



TSU, Provincial Government of Tarlac co-host int'l forensic science conference



Tarlac State University, the Provincial Government of Tarlac, the University of the Philippines Manila, and Sherlock Institute of Forensic Science based in India collaborated in the hosting of the 5th International Forensic

Science Conference held in Tarlac Province from December 11-13, 2024.

The Provincial Government of Tarlac hosted the first two days of the conference, with the opening held at the Bulwagang Kanlahi,

while the Lucinda Campus of TSU served as the venue for the plenary and breakout sessions on the third day.

With seven participating countries, the international conference aims to bridge the gap between justice,

societal needs, and science through a lecture series from policymakers, academicians, and practitioners from Italy, Singapore, Taiwan, the United States, India, Indonesia, Cambodia, and the Philippines

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CoEd attains 1st Level IV 'retained' program accre status in TSU

Mary Joy B. Manalo



Four programs under the College of Education formally received the certificates of their program accreditation with a Level IV "retained" status on December 4, 2024 at the TSU Hotel in Lucinda Campus.

The "retained" program accreditation status given by the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACUP) pertains to how the programs managed to sustain quality in all accreditation areas after attaining Level IV in the last survey visit.

The CoEd is the first in TSU to receive the Level IV "retained" status, the highest level of award for program accreditation to date.

The programs that maintained the Level IV status are the Master of Arts in Education (MAED) major

in Educational Management, Technology and Livelihood Education, and Mathematics; Bachelor of Elementary Education (BEED); Bachelor of Secondary Education (BSED); and Bachelor of Early Childhood Education (BECED).

Based on the summary of findings presented by Office of Quality Assurance Director Dr. Niño B. Corpuz, the BSED program garnered the highest

grand mean of 4.70, followed by the MAED with 4.60, BECED with 4.60, and BEED with 4.55.

In a message, Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Agnes M. Macaraeg emphasized that quality is embedded in the TSU culture.

"We are always saying to everyone that quality is not magic, but quality already turns [out] to be part of our culture. Your award is a manifestation of

how dedicated, hardworking, and committed you are in attaining what excellence and quality education is all about at TSU," VP Macaraeg said.

Moreover, TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco, represented by Presidential Assistant Dr. Brigido B. Corpuz, thanked the local accreditation task force for their hard work and commitment to the institution's success.

Meanwhile, CoEd Dean Dr. Jasper Jay N. Mendoza underscored the importance of being "disrupted to what's happening around us."

"Let us not lose sight of the journey ahead. We should be 'futures thinkers.' Let us continue to challenge ourselves – innovate and push the boundaries of what we can achieve as a community of educators and learners," he said.

On behalf of the college, Dean Mendoza also pledged to remain steadfast in their dedication to delivering the highest quality service possible for the university.

The Level IV "retained" status of the programs is valid from October 1, 2024 to September 30, 2029.

Also present during the awarding are some members of the university administrative council, CoEd program chairpersons, department heads, and faculty members.

Areas of Evaluation	MAED	BEED	BSED	BECED
Research	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50
Performance of graduates	4.50	4.75	5.00	4.00
Community service	4.50	4.00	4.50	5.00
International linkages	4.50	4.50	4.50	4.50
Planning process	5.00	5.00	5.00	5.00
Grand Mean	4.60	4.55	4.70	4.60

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Maria Adelaida D. Calayag



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about advancements in digital forensics and the integration of forensic methodologies and legal frameworks.

"One essential component of the criminal justice system is forensic science, which produces unbiased conclusions that can aid in the investigation and punishment of criminals or clear an innocent person of suspicion. The experts we invited to share their knowledge and expertise with all of us here will help deepen our knowledge on finding the truth and seeking justice in a legal proceeding," TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco said in his speech.

Moreover, the three-day event served as an avenue to foster collaboration across borders and share best practices in forensic science, as stated in the theme, "Forensic Science Without Borders."

The topics of the plenary sessions include forensic psychology, positive psychology, criminal profiling and unique case studies, championing

justice, rights, and law in the Philippines, convictions, crime, DNA testing and victim advocacy, the role of forensic anthropology, archaeology, and body farms, forensic taphonomy and heritage forensics.

Gov. Susan Yap attends int'l conference opening

Tarlac Province Governor Susan Yap welcomed the delegates to the international conference as a keynote speaker.

"This is a challenge to



my fellow government officials to engage with scientists and experts as well as the members of the academe to share your expertise and collaborate with us. My speech this morning is actually an invitation for science to be more relevant not only to the government but also importantly to the general public," Gov. Yap said.

