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opai@tsu.edu.ph f @ TarlacStateU

CPAG transfers to its 'new home' at Lucinda Campus



Tarlac State University's College of Public Administration and Governance is now officially ready to fully transfer to the Lucinda Campus.

The blessing and inauguration of the college's three-story modern building on September 2, 2025 started with a Thanksgiving Mass officiated

by Rev. Fr. Rommel Vergara, followed by a speech from Dr. Lora L. Yusi, Commission on Higher Education Regional Office III director, who was invited as the guest of honor and speaker.

"I'd like to see this building as a commitment that in TSU, you have a different breed of students, and these students

and faculty will help the country move forward from this dark history of corruption. My dear students, you are 'iskolar ng bayan,' you are 'iskolars para sa bayan,'" Dr. Yusi said.

Since the building will be occupied by public administration students who will become civil servants in

the future, Dr. Yusi reminded the university and the college to produce the "finest, not necessarily the brightest" public administration graduates who are ethically driven with accountability, honesty, and transparency.

"We need a new breed of
Continue to page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



TSU sends off 387 midyear 2025 graduates

Page 2



VP Benitez on TRACOM system launch:
'We take responsibility not only to innovate but also to serve'

Page 4



TSU enters partnership with NU Laguna

Page 5

TSU sends off 387 midyear 2025 graduates

Mary Joy B. Manalo



Three hundred eighty-seven graduates received diplomas during the 36th Commencement Exercises of Tarlac State University for the midyear term held at the TSU Gymnasium last September 19, 2025.

The majority of graduates, totaling 228, hail from the College of Engineering, followed by the College of Business and Accountancy with 57 graduates, 35 from the College of Science, 33 from the College of Arts and Social Sciences, 17 from the College of Public Administration and Governance, 10 from the College of Computer Studies, and nine from the College of

Education.

One of the COS graduates, Jerald Paul Esteban from the environmental science program, led the midyear batch with a speech as the magna cum laude graduate with the highest general weighted average.

"Doubting yourself was never a sign of weakness, but a reminder that we cared deeply about the things that we are striving for. In my four years of studying, I have learned that doubt is not the absence of courage, but rather the decision to continue moving despite knowing na alam mong hindi magiging madali, despite knowing na mahihirapan ka,"

Esteban said in his speech.

He said he barely met the grade requirement to pass the program.

"Today, I don't stand here to represent who is the best among you. I stand here to tell you that even in doubt, even in weakness, even in failures, we are relentless, we are strong, and we push for more no matter what the circumstances [are]," he added.

The guest of honor and speaker for the graduation ceremonies is Tarlac City Vice Mayor Katrina Theresa Angeles-Go, who assured the graduates that they will never walk alone

in their journey as they will be supported by the people who believe in them.

"The world that you are about to enter will not be easy. You will face rejection, uncertainty, and temptation to compromise your values. But, kindly remember this: rejections can become redirections; each setback can be another greater opportunity toward growth and resilience. Even as you learn resilience in different ways, and let us be clear (that) resilience should never be romanticized," Vice Mayor Angeles-Go said.

Meanwhile, PCol. Miguel Guzman, former provincial director of the Tarlac Police Provincial Office, served as the speaker for the baccalaureate services, which were held a day before the graduation proper.

PCol. Guzman is an alumnus of the university who earned an engineering degree in 1997.

The baccalaureate mass was officiated by Rev. Fr. Michael Jaime Sibala of the San Sebastian Cathedral.



From to page 1

public servants who are honest. We need public servants who work not just for money but who work for service," Dr. Yusi added.

In response, CPAG Dean Dr. Edwin T. Caoleng accepted the CHED Director's call for a more efficient government and public servants.

"We shall continue to aim to be innovative and produce public servants who shall embody the values of good governance. This is the challenge of our director in this critical period where corruption and inefficiency in government bureaucracy are prevalent," Dean Caoleng said.

The new CPAG building, located beside the College of Education, is a project initiated by former TSU President Dr. Myrna Q. Mallari in 2018. Eventually, the project was continued during the term of incumbent TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco.

The building features a spacious student lobby where the college can also hold small programs.

"Ito po ay simbolo ng pag-asa at magandang kinabukasan sa ating mga estudyante (where) future public servants, policy makers, and leaders will be molded. Leaders



CPAG transfers to its 'new home' at Lucinda Campus

Maria Adelaida D. Calayag



will serve with excellence, integrity, and compassion. Today, this event will be remembered as a celebration of progress as the university works towards its vision of being [a] globally competitive institution recognized for excellence in sciences and emerging technologies," Pres. Velasco said.

