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CatSU gears up for UI GreenMetric World University Rankings 2023 __by Francis John B. Templonuevo

atanduanes State University (CatSU) is gearing up to participate in the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings 2023, set to be announced in December 2023.

Led by Prof. Zyra Mae T. Tumala, the Director of the Center for International Relations and Continuing Professional Development Services (CIRCPDS), a meeting was held on April 25, 2023, where the guidelines, methodology, and questionnaire were presented.

The meeting also identified the adequacy or inadequacy of evidence and documents, and the formulation of working committees for the UI GreenMetric 2023 Task Force.

CatSU key officials headed by President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza attended the said event.

"We are creating the future of CatSU. We are doing our best to give the best to our students and our community. And putting CatSU on the world map is one

thing that we can achieve if we work together. It is our collective effort that will bring us to this goal," Dr. Azanza said.

The UI GreenMetric World University Ranking is a ranking of green campus and environmental sustainability initiated by Universitas Indonesia in 2010. The ranking is determined through 39 indicators in 6 criteria, which evaluate universities' environmental commitment and initiatives.

The vision of UI GreenMetric World



CatSU strengthens commitment to efficient customer service management

by Caroline I. Vecilles

atanduanes State University (CatSU) conducted a seminarorientation on efficient customer service management on April 26, 2023. The event aimed to improve the university's quality management system processes and commitment to providing excellent customer service.

The Quality Assurance Services, led by Dr. Edna A. Pante, spearheaded the seminar in collaboration with Atty. Gregorio M. Sarmiento Jr., Chief Administrative Officer-Administration, and Ms. Ma Sionne May T. Crispino, Administrative Officer V, Human Resource Management Services.

The morning session included two plenary sessions. The first plenary revisited the provisions of the Republic Act No. 11032 (Ease of Doing Business) in the context of customer service, with Atty. Sarmiento as the resource speaker. Ms. Crispino followed with the second plenary session, discussing the relevance of the Citizen's Charter in customer service.

In the afternoon, Dr. Pante discussed Plenary Session 3, "Managing Customer Service," which included a group simulation activity on handling customer service. The simulation activity actively involved all attendees, who serve as frontliners of each office/unit and college. The session covered various topics, including understanding customer needs and expectations, building a customer-centric culture that emphasized the need for such an approach throughout the organization, and instilling a customer-focused mindset among all employees, from frontline staff to management.

The seminar also covered conflict resolution, handling difficult customers, effective problem-solving techniques, and process improvement, which involves analyzing existing processes and identifying areas for improvement.

CatSU Executive Vice President, Dr. Lily P. Custodio, and Vice President for Administrative and Financial Affairs, Dr. Bernardino C. Abundo Jr., attended the seminar and delivered messages to all the attendees.

"Conducting a seminar on efficient customer service management is crucial for organizations to prioritize providing excellent customer service to ensure customer satisfaction and

loyalty. The involvement of Quality Assurance Services, Human Resources Management Services, and the Admin Office indicates a comprehensive approach to the seminar, with different departments working together to ensure its success," Dr. Custodio said.

Dr. Abundo also expressed his appreciation for the core team behind the seminar and reminded the attendees of the importance of efficient customer service for the success of the university.

"May we always put in our hearts the key principles and strategies for managing and delivering excellent customer service. Efficient customer service will always ensure us the success in everything that we do while we grow as an organization," Dr. Abundo said.

The seminar demonstrated the importance of efficient customer service and how it can affect customer satisfaction, loyalty, reputation, responsiveness, communication, and leadership. The event also showed how various departments can work together to achieve a common goal of providing excellent customer service.

CatSU strengthens security preparedness through Bomb Awareness Seminar

by Caroline I. Vecilles



CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES

CatSU security personnel to ensure the safety and well-being of the university community in any potential bomb-related incidents.

The seminar aimed to strengthen the security preparedness and response capabilities of

during the event.

Police Executive Master Sergeant (PEMS) Jeric B. Jebulan, from the Provincial Explosive and Canine Unit (PECU) of the Catanduanes Provincial Police Office, was one of the resource speakers who shared his expertise and insights on bomb awareness detection and response

CatSU GAD wraps up successful 3-day Gender-Fair Language, GPB Training of Trainers



he Catanduanes State University (CatSU) Gender and Development Services (GAD) has successfully wrapped up a three-day Training of Trainers on Gender-Fair Language and Gad Planning and Budgeting (GPB) on April 26-28, 2023.

The training aimed to capacitate the GAD Focal Point System (GFPS)/GAD advocates of the university on GBP with other Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), National Government Agencies (NGAs), and Local Government Units (LGUs) and spread awareness of genderfair language in the Philippine setting.

The training was led by the GAD Focal Person, Prof. Melinda V. Abichuela, and the English Language and Speech Communication Center (ELSCOM) Director, Prof. Reashiela L. Khan.

The three-day event covered various topics related to gender-fair language and GPB.

Development (GAD) Planning and Budgeting. Her guidance paves the way for more inclusive and gender-responsive programs at CatSU.

On the first day, Commissioner Amielyn M. Limbona of the Philippine Commission on Women (PCW) discussed general guidelines on the use of Gender-Fair Language, and Hon. Cristita Triunfante, another PCW Commissioner, presented the essential elements and guidelines for GPB.