Among the conference attendees are the Tarlac PNP and students from Holy Angel University, Lyceum of the Philippines University-Batangas,



University of Baguio, Tomas Claudio Colleges, Camarines Norte State University, UP School of Archaeology, and TSU.

"You're very fortunate today. Ang mga kasama nating magsasalita sa susunod na tatlong araw ay talagang mga eksperto, dedikadong mga scientists, propesyunal coming from different countries. So this is a very rare opportunity for our students, our police force to hear these experts," Gov. Yap said.

Meanwhile, Dr. Leonardo Estacio Jr. from UP Manila stressed the need to understand forensic science as a significant contributor to the justice system.

"Remember that forensic science is not just a curriculum, but a commitment to do justice... Let us strengthen the Philippine justice system," Dr. Leonardo Estacio Jr. from UP Manila said.

Other key figures who attended the opening ceremony are SIFS President Dr. Ranjeet

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Former NHCP commissioner clarifies Moncada town's founding date

Maria Adelaida D. Calayag

Former National Historical Commission of the Philippines Commissioner and former Center for Tarlaqueno Studies Head Dr. Lino L. Dizon delivered the initial findings for Moncada town's origin in preparation for its sesquicentennial anniversary. The public presentation and consultation in line with the founding of Moncada town was held on December 10, 2024 at the Auditorium Cafe I in Moncada town.

This presentation is enveloped in the TSU Center for Community and Local Governance Studies and Policy Development's (CCLGSPD) project titled "Preserving Moncada's Legacy: A Path to 150 Years (Moncada@150)," which aims to publish a book containing Moncada town's heritage, history, and traditions from 1874-2024.

During the public consultation attended by public school teachers from Moncada, local cultural mappers, and Councilor Thelmaflor Espejo, Dr. Dizon shared the clippings of decrees requested from Spain that will certify the town's roots and origin.

Based on his research, the town was established on May 1, 1874, not July 1. The town



has been following July 1, 1875 for its founding anniversary celebrations based on the 1953 historical papers data from past municipal officials and local educators.

Dr. Dizon corrected the idea that the town would celebrate its sesquicentennial anniversary next year. He

secured and verified information from Spain based on the superior decree dated May 1, 1874, signed by Acting Governor General Manuel Blanco Valderrama, who turned Barrio San Ramon into an independent town named Moncada.

Moncada Mayor Estelita Aquino pushed for funding for

the university's project to help preserve the town's history, which will run from April 2024 to April 2026

A week after the public presentation and consultation, the Sangguniang Bayan of Moncada enacted Municipal Ordinance No. 2024-020, tagged as "An Ordinance Rationalizing and Adopting the Official Date of the Foundation of the Municipality of Moncada, Province of Tarlac, from July 1, 1875 to May 1, 1874."

This ordinance indicates the adoption of the town's official foundation date. This ordinance shall be called "Pamana ng Moncada: Ang Opisyal na Pagkakatatag" to align with historical accuracy and strengthen the town's identity.



PRC confers plaque, certificate to TSU as top performing ECE school

Engr. Mark Benz Pineda | College of Engineering

Tarlac State University's College of Engineering was recognized by the Professional Regulation Commission as one of the top performing universities in the October 2024 Electronics Engineers Licensure Examination, along with an awarding of a medal for the TSUian topnotcher in the Electronics Technicians boards.

The university landed as the top three performing school, under the 30 or more examinees bracket, with an 80% institutional passing rate, which the PRC formally conferred last December 5, 2024 at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC) in Pasay City.

Sherwin Moises Nuqui, who ranked third in the Electronics Technicians Licensure Examinations, garnering a 90% average, was presented with a medal on the same day.

COE Associate Dean Engr. Aldrin Joar Taduran, Engr. Idris Jeffrey Manguera, and Engr. Mark Benz Pineda represented the university in receiving the plaque and certificate.

The awarding took



place during the oathtaking of the new professional ECEs, ECEs, and ECTs.

Emmanuel Martinez, the guest of honor and speaker, encouraged the new professionals to continue learning and remain committed

to their careers in engineering. Meanwhile, two members of the ECE Professional Regulatory Board (PRB) delivered speeches for the new engineers. Engr. Gerhard P. Tan highlighted how the ECE profession is a key to advancing technology in the future, while Engr. Adonis Q. Talabo, who led the "charging" of the passers, formally recognized their success.