The master's and doctoral degree programs of

CPAG received their Level IV retained status, the highest level of program accreditation granted by the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACUP), last February 2025.

Moreover, Dean Caoleng shared that the Bachelor of Public Administration program will undergo its Level IV AACUP program accreditation this September, with hopes that CPAG will be the first college to obtain the Level IV accreditation status for all its programs.

As an institution, Dr. Yusi said that TSU is one of the most admired universities not only in the region but all over the country, as stated by CHED.

"You are the first state university in Region III [that] achieved a 100% compliance for all the programs (pertaining to the Certificate of Program

Compliance), and there are 12 SUCs in the region. Please be proud of that accomplishment because this is not just the accomplishment of President Velasco but an accomplishment of each and every single person of Tarlac State University," Dr. Yusi added in her speech.

The event was well attended by former and present college and university officials and notable alumni of the college, namely Dr. Nicanor Caingat, former CPAG dean; Dr. Ma. June Carlos, former CPAG dean and university registrar; Dr. Myrna Q. Mallari, former TSU president and CPAG alumna; and Hon. Reynaldo Catacutan, alumni regent and CPAG alumnus.

Meanwhile, the former CPAG building at the Main Campus will be occupied by the School of Law effective this first semester.

VP Benitez on TRACOM system launch: 'We take responsibility not only to innovate but also to serve'

Maria Adelaida D. Calayag

Tarlac State University's College of Computer Studies launched the TRACOM Student Management Information System (SMIS) at the Training Command in Capas, Tarlac on September 11, 2025.

The TRACOM SMIS is a centralized platform with a school dashboard that helps Philippine Army students easily access a portal that records and secures training-related data. Consequently, commanders and chief of staff can view the students' records through the SMIS, and the students can also download and print their grades and other learning materials.

While strengthening its database, the TRACOM SMIS also aims to provide a centralized hub for data management, storage, and archiving via the portal, which can only be accessed through the TRACOM network.

"The TRACOM SMIS that we are soft launching today

is not just a platform—it is a vision of transformation [sic] that ensures order accountability and innovation in managing the future leaders of our Armed Forces. Just as soldiers (with) discipline and strategy [on] the battlefield, our learners may also structure systems and efficient tools to succeed in the ever-changing world," Vice President for Administration Atty. Gherold C. Benitez said as he read the TSU President's message.

"With this system, we take responsibility not only to innovate but also to serve the men and women who will, in turn, serve the nation," he further read.

The SMIS was developed by CCS faculty members Dr. Carlos Flores Jr. and Dr. Ronnie Mercado, who presented the project scope and the system's initial graphical user interface (GUI) last April 2025.

Dr. Flores delivered an overview of the SMIS features to



the officials present during the launch.

Before the system's development, TRACOM used the e-Learning Management System, relying on manual records processing through Microsoft Excel spreadsheets and Google Sheets. However, these cannot support the basic record-keeping functions needed to handle volumes of data and documents each year.

In addition, candidate soldiers and officers do not have access to their academic performance and training progress.

Overall, the TRACOM does not have standardized formats for record-keeping.

With the development of the TRACOM SMIS, a user's workshop was held in the first week of September involving around 1,411 students whose records are in the database.

"It's an administrative tool designed not to replace the human but automate internal processes, improve data accuracy, and diminish manual work. Ultimately, it is increasing organizational productivity, [enhancing] operational readiness, and [providing] educational training (for) administrators and advantages that streamline and systemize data organizing capability," Major Mark Anthony Dela Cruz said in his speech as he introduced the TRACOM SMIS.

Major General Danilo D. Benavides, PA, TRACOM commander, thanked the university administration and faculty members who heeded TRACOM's call to become partners and share their expertise.

Both institutions signed a memorandum of understanding after the launch.

TSU enters partnership with NU Laguna

Maria Adelaida D. Calayag

Tarlac State University sealed a partnership with the National University Sports Academy Inc. (NU Laguna) on September 18, 2025 at the Main AVR for professional development and expert sharing.

Both universities will work in terms of academic exchanges; professional development programs; research collaboration, including research findings, joint applications for research grants, and collaborative studies; expert sharing through lectures, capacity building, and community extension activities; and the establishment of an online platform where both universities can share academic journals, publications, and

teaching materials.