On the second day, participants were divided into groups to demonstrate how to facilitate GPB with different stakeholders. The resource speakers acted as mentors during the workshop and provided the participants with material on gender issues. Participants also visited three selected barangays - Calatagan Proper, Cavinitan, and Calatagan Tibang - to

conduct GPB with members of the GFPS and stakeholders.

The last day of the training saw GFPS members conducting an actual facilitation of the GPB demo in the three barangays. About 30-40 participants joined the demo and were equipped with the skills to assess the extent of gender mainstreaming in their institutions and/or organizations through GPB.

The training of trainers' series is part of CatSU's campaign to promote a gender-sensitive and responsive university. This training is the third installment in the series, which started in July 2022. It aims to produce gender trainers equipped with the skills to respond to gender issues and needs, as well as knowledge of their complexities and technicalities within and outside the organization.

Ul GreenMetric World.. from page 1

University Rankings is to be an open and respected world university ranking, which brings sustainable impacts to universities around the world. Its missions are to organize annual world university rankings on sustainability, encourage sustainability practices in universities worldwide, provide sustainability-related services for universities worldwide, and facilitate international partnership on sustainability.

UI GreenMetric World University

Rankings recognized the need for a uniform system appropriate for universities worldwide, based on a numerical score that would allow ranking. The system would allow comparisons between universities' rankings based on their commitment to addressing issues of sustainability and environmental impact. The ranking system uses 39 indicators and 6 criteria: Setting and Infrastructure (SI), Energy and Climate Change (EC),

Waste (WS), Water (WR), Transportation (TR), and Education (ED).

"We will be the ones who will put our university on the UI GreenMetric World University Rankings, and I am certain we can do this," said Dr. Lily P. Custodio, Executive Vice President.



CoEd spearheads BUROGKOS: a team building activity, enhances gender sensitive powerhouse

via College of Education

o foster social relations and in effect improve the interpersonal ties and work relationships as well as address gender sensitive issues in the workplace, the Catanduanes State University College of Education conducts a team building activity dubbed as BUROGKOS: A team Building Activity developing Committed and Gender Sensitive CoEd Faculty and Staff on April 16, 2023 at Amenia Beach Resort, Barangay Palawig, Virac, Catanduanes.

Before subjecting the faculty and staff of CoEd to fun and puzzling and sometimes physically-challenging activities which also encourage teamwork, two topics were discussed by its invited resource speakers: Developing Committed faculty and Staff with the CatSU's Guidance, Counseling & Testing Officer, Mr. Noly Benavides and Physical, Social, Mental, Psychological, and Spiritual Well-being with GAD Focal Person, Ms. Reashiela L.

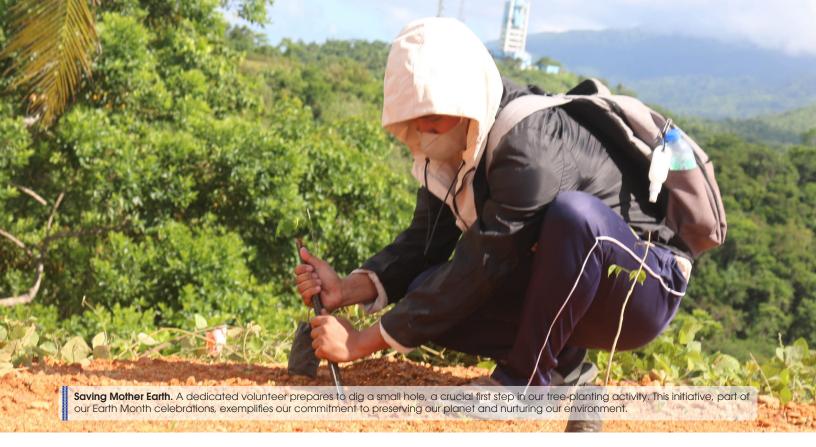
Khan.

Specifically, the activity aimed at sustaining healthy working relationship anchored on value-laden principles and committed towards excellence in government services and living out core values enabling to respond to colleagues' varied needs and to promote others' physical, mental, psychological, social and spiritual wellbeing which are gender-responsive.

The said activity was initiated by the CoEd Faculty Association President, Prof. Jowi B. Resayaga and supported by the college's GAD Coordinator, Ms. Ena Marie M. Sarmiento.

"We will certainly meet our goals for the College of Education and for this University, if we work committedly together as a team- as a family.", said Dr. Maria Sheila R. Gregorio, Dean of the College of Education.





COS conducts tree planting activity to celebrate Earth Month

n celebration of Earth Month and Earth Day, with the theme "Invest in Our Planet", the CatSU-College of Science in collaboration with Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (CARE) Philippines, TJORI Foundation, CatSU Extension Services, and CatSU Center for Island Climate Change Solutions organized a series of tree planting activities to nurture the environment of the island province.

The tree planting series was kicked off on April 21, 2023, in Barangay Buenavista, Bato, Catanduanes, and was actively participated by a number of CatSU Department Chairpersons, faculty members, and staff, as well as partner-volunteers such as the Brgy. Buenavista Women Volunteers, Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction Office (MDRRMO), and Local Government Unit of Bato, and other officials.