The first-time takers for ECE and ECT garnered 88.24% and 94.44% passing rates, respectively, and the university recorded a 90.91% institutional passing rate for the ECT boards against the national passing rate of 70.77%.

The ECE national passing rate is 45.99%.



TSU showcases innovations at 2024 Regional Science, Technology, and Innovation Week

Prof. Aldrex G. Laxamana | Office of Innovation and Business Development

Tarlac State University's role as a regional leader in research and innovation was highlighted through its participation in the 2024 Regional Science, Technology, and Innovation Week (RSTW) held at Central Luzon State University in Nueva Ecija. The regional event, which was held from December 10-12, 2024, featured innovative creations, including TSU's flagship products developed by the Center for Food Technology and Research, namely the TSU Chicharon, Muscobites, and Musco Syrup, alongside the solar-powered vehicle—a project funded by the Department of Science and Technology Region III (DOST III) that commenced in February 2021 headed by Prof. Rodel T. Botio.

A key feature of the university's participation was the dedicated exhibit of the Aslagan Technology Business Incubator (TBI), highlighting its ongoing initiatives supporting local entrepreneurs and advancing technological innovations, particularly in food technology. Through the RSTW, TSU aims to present its accomplishments and promote collaboration with stakeholders across Central Luzon.



Photo Credits: Prof. Aldrex G. Laxamana

This event, themed "Siyensya, Teknolohiya, at Inobasyon: Kabalik at Matatag, Maginhawa, at Panatag na Kinabukasan," also provided a platform for the university to advance its "mission of innovation," highlighting the essential role of science

and technology in creating a sustainable community. Aside from exhibits, the RSTW showcases innovations, programs, and activities that drive regional development, including science exhibits, technology fora, and interactive displays.

TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco led the university's delegation. Other attendees include Dr. Brigido B. Corpuz, presidential assistant;

Dr. Leah T. Matias, CFTR director; Prof. Botio, solar energy specialist; Prof. Aldrex G. Laxamana, Aslagan TBI project leader; and Ms. Emmerly P. Balbas, food technology consultant.

The team was supported by staff members, including Engr. Paola Espinosa, Mr. PJ Millo Guiang, Ms. Cathy Dela Cruz, and Ms. Lureza Pastor.



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Singh, UB President Dr. Javier Herminio Bautista, HAU President Engr. Leopoldo Valdes Jr., TSU Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Agnes M. Macaraeg, TSU SOL Dean Dr. Jose I. Dela Rama Jr., and Dr. Heizel Manapat Reyes from UP Manila.

TSU welcomes delegates to Lucinda Campus

During the plenary session on the third day, participants were brought to the Priscilla Hall of the TSU Hotel at the Lucinda Campus, where Dr. Henry C. Lee of the University of New Haven discussed major incident scene investigations.

Prof. Jeff Cheng-Lung Lee of the National Tsing Hua University and Dr. Mahar Lagmay of UP Diliman also led the plenary sessions on pioneering forensic science.

Furthermore, Dr. Irene D. Valones of the Supreme Court of the Philippines, Dr. Ariel Valones of the Philippine Heart Center,



and Dr. Girlie Gonzales of the Central Books delivered topics concerning revolutionizing forensic science.

In addition, Atty. Jewel O. Dela Cruz from TSU School of Law discussed forensic science in justice, focusing on digital forensics.

Meanwhile, the concurrent breakout sessions on the third day were held at various venues at the Lucinda Campus, with a lecture workshop on the basics of forensic anthropology at the Gabriella Hall of the TSU Hotel and a talk about interdisciplinary approaches to the roles of nurses in handling forensic evidence related to cases of sexual abuse as discussed by Atty. Glenn Luansing at the Center for Food Technology and Research AVR.

At the same time, Dr. Roel R. Alviar, TSU College of Criminal Justice Education dean, discussed the impact and importance of forensic science on the university's commendable performance in the Criminologists Licensure Examination. This breakout session was held at the Academic Building AVR.

The cases of Kian Loyd De Los Santos, Carl Arnaiz, and Reynaldo de Guzman were stated as examples of human rights violations relative to former president Rodrigo Duterte's war on drugs campaign under Atty. Raymielle Christie Magcalas' talk titled "Forensic Science and the Rights of Children."

Atty. Jewel Dela Cruz returned as a speaker for the

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TSU, PGT affirm commitment to free legal services

Mary Joy B. Manalo



Tarlac State University's School of Law reaffirmed its commitment to serve the community through a partnership forged with the Provincial Government of Tarlac for free legal aid and services.