"The areas we have identified from the MOA—professional development, research collaboration, expert sharing and technical assistance, and exchange of knowledge and resources—are all aligned with our shared vision with NU, producing globally competitive graduates and advancing knowledge that transforms communities," TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco said in his speech.

Currently, NU operates 13 campuses across the country.

"Sometimes, some campuses didn't want to share their best practices because they fear that [competitors] will get

it in and it will no longer be their 'best practice.' But, I think we have transcended that as partners. I think we will never be in competition with one another because we have two very different markets," Dr. Josefina San Miguel, executive director and senior academic director of NU Laguna, said in her message.

"So, as President Arnold said, let this be a very good collaboration between TSU and NU Laguna. I am so looking forward to inviting some of your faculty to be guest lecturers in our campus... We would be so willing to send our best faculty as well to be your guest lecturers," Dr. San Miguel added.

During the sharing of

best practices, Dr. Rex Angelo Rizal, Academe-Industry Linkages and Placement Office assistant director of NU Laguna, learned about the initiatives of the Office of International Affairs and Linkages, including how the office works with international partners for faculty and student exchange and internships.

Dr. Rizal also inquired about the university's efforts in the QS rankings, THE Impact Rankings, and WURI.

NU Laguna delegates also benchmarked the university's best practices through a dialogue with college deans and some directors in a breakout session.



Selected schools, DSWD center benefit from "Disposal thru Donation"

Mary Joy B. Manalo

Three public schools and the DSWD Lingap Center officially received pre-owned items from Tarlac State University during the annual "Disposal Thru Donation" held on September 11, 2025 at the TSU Warehouse, Lucinda Campus.

TSU, through the Supply and Property Management Unit and some members of the Committee on Disposal, turned over the serviceable items to first-time recipients, namely Manabayukan Elementary School, Tariji Elementary School, Baras-Baras High School, and the Department of Social Welfare and Development Lingap Center.

The donated items include cubicles, office tables, counter tables, wooden shelves and cabinets, fiberglass chairs, steel chairs, monobloc chairs, laboratory chairs, modular cabinets, curtains, tiles, and others.

Moreover, the beneficiaries also received computer tables, screen projectors, a laptop, and an OptiPlex desktop.

According to Office of Administrative Services Director Ms. Winniefe F. Gutierrez, representative of Vice President for Administration Atty. Gherold



C. Benitez, the disposal of "condemned" items started with auctioning to junk shops until eventually, the Disposal Committee decided to donate the items to government agencies and public offices in need.

Sentiments about the university's noble disposal measure were echoed by Atty. Meliza Joy P. Manalo, TSU resident auditor from the Commission on Audit, through a message.

"This initiative reflects not only the university's commitment to sustainability and proper resource utilization,

but also its strong dedication to community service and partnership... May today's turnover inspire us all to continue working together for the advancement of education and the promotion of social welfare in our communities," Mr. Philip Winston Salas, COA staff, read.

In an interview, Dr. Vivian David-Paulo, Tariji Elementary School principal, said that the items they received would benefit their students and teachers.

"Kulang na kulang po talaga kami sa mga upuan ng mga bata, makikita niyo po sira-sira. Pinagtiyatiyagaan lang po naming i-repair. Improvised din po 'yung mga teachers' table namin na gawa pa po sa mga kawayan at sirang kahoy pati po 'yung mga computer namin na kung saan-saan nakalagay. Kaya tuwang-tuwa po 'yung mga teachers at magulang ng mga estudyante na binigyan po kami ng TSU ng mga magaganda at mukhang bagong gamit," Principal David-Paulo said.

"Sana po ipagpatuloy ni

TSU ang pagbibigay ng donation sa mga public schools gaya namin dahil hindi po nila (alam) kung gaano kalaking tulong ito sa amin. Kung saan-saan kami pumupunta para makahingi ng mga ganitong bagay pero ang TSU mayroong ganitong initiative na makatulong," she further added.

The elementary school received 132 monobloc chairs, 10 fiberglass chairs, five office tables, and five counter tables, among others.

Meanwhile, Mr. Lito Conte, Disposal Control section head and overall coordinator, shared that there are fewer beneficiaries this year due to the limited number of available items for disposal.

He added that the selected government agencies were assessed based on the results of an on-site survey conducted among the requesting agencies.

Representatives of the chosen beneficiaries visited the university for the viewing and selection of items on September 9.