As part of the University's Rehabilitation and Disaster Preparedness program, the organizers came up with the series of tree planting events to raise awareness about environmental conservation and take concrete actions to protect the planet. The organizers worked with partner organizations to secure necessary permits, including the determination of the number and types

of trees to be planted.

Prior to the event, the organizers prepared the site by clearing any debris, tilling the soil, and marking the areas where the trees will be planted. CatSU



officials provided a brief orientation, explaining the importance of tree planting, demonstrating proper planting techniques, and emphasizing the ecological benefits.

Participants worked together to dig holes, carefully plant the saplings, and backfill the soil around the roots, ensuring that the trees are planted at the appropriate depth and properly supported with soil to encourage healthy growth.

CatSU President, Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, who is also actively involved as Adviser of the Catanduanes Clean and Green Movement, commended the efforts of the CatSU community in this undertaking.

"We need to protect the environment while pursuing economic development for our country," the President said.

CatSU is known for its environment-friendly practices such as tree planting, coastal clean-up, waste segregation, and other allied activities, being a green University. The University extended its gratitude to the benefactor of narra seedlings who earlier donated the seedlings to Dr. Azanza.

The University aims to continue advocating for environment-friendly practices to protect and nurture the environment.



CatSU Languages Department cleared to offer new Bachelor of Arts in English Language (BAEL) program by CHED RO V Regional Quality

Assessment Team — by Francis John B. Templonuevo

he Accreditation Room was filled with joy and excitement during the Exit Conference on April 19, 2023, as the CHED RO V Regional Quality Assessment and Monitoring Team announced that the College of Humanities and Social Sciences - Languages Department has met the minimum requirements to open a new course in CatSU, which is the Bachelor of Arts in English Language (BAEL).

Led by Education Program Supervisor II, Dr. Jean Salalima-Go, the team commended the efforts of the university's staff and faculty in achieving this milestone.

Dr. Abelardo G. Belleza of the Partido State University, who was also a member of the Regional Quality Assessment Team (RQAT), shared their findings from the two-day assessment of documents and ocular inspection.

Dr. Salalima-Go also mentioned the positive progress of the Bachelor of

Science in Environmental Science and Bachelor of Science in Biology programs under the College of Science, and the Bachelor in Public Administration (BPA) under the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, which were also part of their monitoring

CatSU President, Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, expressed his excitement for the opening of another course in the university, which will provide more career options for the students. He also shared his aspiration to open Law and Medicine courses in the university.

Executive Vice President, Dr. Lily P. Custodio, who worked with CHUMSS Dean, Dr. Jimmylen Z. Tonio, also expressed her delight in the realization of their efforts.

"This announcement is a testament to the hard work and dedication of the staff and faculty of CatSU in providing quality education and expanding opportunities for its students," Dr. Custodio said.





CatSU ELSCOM, CHUMSS, enhance English Language Curriculum for Global Competitiveness

by Francis John B. Templonuevo

he English Language and Speech Communication Center (ELSCOM) and the College of Humanities and Social Sciences (CHUMSS) organized an assessment of the English Language Curriculum for Global Competitiveness on April 24, 2023.

The event involved faculty members of the Languages Department and language teachers from the College of Education, Laboratory Schools, and CatSU Panganiban Campus.

Topics discussed included Global Language Standards, presented by Prof. Romeleen Go-Vela, Program Chair of Bachelor of Arts in English Language (BAEL); an overview of CEFR by Prof. Reashiela L. Khan, Director of ELSCOM; CEFR-Based Competencies by Prof. Francis B. Tatel, Faculty of the Languages Department, and a review of CatSU's CEFR-based English-related syllabi.

The afternoon schedule featured a workshop, presentations, and a SWOT analysis.

CatSU President, Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, graced the opening program and emphasized the importance of internalizing education at CatSU for

achieving the university's vision.

"The internalization of education at CatSU is crucial for achieving our vision for CatSU, and the Language Center plays a significant role in this process. We wanted it to be on par with global standards with those of other top universities worldwide," Dr. Azanza said.

"A notable concern in the field of Human Resources is the lack of effective communication skills. Many individuals may be skilled and intelligent, but their inability to express themselves effectively puts them at a disadvantage compared to graduates from other universities. This is what we need to address in our university," he added.

The Common European Framework of Reference for Languages, also known as CEFR, CEF, or CEFRL, serves as a standard guideline for evaluating the progress of foreign language learners throughout Europe and, increasingly, in other nations. The framework's primary purpose is to simplify the assessment of language proficiency for educational institutions and employers when considering candidates for educational admission or employment.

Additionally, the CEFR aims to

establish a universal approach to learning, teaching, and assessing that can be applied to all European languages.

"We encourage our students and faculty members to take advantage of scholarships from abroad. We will approve and support any such opportunities, as they provide valuable experiences and contribute to the overall growth of our students and our faculty members," Dr. Azanza concluded.





The **HERALD** is the official publication of Catanduanes State University which is produced by Corporate Communications Services (CCS).

