aware of the architecture profession. He later figured it out and enrolled in TSU.

Ar. Mercado, born to Erlinda and Pepito, his father a minister of the Iglesia ni Cristo, is the first architect in their family.

During his preparation for his board exams, Mercado set a devotional prayer while enrolled in a review program. He said proper rest is needed to balance lectures and hours of self-study.

"I surrounded myself with my supportive family, who encouraged me to push through the challenge. My preparation was not just about reviewing, but also building the right discipline, mindset, and faith to face the exam with confidence," he shared.

First-year students welcomed thru "Tomorrow Starts with U"

Maria Adelaida D. Calayag



Tarlac State University's Office of Student Affairs and Services concluded the general orientation for first-year students last August 13, 2025 at the TSU Gymnasium.

The orientation, spanning two days, was divided into morning and afternoon sessions to accommodate the students from the 10 colleges.

Various university-wide services were discussed by focal persons, such as medical, dental,

counseling, and other SAS-led assistance that students can avail of and the Automated Faculty Evaluation System (AFES).

The Office of Admission and Registration also introduced the college registrars and oriented the students about its services and processes, including the Certificate of Registration and other documents that can be viewed and downloaded from the student portal.

Moreover, the Office of Management Information Systems gave a heads up as to what the students must do should they encounter problems on the student portal as well as the free Wi-Fi services in the campuses.

Meanwhile, the TSU Performing Arts Dance Troupe, TSU Chorale, and the Taekwondo varsity showcased performances to entertain the crowd.

The Office of Culture, Arts, and Languages, through Dr. Douglas C. Ferrer, office director, took the opportunity to encourage the students to cultivate their talents, earn scholarships, and represent the university locally and internationally by joining the performing arts groups.

The orientation, themed "Tomorrow Starts with U," was held from August 12-13, 2025.



EDITORIAL

Plucking out the queen

In the game of chess, all pieces are essential. They create a coordinated effort to shield the king. The queen is said to be the most versatile element, with a combination of powerful moves meant to keep the game going. If the queen is plucked out of the game, it will still go on, yet the moves are generally at a disadvantage. Hence, careful evaluation is paramount.

Working in top-level positions in any government office, whether national in scope or local, like Tarlac State University, is akin to playing chess. The people designated or appointed to certain positions could either make or break the administration, headed by the "king" in chess. The designated officials work and

move alongside the king, who presumably objectively evaluates the effectiveness and efficiency of every piece in the entire operation. At the end of the day, overall success in playing the game is the ultimate goal.

Beside the king is a queen, who is either the most skillful and trusted person or the most skillful yet a standing threat to the powerful. The king can always rely on the queen to do the arduous tasks, even up to the point of looking like a villain to most of the subordinates. If the king cannot be strict in defending the base, the queen will own up to it and jump to the front line. In hindsight, the king appears powerless, dragged behind the powerful queen. In return, the king may sack the

queen from her rightful place on the board.

On top of everything, little is known about the force behind all the pieces on the chessboard. The brains and the hands that put the pieces into place, including the king and queen, seem invisible, yet they are undeniably omnipotent. From time to time, the king is checked not by the opponent but by the higher body that encapsulates the entirety of the chess game. As the power is kept by the forces that sustain the system, the king should not fall into the trap of simply nodding or saying yes.

Now, the queen is plucked out of the system without any objective evaluation. The game of chess continues,

but the king is no longer felt. After all, even if he is regarded as king, he chose to bow down to the brains and hands that control the match. Moves are at a disadvantage, but the game goes on.

Connections and display of authority in the government context are the go-to measures to sack people from their positions. No matter how good an official is in the designated office, whatever accomplishments the official has gained, regardless of the heart the official possesses when it comes to service, if the forces want the official out, he or she is definitely out of the system. By turning a blind eye to the overuse of authority, the king has now lost its most skillful chess piece.



IN PHOTOS: CAREER FAIR 2025 | THE TARLAC CITY CONVENTION CENTER | AUGUST 14, 2025



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FIRST-TIME TAKERS

41.18%

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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.