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CONTACT

+63 45 606-8123

EDITORIAL

The power of words

How powerful is the President of the Republic of the Philippines? Without any signed formal piece of paper, a series of investigations involving anomalous flood control projects of the DPWH and several contractors were launched, starting with hearings in the Senate and the House of Representatives. How did this all begin? It actually came from a policy statement delivered by President Ferdinand "Bongbong" Marcos Jr. during his State of the Nation Address last July 28, 2025.

"Sa mga susunod na buwan, makakasuhan ang mga lalabas na may sala sa imbestigasyon pati na ang mga kasabwat na kontratista sa buong bansa," Pres. Marcos said. With these words, contractors were identified, DPWH officials were sacked, and shady properties

were withheld. Hearings started around August but made tidal waves in September. After which, only on September 11, the President formed the Independent Commission on Infrastructure, or ICI. Even before the issuance of the executive order for the ICI, citizens had already been condemning the Discayas, the other contractors, and the implicated DPWH officials. How powerful is the Philippine President? Even with just a simple utterance calling for the accountability of individuals involved in flood control scams, without any written executive order, such individuals were already undergoing trial by the public.

Policies do not always come from formal, legal, written documents. Oftentimes, public

statements of high-ranking officials are taken to heart as policies by the government and the public. Now, if the top official is as tactless as the previous administration, given the citizens' experience on the "War on Drugs," it should already be established that statements are not to be taken lightly. Hence, those occupying the top posts are mandated to be mindful and careful of the words they use during public engagements.

"Off the record," "take this with a grain of salt," and other metaphors and jargon in public speaking are mostly embedded during speaking engagements of public officials, especially if they are unsure of what they are saying. This is regarded as their safeguard when undergoing interviews with the press or addressing a crowd of

people who may misunderstand or sometimes even twist their words. They need to play it safe because their words become the rules of the game.

Even on the university level, words from the President of TSU hold great power. Every message delivered during the flag-raising ceremony or university event may contain a statement that could eventually become a policy or an action that the university would undertake following the executive's orders. Each word, alongside presence, bears weight, particularly during crucial moments of exposes or controversies.

Above all, given the power of words, rhetoric has the capacity to move people literally or figuratively, with or without the intention of the high and mighty speaker.

Faculty members gear up for instructional materials dev't

Office of Curriculum and Instruction

The Office of Curriculum and Instruction, in collaboration with the Office of Innovation and Business Development and the Office of Human Resource Development and Management, conducted a seminar-workshop for faculty members titled "Instructional Materials Development, Publication, and Copyright" last September 4, 2025 at the TSU Hotel in Lucinda Campus.

The seminar-workshop aims to equip faculty members with strategies for creating, evaluating, and enhancing instructional materials that align with program outcomes and industry needs. It also highlights essential concepts of publication and copyright, as well as guidelines for instructional materials

review and approval.

During the morning session, Dr. Brendalyn A. Manzano, OCI director and College of Arts and Social Sciences dean, shared insights on crafting creative instructional content and navigating the technical aspects of publication.

Meanwhile, Atty. Jayriz D. Dungca, OIBD director, emphasized the value of copyright and the protection of intellectual works under the Intellectual Property Code or Republic Act 8293.

Through this initiative, TSU continues to strengthen faculty competencies, encourage the development of quality instructional resources, ensure the protection of intellectual property, and uphold best practices in teaching and learning.



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TAU, TSU learns more about quality assurance

Asst. Prof. Maricor Cheska B. Santos | OUP



Photo Credits: Asst. Prof. Maricor Cheska B. Santos, Ms. Liana Faith Q. De Leo

Representatives from Tarlac Agricultural University visited Tarlac State University on September 19, 2025 for a benchmarking activity on the best practices of the Office of Quality Assurance.

The learning exchange held at the Café Lucinda in Lucinda Campus centered on TSU's initiatives and preparations for the Philippine

Quality Award (PQA). TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco, represented by Presidential Communications Secretary Asst. Prof. Maricor Cheska B. Santos, welcomed the group led by Dr. Jerome D. Soriano, TAU quality assurance director.

"At TSU, we believe that cooperation amongst institutions of higher learning is essential to

maintaining our responsiveness to the demands of our communities and stakeholders. Also, we are eager to gain new knowledge from you, because we recognize that TAU, as one of the leading agricultural universities in the country, has rich experiences and best practices that we, too, can learn from.," the message read.

TSU QA Director

Dr. Niño B. Corpuz led a comprehensive discussion on the strategies, training, and best practices for meeting the PQA.

The discussion also covered TSU's key milestones, experiences, challenges, and preparations from application to the actual assessment process, roles of its PQA committee members, and the university's quality assurance framework.





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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.