The HERALD complements the multi-platform communication arm of CCS Office which utilizes print, broadcast, television, and social media, as well as the World Wide Web, in the dissemination of the different milestones, programs, projects, activities and achievements of the University, particularly on areas of Instruction, Research, Extension, Production, Governance and Management, and Student Services.

The HERALD exists to advance interest of development communication in higher education, and to provide another venue in informing, involving, and empowering the stakeholders of the Catanduanes State University.

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CatSU SWF, CHUMSS host Visual **Arts Workshop for Art Appreciation Students** by Caroline I. Vecilles

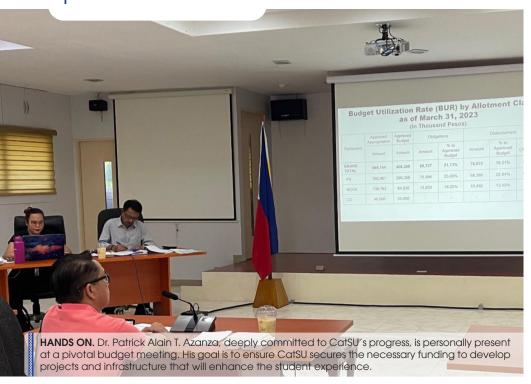


atSU's Sentro ng Wika at Kultura, in partnership with the Language Department of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, held a Visual Arts Workshop at the Accreditation Room last April 17, 2023.

The workshop aimed to teach Art Appreciation students, particularly BSEd majors in English and Math, as well as BTVTEd students, about the basics and practical applications of different elements of visual arts. Dr. Jualim Vela from the University of the Philippines, Los Bańos, was the event's speaker.

Dr. Jovert Balunsay, together with Prof. Ma. Sofia Llaguno and Prof. Jaime Amante Jr., organized the activities.

President's Corner





CatSU President Azanza: Championing Education for Catanduanes State University

by Francis John B. Templonuevo

State University atanduanes (CatSU) is the lone higher education institution serving the island province of Catanduanes, Philippines. Amidst its numerous challenges. includina infrastructural limitations, increased student enrollment, and budget constraints, the university's president, Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza has been a tireless advocate for the institution's growth and success.

In a recent Facebook post, Dr. Azanza shared the plight of CatSU as it grapples with the consequences of limited infrastructure and funding. The institution is currently facing a budget deficit of almost 54 million pesos for free tuition fees due to low allocations from Congress. Despite the pressing need for additional classrooms, the university's 85-million-peso request for repairing classrooms damaged by Typhoon Rolly remains unapproved.

Dr. Azanza acknowledges that some past university officials may have mismanaged infrastructure budgets and engaged in corrupt practices. However, he highlights that, under his leadership, the situation has changed dramatically. The university has completed 17 previously

unfinished infrastructure projects, garnering praise from the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) during a technical budget hearing.

With CatSU having an impressive track record, topping board exams in Engineering, Nursing, and Education, Dr. Azanza's commitment to the university's students is evident in his efforts to ensure their safety and learning environment. He has been resourceful in making the most of available spaces, and has even gone so far as to install benches and jazz up certain areas to create suitable learning environments.

Dr. Azanza's plea to Congress is to prioritize CatSU in the allocation of infrastructure budgets, acknowledging the university's unique position as the only higher education institution on the island. With many students unable to afford studying in the mainland due to high living expenses, CatSU remains their only option for pursuing higher education.

The passionate and dedicated leadership of Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza has made significant strides in transforming CatSU, even amidst financial and infrastructural constraints. His unrelenting efforts to advocate for a

fair and equitable allocation of budgets among State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) have not gone unnoticed. With the support of the DBM, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), and Congress, CatSU can continue to provide quality education to the residents of Catanduanes, ensuring that no student is left behind.

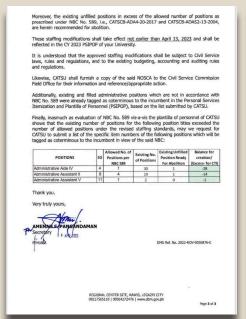
Dr. Azanza's Visionary Approach for Global Impact

One of the pressing issues faced by CatSU and many other state universities is the deficit in funding for free higher education tuition. Currently, the university's deficit is at PHP 17 million, and if left unaddressed, it is estimated to rise to PHP 54 million. In response to this challenge, Dr. Azanza and other state university presidents are actively seeking ways to secure the necessary budget allocation.

Dr. Azanza acknowledged that securing funds is a crucial part of his role as the university president. He revealed that as of now, CatSU has a total budget of close to PHP 1 billion for 2023, with a proposed budget of PHP 1.4 billion for

CatSU bolsters campus experience with transportation upgrades, 47 new job openings

■ by Francis John B. Templonuevo



atanduanes State University (CatSU) received a significant upgrade during the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) budget hearing in Legaspi City on April 18, 2023

According to CatSU President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, the university's request to purchase four busses, one SUV, and a motorcycle has been approved, with funding sourced from the institution's internally generated income.

This positive development comes as a relief to CatSU students and employees who have long desired better transportation services.

Dr. Azanza emphasized that the funds used for the purchase come from CatSU's own earnings, demonstrating

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT April 13, 2023 APR 1 4 2023 DR. PATRICK ALAIN T. AZANZA SUC President III SG No. of Position REGIONAL CENTER SITE, RAWIS, LEGAZPI CITY Page 1 of 3

the university's commitment to use its resources efficiently and effectively for the benefit of the entire community.