Through a memorandum of agreement signed on December 11, 2024 at the Diwa ng Tarlac, law student practitioners from the Marc Andrei Marcos Legal Aid Center (MAMLAC), the legal aid clinic

of TSU-SOL, will offer free legal assistance to the province's indigent residents under the supervision of practicing lawyers.

The partnership, valid for the academic year 2024-2025 and renewable annually, forms part of TSU-SOL's Clinical Legal Education Program (CLEP).

Moreover, TSU law students are given the chance to gain practical knowledge through work immersion and observation activities with the PGT via its

Plans, Activities, and Programs (PAPS), facilities, and expertise.

To further expand their reach, TSU-SOL law experts will also serve as guest speakers on the "Payong MaYap" program streamed via radio and Facebook to provide legal advice to the public.

The partnership was forged through the collaborative efforts of Tarlac Province Governor Susan A. Yap and TSU-SOL Dean Dr. Jose I. Dela Rama

Jr., who were present during the signing.

The MOA signing was also attended by Tarlac second district board member Harmes S. Sembrano, Provincial Legal Officer Atty. Rey Christopher Fajardo, TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco, Vice President for Academic Affairs Dr. Agnes M. Macaraeg, and University Legal Counsel Atty. Mariemeir I. Marcos-Rivera.

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breakout session who tackled forensics on the emerging crime of child abuse. She further emphasized the crimes of internet child abuse and the anti-cybercrime groups under digital forensics.

Sherlock Forensic Science President Dr. Ranjeet Singh raffled five slots of forensic science scholarship

to the conference participants worth 200 dollars.

TSU also hosted a cultural night on the evening of the conference's last day as a way to appreciate and show gratitude to the foreign participants of the international conference.

The 6th International Forensic Science Conference will be hosted by UP Manila next year.



TSU wraps up Aguman Ning Belwan 2024

Bren Noah M. Nieto | Office of University Research Development



Photo Credits: Prof. Office of University Research Development

In line with Tarlac State University's aim to bolster its research culture, the Office of University Research Development organized its 2nd National Multidisciplinary Research Conference at the Subic Grand Harbour Hotel in Subic Bay Freeport Zone, Zambales from December 5-6, 2024.

Dubbed Aguman Ning Belwan 2024, the two-day hybrid research conference welcomed onsite and online participants and presenters from 28 higher education institutions across the Philippines.

The conference highlighted the essence of going further with research publications by contributing to the advancement of communities and making researchers as shapers of the world's future, which is anchored on the theme, "Transforming Ideas into Impact."

A total of 57 research papers from the ABLESS (Arts, Business, Law, Education, and Social Sciences) and STEAM (Science, Technology,

Engineering, Agriculture, and Mathematics) categories were evaluated by a panel composed of the OURD unit heads during parallel sessions.

Moreover, the conference featured plenary speakers, namely Dr. Nelson B. Guillen, an assistant professor from the De La Salle University-Manila, who discussed "Innovation and Collaboration

in the Age of AI: Redefining Knowledge Creation for Societal Impact" and Dr. Marie Paz E. Morales, a university professor from the Philippine Normal University, who tackled "Shaping Ideas into Transformative Impact."

Dr. Morales also stressed the need to align research findings toward achieving the targets of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the country's development plan.

In a message, TSU President Dr. Arnold E. Velasco hoped for future partnerships with the invited speakers along with the university community's involvement in research endeavors.

Meanwhile, Tarlac City Mayor Maria Cristina "Cristy" Angeles acknowledged the role of research as a backbone of progress in the community and in bringing together experts from different disciplines for collaboration during her greetings on the conference's first day.

The conference served as an avenue for further exploration and development

of research outputs, a forum for the productive exchange of ideas and sharing of experience among academicians, practitioners, and stakeholders, and a platform for researchers to disseminate their research findings.

Furthermore, participants were given the opportunity to establish networks and partnerships with professionals from other HEIs and stakeholders across national and international borders.