In addition to the transportation upgrades, the budget hearing also resulted in the approval of 47 new permanent item positions at CatSU.

Dr. Azanza stated that these positions would be filled based on meritocracy, ensuring a fair and transparent selection process without favoritism.

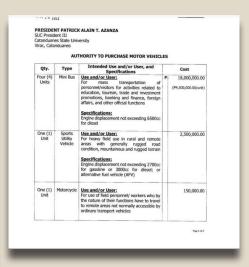
This update marks a significant step forward for Catanduanes State University as it continues to strive for academic excellence and improved experiences. With the new vehicles and job opportunities, CatSU is well on its way to becoming an even stronger pillar of education in the region.

Championing Education from page 10

2024. This increase signifies a doubling of the university's budget during his term and highlights the potential for economic growth and job generation for the island's residents.

Another significant development at CatSU is the focus on internationalization. Dr. Azanza envisions putting CatSU on the world map, enabling students and faculty to access scholarships abroad and ensuring that graduates have better job prospects globally. He emphasized that the university's internationalization efforts come at no additional cost to the institution, as he personally covers travel, hotel, and food expenses for international meetings.

Dr. Azanza's dedication to transparency and his commitment to enhancing the campus experience, expanding opportunities, and elevating CatSU's global presence serve as a testament to his visionary leadership. The president's approach has the potential to make a lasting impact on the university and the entire Catanduanes community.







POSITIONS	50	Allowed No. of Positions per NBC 589	Existing No. of Positions	Balance for creation/ (Excess-for CII)	Existing Unfilled Position Ready For Abelition	Requested for Creation	Recommendation	
							Abolition	Creatio
Accountant I		1	1	0		1.		0
Accountant II	16	2	1	1		1		1
Administrative Aide IV	4	- 1	30	-29	1 "	1	1	0
Administrative Aide VI	6	27	19			21		8
Administrative Assistant I	7	2	0	2		2		2
Administrative Assistant II	8	4	19	-15	1 .	4	1	0
Administrative Assistant III	9	6	4	2		3		2
Administrative Assistant V		1	2	-1	0	1		0
Administrative Officer I	10	7	4	3		4		3
Administrative Officer II	11	5	2	3		3		3
Administrative Officer II	14	7	1	6		6		6
Administrative Officer IV	15	5	4	1		3		1
Administrative Officer V	18	8	7	1		4		1
Board Secretary I	14	1	0	1		1		1
Executive Assistant III	20	1	0	1		1		1
Information Officer I	11	1	0	1		1		1
Information Officer II	15	1	0	1		1		1
Information Officer III	18	1	0	1		1		1
Information Systems Analyst I	12	1	0	1		1		1
Information Systems Analyst II	16	1	0	1		1		1
Information Technology Officer I	19	1.	0	1		1		1
Internal Auditor I	11	1	0	1		1		1
Internal Auditor II	15	1	0	1		1		1
Legal Assistant II	12	1	0	1		1		1
Legal Assistant III	14	1	0	1		1		1
Planning Officer I	11	1	0	1		1		1
Planning Officer II	15	1	0	1		1		1
Planning Officer II	18	1	0	1		1		1
Project Development Officer I	11	1	0	1		1		1
Project Development Officer II	15	1	0	1		1		1
Project Development Officer III	18	1	0	1		1		1
Supervising Administrative Officer	22	2	0	2		2		2
Total		96	94	2	2	74	2	47

REGIONAL CENTER SITE, RAWIS, LEGAZPI CITY



CatSU President announces distribution of 62 wheelchairs on University's 62nd Anniversary

by Francis John B. Templonuevo

atanduanes State University (CatSU) President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza announced on April 7, 2023 a partnership with Batalla Cares, led by Chairman Carlo Batalla, to distribute 62 wheelchairs to university students, employees, and other Catandunganon Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).

The distribution event is scheduled for June 19, 2023, at the CatSU Main Campus to commemorate the university's 62nd anniversary.

This partnership between CatSU and Batalla Cares aims to provide essential mobility support to those in need within the Catanduanes community.

Dr. Azanza's commitment to improving the lives of PWDs in the region reflects the university's dedication to inclusivity and social responsibility.

Ms. Viola Basinio Rodriguez from the Office of the President, and Ms. Caroline Vecilles of the Corporate Communications Services will be the main points of contact for inquiries regarding the wheelchair distribution.

Dr. Azanza encouraged everyone who knows someone in the province in dire need of a wheelchair to reach out at 09994744548 for further assistance.

Giving is not just about making a donation.

It is about making a difference.

"

Bicol Region Cooperative Development Council achieves milestone under Dr. Azanza's Leadership

by Francis John B. Templonuevo

he Bicol Region Cooperative Development Council (BRCDC) has reached a historic milestone under the leadership of its Chairman, Dr. Azanza, by opening its first bank account at LANDBANK Naga City Branch.

This significant achievement has been a dream of the BRCDC since 2008, and it has finally come to fruition under Dr. Azanza's tenure.

According to Dr. Azanza, the opening of the bank account is a tangible marker of the council's dedication and hard work. He extended his special recognition to Ms. Annielen Panerio, Ms. Ninfa Balmaceda, and Ms. Monina Bechayda, who he commended for their unwavering commitment to the council's goals.

The BRCDC Chair also extends its gratitude to the BRCDC officers, and Naga City LANDBANK Manager Aisha Rhea B. Catholico for her assistance in making this historic event possible.



CatSU President announces donation of second-hand bus from Bicol Isarog to lift Mobile University initiative

by Francis John B. Templonuevo

r. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, the President of Catanduanes State University (CatSU), shared in his Facebook post the exciting news of an upcoming donation from Bicol Isarog.

The transport company, headed by Bryan Cu, has generously offered to donate a second-hand air-conditioned bus to CatSU, set to be delivered in May 2023. The bus will be painted with the university's logo, signifying its new purpose in service of the academic community.

The donation follows a series of conversations between Dr. Azanza and Bryan Cu, in which the CatSU President expressed the university's need for additional transportation options.

This second-hand bus will complement four brand new buses that CatSU plans to acquire through internally generated funds

Dr. Azanza envisions the donated bus to function as a "Mobile University," providing capacity development opportunities for faculty, students, and employees of other agencies, including local farmers, fisher folk, and entrepreneurs across the 11 towns of Catanduanes Island.

"We will bring CatSU to them instead of waiting for them to come to CatSU campuses," Dr. Azanza said.

By bringing the university to these communities, CatSU aims to make education and skill-building more accessible to those who might not be able to visit its campuses.

The CatSU President expressed his gratitude to Catanduanes Governor Joseph "Boboy" C. Cua for facilitating the talks with Bryan Cu and to the entire Bicol Isarog team for their generous support.

This collaboration demonstrates how partnerships between the university, government, and private sectors can help create a more vibrant and inclusive educational landscape on the island.

As CatSU moves forward with its mission to serve the community, the donation from Bicol Isarog is a testament to the power of unity and cooperation in fostering growth and development in the region



President's Corner

CatSU to launch a Modern Library to elevate students' learning experience

by Caroline I. Vecilles

atanduanes State University (CatSU) President Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza has announced the launch of a modern library in the university this May.

The library, digitized and filled with learning commons, will be equipped with WiFi and connected to the Solar Farm, offering online digital resources for students, faculty, and employees. Dr. Azanza said that the new library will be fully air-conditioned and will feature the next phase that will refurbish the old connecting library to welcome new collections for Law and Medicine.

"I always wanted the CatSU University Library to be digitized and filled with learning commons where CatSU students, faculty and employees will be able to stay and use the learning resources in order to advance and create new knowledge. It is going to be a totally modern library here in CatSU." Dr. Azanza shared.

The new modern library will offer several advantages to library users. These include access to a vast collection of digital resources, such as e-books, scholarly articles, and research papers. Digitizing the library expands available learning materials and ensures that students have access to the latest information.

The digitized library also offers convenient and flexible learning, allowing students to access learning resources anytime and anywhere, and study at their own pace. Additionally, the learning commons within the library provides a space for students to collaborate, exchange ideas, and engage in group projects.

Moreover, digitized libraries come with advanced search capabilities, enabling students to quickly find relevant information, use keywords, filters, and other search features to locate specific resources, saving time and effort in their research endeavors.

The modern library also offers multimedia resources, such as videos, interactive tutorials, and multimedia presentations, which enhance the learning experience and cater to different learning styles. Digitizing library resources also helps preserve valuable materials and reduces the wear and tear on physical copies, contributing to sustainability efforts by minimizing the environmental impact associated with traditional libraries.

Dr. Azanza expressed his pride in the modern library, stating that the library, along with the new official CatSU vehicles approved for purchase, were fully funded from various internally generated funds.

With proper management and usage of funds, Dr. Azanza assured the public that it will be more beneficial to the university.







President's Corner







CatSU President announces completion of campus Infrastructure projects

by Caroline I. Vecilles

r. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, President of Catanduanes State University (CatSU), recently announced on Facebook the completion of several infrastructure projects on the campus.

Among the newly built facilities are a Grandstand located near the Oval and an Olympic-size swimming pool, complete with separate male and female quarters, equipped with benches, shower rooms, and toilets. These additions provide convenient and comfortable changing facilities for students participating in sports activities.

The Grandstand also includes two spacious rooms downstairs, offering versatile options for physical education classes, gym sessions, or other sports activities. This expansion provides students with additional indoor spaces dedicated to physical education and sports, enhancing their overall experience on campus.

Starting from the 2023-2024 academic year, swimming subjects will be included in the physical education curriculum, adding excitement among students. This addition reflects the university's commitment to offering a well-rounded education that includes a variety of physical activities.

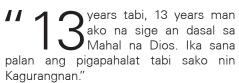
Moreover, tennis courts are now available on campus, with basketball courts and a multi-purpose hall in the pipeline.

These infrastructural developments and the inclusion of swimming subjects in the curriculum are positive steps that contribute to the holistic growth and well-being of the students at CatSU.



Turning Dreams into Reality: How Aida Taller Fulfilled Her Dreams After 13 Years

by Rochellee Jane C. Idanan



These were the sentiments of Aida M. Taller during her interview with Catanduanes State University (CatSU) President, Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza.