Best Oral Presentation:
In-Person, ABLESS: Storytelling, Structure, and Themes: Narrative Analysis of Digital Food Stories as Place Biographies (Central Philippines State University – College of Arts and Sciences)
Online, ABLESS: Friend Kita Kahit' Di Pa Nakikita Harapan: The Formation of Close Platonic Relationships in Remote Learning in College Students during the COVID-19 Pandemic (Philippine Normal University)
Online, STEAM: Exploring the Potential of Shark-Inspired Riblet Designs on NASA SC (2)-0610 for Mitigating Skin Friction in High-Speed Flow Using Solidworks CFD (PATT'S College of Aeronautics)



EDITORIAL

Finding ways to remain optimistic

2024 started on a high note for Tarlac State University when it announced that its Laboratory School would not be phased down despite the Department of Education's removal of the voucher program for senior high school students. Afterward, good things poured upon the university through partnerships, awards, and other recognitions, particularly financial accolades. Beyond the positive aspects reaped by TSU, challenges are, of course, inevitable. Especially toward the end of the year, the university was taken aback by the repercussions of some financial decisions in the past.

The university's financial health has been an open secret among the employees since the fourth quarter of this year. Many were alarmed about whether the bonuses would be affected and whether there would be an impending layoff of contractual and job order employees. Even before the last

quarter of this year, financial constraints have already been felt by the TSU community with limitations on budget for meals during meetings and activities. According to the memorandum circular released by the Office of the University President on March 1, 2024, the limitation is a means of complying with the provisions of the Government Procurement Act. However, it mainly concerns the university's need to implement a cost-saving measure to reduce the deficits incurred starting in 2023, wherein the administration may have been adjusting to the leadership of the incumbent TSU President and his ways of managing the institution.

Despite the setbacks of these financial decisions, the university still received numerous recognitions relative to good financial housekeeping within the same year. TSU stood out this year among state universities and colleges,

from being the only SUC awarded by the Association of Government Accountants of the Philippines, Inc. as one of the most outstanding accounting offices to receiving the eNGAS User Entity Award and eNGAS Inclusiveness Award from the Government Financial Management Innovators Circle, Inc. for its effective use of the enhanced electronic New Government Accounting System. These commendations are rooted in the university's unqualified findings by the Commission on Audit for 13 consecutive years, coupled with the accuracy and timeliness of submitted financial reports. On top of these, TSU was recognized as the second top-performing SUC relative to its implementation of the Anti-Red Tape. No matter what, the finance team endeavors to keep the university's integrity in good times and trying times.

Knowing that the finance team still aims to

improve situations and scenarios, the TSU community members can still fight to see the light beyond the "struggles" they are facing. When viewed negatively, the plight of the rank-and-file employees is being romanticized. Resilience, which is typically highlighted as a good trait of Filipinos, tends to be abused by the unfortunate turnout of events. On the other hand, resilience can be equated to optimism- that despite the hardships, there is still a hint of hope that things will eventually end up better.

Ending 2024 with an uneasy feeling cannot be done away with, especially with the university's financial health implications. The people of TSU are apprehensive about what will come next. It could be difficult to remain optimistic, but these challenges can reveal the ingenuity and cleverness of the TSU community.

TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY LICENSED TSUIAN PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS!

SEPTEMBER 2024 LICENSURE EXAMINATION FOR PROFESSIONAL TEACHERS

	ELEMENTARY LEVEL	SECONDARY LEVEL
FIRST-TIME TAKERS	73.08%	67.91%
INSTITUTIONAL PASSING RATE	46.36%	46.80%
NATIONAL PASSING RATE	45.53%	56.89%

THE TSU COMMUNITY IS VERY PROUD OF YOU!

TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY LICENSED TSUIAN ENGINEERS!

DECEMBER 2024 CIVIL ENGINEERS LICENSURE EXAMINATION

FIRST-TIME TAKERS	83.33%
INSTITUTIONAL PASSING RATE	51.28%
NATIONAL PASSING RATE	37.09%

THE TSU COMMUNITY IS VERY PROUD OF YOU!

TSU-CBA TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND ACCOUNTANCY

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY LICENSED TSUIAN CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS!

DECEMBER 2024 LICENSURE EXAMINATION FOR CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

FIRST-TIME TAKERS	80.00%
INSTITUTIONAL PASSING RATE	57.14%
NATIONAL PASSING RATE	30.17%

THE TSU COMMUNITY IS VERY PROUD OF YOU!



TARLAC STATE UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW



CONGRATULATIONS, TSUIAN BAR PASSERS! 2024 BAR EXAMINATIONS

FIRST-TIME TAKERS

64%

INSTITUTIONAL PASSING RATE

52.63%

NATIONAL PASSING RATE

37.84%

THE TSU COMMUNITY IS VERY PROUD OF YOU!



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.