For 13 years, Aida had been operating the photocopying machine at the CatSU Corporate Business Operations (CBO) as a Job Order staff member. She had grown accustomed to the scent of ink and paper and the repetitive, mechanical sound of the photocopying machine inside the small stall at CBO.

This job seemed unfit for Aida, who is a graduate of Bachelor of Elementary Education and has 12 units for Master of Arts in Education, which she took at the then Catanduanes State Colleges. However, as a mother of three and the sole breadwinner of her family, she could

not risk quitting and finding a new job.

Instead, Aida remained steadfast in fulfilling her role. Throughout the years, she consistently exemplified excellent customer service, efficiency, and hard work as a Job Order staff member.

However, having spent more than a decade at the university, Aida grew apprehensive watching several colleagues receive promotions before her, while others retired without ever obtaining a permanent position. She feared the latter situation might be her fate as she approached retirement age.

Her greatest nightmare turned out to be the opposite when Dr. Azanza became the university President and meritocracy took center stage. Finally, after 13 years as a Job Order staff member, Aida now holds a permanent position in the University after ranking number 1 for the Admin Aide III position at the CBO.

She shared during her interview with Dr. Azanza that she was busy selling

dressed chicken at the CBO when she was told to report to the Office of the President. She burst into tears upon learning that her long-time dream had become a reality.

Now, Aida sits behind a computer in an air-conditioned room, a far cry from the barely-ventilated stall in the CBO where she spent 13 years of her life. However, she still possesses the same vigor, work ethic, and commitment to her job.

At 60 years old, Aida was able to achieve her dreams. She is proof that there is no timeline for fulfilling our dreams as long as we continue to strive for them. Her tenacity and efforts to achieve success are truly an inspiration to everyone.



When Hopeless Turns to Hopeful: Marjun Tugano's Journey towards a Permanent Job at CatSU

by Rochellee Jane C. Idanan



arjun Tugano had been dreaming of landing a permanent job at Catanduanes State University (CatSU) since becoming a Job Order staff in 2010.

For 12 years, he had already experienced working as a computer operator, data encoder, computer technician aide, and laboratory technician. Regardless of the roles he had to play, Marjun never ceased to display his excellent attention to detail, expertise, and precision in whatever he did.

He is a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Information Management from Catanduanes State University and had also completed a Computer Technology course at the AMA Computer Learning Center. Throughout his career, he had attended several trainings ranging from local to national levels. In 2019, Marjun passed the Civil Service Examination - Sub Professional Level.

Despite his admirable work ethic and

qualifications, Marjun remained in a Job Order contract for more than a decade due to the lack of opportunity for career advancement. The uncertainty of his work contract always troubled him, especially during times of contract renewal.

However, blessings seemed to start pouring in after he married his spouse, Jonah Dee Tugano, who is also a CatSU employee. He was recently married when his years of hard work and patience finally paid off, as he ranked number 1 among the applicants for Laboratory Technician at the College of Industrial Technology (CIT).

The CatSU President himself, Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, shared this good news in a Facebook post. Several of Marjun's colleagues, former superiors, and even casual onlookers flooded the President's post with congratulatory messages.

In an interview with Dr. Azanza, Marjun shared his inspiring story of not giving up

and even disclosed that he felt hopeless at some points but it did not stop him from pouring his heart and soul into the work he was committed to. He knew that time would come when everything would be in his favor

"Madalas na ako mawalan ng pag-asa sir, pero sabi ko sa sarili ko, laban lang. Darating din yung para sa akin," he said.

Indeed, dreams can make us both hopeful and hopeless at the same time. They can motivate us to face each day with the hope that they will finally come true. At times, dreams can also become our reason for giving up due to their uncertainty and the exhaustion from waiting for them to become a reality.

However, Marjun's story reminds us that hopelessness is a natural part of our journey toward making our dreams come true. It should not be a reason for giving up, but rather a motivation to persevere more until we reach our goal.



resilient woman and a dedicated leader - these are the words that perfectly describe the newly designated Vice President for Academic Affairs (VPAA) of Catanduanes State University (CatSU), Dr. Gemma G. Acedo.

Having devoted 20 years of her life to the university - leading the launch of some of the most important programs and projects in CatSU today, there is no question why CatSU President, Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza designated her to be the next VPAA.

The Path Toward Success

Doc Gem, as many commonly call her, started her career at CatSU in 2003. She became the Dean of the Department of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) from 2005 until 2009. Doc Gem also provided expert services and leadership as an IT officer and CATNET Administrator at the University

from 2009-2014.

With her expertise, Dr. Acedo spearheaded the creation of the Bachelor of Science in Information Systems (BSIS) where she also served as the Program Chairperson from 2014-2017. She was also one of the people behind the revision of CatSU's enrollment system and the current cashiering system.

Prior to her designation as the VPAA, she was the Dean of the College of Information and Communications Technology (CICT) and the Assistant Vice President for Research, Extension, and Production Affairs (VPREPA). Thanks to her exceptional leadership and the zealous efforts of the entire CICT faculty and staff, they were able to push through the creation of the program, Bachelor of Science in Library and Information Systems (BLIS), which will open in the next academic year.

The new VPAA is a proud alumna of CatSU from elementary to college,

where she earned a degree in Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering. After graduating, she decided to get another degree in Bachelor of Science in Computer Engineering at Adamson University. Apart from that, she is also a holder of a Diploma in Public Administration.

Doc Gem later pursued a Master's Degree in Information Systems at the University of the Philippines, Los Bańos. With her commitment to learning, she continued to pursue the highest level of education and is now a Ph.D. holder in Educational Management after graduating from CatSU. She is also a Doctor in Information Technology, which she completed at the University of Cordilleras as a K-12 CHED scholar. Currently, Doc Gem has published four research articles and is an Associate Professor V at CatSU.

Resiliency Amidst Adversity

In addition to being an exceptional continuation on page 19

Empowered Woman from page 18

leader, Doc Gem is also a supermom who withstood the challenges of being a solo mother. Her unconditional love for her family drives her to become a better person each day and overcome any adversity.

During her time as the Dean of CICT, she experienced a loss that any mother would not want to go through. She shared in an interview for National Women's Month that she came to a point where she felt the need to choose between her work and family.

"I even talked to the President, sabi ko Sir, I think I have to concentrate more on my family. Pero sabi ni Sir, dae ngaya, kaya mo ngaya an," Dr. Acedo said.

With her faith and the support of her family, Dr. Azanza, and the people around her, Doc Gem was able to stand back on her feet and move forward in life. She remained strong and stood committed to her roles as a mother and one of the leaders of the University.

"Permi kong piga isip na God has always a plan for me. Dae ako pakusugon ning Mahal na Diyos kung dae ko ini kaya ang gabos na biga agihan ko. And, pasalamat ako dahil sa gabos na mga nightmares na biga agihan ko, ang pamilya ko, special mention, dae ako biga bayaan ever since."

"I'm a strong woman, babayi kita, ipaglalaban 'ta an bilang salong ina.

Gabos na problemang biga agihan, with the help of the Lord, alam ko makakaya ko an." she added.

Leading the Academia

As the new VPAA, Dr. Acedo will take charge and assume overall responsibility for the planning, implementation, monitoring, and supervision of instruction, underscoring, among others, the requirements of ISO and AACUP accreditations, SUC leveling, and OBE. She will also be responsible for the supervision of academic programs, projects, and activities, as well as the preparation of class programs, teaching schedules, and the summary of faculty workload.

Additionally, she will be the one to review and evaluate the Individual Performance Commitment and Review (IPCR) of faculty and non-teaching staff of the advanced and higher education units and the academic support services, as well as rate the performance of Deans and Directors under the academic affairs.

Furthermore, Dr. Acedo will also serve as the Chairperson of various committees such as the Curriculum Committee, Staff Development Committee, Faculty Selection Board, PER Committee for Academic Division, Accreditation Committee, and Library Advisory

Committee. Apart from this, she will also act as a member of the Administrative and Academic Councils.

Despite everything that she has achieved and overcome, Doc Gem remains a humble and down-to-earth person. However, her modest outlook on life contrasts with her visionary aspirations for the future of CatSU under the leadership of President Azanza. She revealed in the same interview that years from now, she envisions CatSU as a metaversity, dealing with Artificial Intelligence, Virtual Reality, and the like.

"With the legacy of the President, siguro may mga Al na tayo, working with the metaversity, marami... Hopefully, with the leadership of the President, Dr. Patrick Alain T. Azanza, siguro ganun na tayo after 5 years," Dr. Acedo said.

The resilience and dedication of Dr. Acedo as a mother and a leader are indescribable beyond words. Her journey exemplifies how tenacious a woman, mother, and leader can be in the face of adversity. How she can rise above and beyond life's greatest challenges serves as an inspiration for everyone to remain unyielding in whatever life may throw at us. Her outpouring passion to serve, visionary outlook, and compassionate and resilient heart are indeed the qualities of a leader that will lead CatSU's academia to the global forefront.

by Caroline I. Vecilles | Rochellee Jane C. Idanan

CIT holds Seminar on Youth Empowerment, Marketing, Branding, Networking

The College of Information and Communications Technology (CICT), led by its Dean, Prof. Emmie T. Delluza, held a Seminar on Youth Empowerment, Marketing and Branding, and Networking at the university auditorium on April 17, 2023.

The seminar was attended by students from the college, as well as attendees from other colleges, particularly Computer Engineering students from the College of Engineering and Architecture (CEA). The aim of the seminar was to provide students with the necessary skills to succeed in the ever-evolving world of information technology.

The seminar was also conducted simultaneously via Zoom, with Mr. John Jacob Glenn Jansalin as the resource speaker, who discussed "Next-Generation Network Security:

Innovations, Challenges, and Solutions".

Onsite speakers included Mr. Ronnie Dizon Sodusta, who shared his expertise on "Using Emerging Technologies to Empower Youth Leadership and Volunteerism", and Mr. Mark Vincent Enriquez, who gave valuable information on "Marketing and Branding as an IT Professional".

Dr. Gemma A. Acedo, the Vice President for Academic Affairs, gave an inspirational message, emphasizing the importance of training seminars that equip students with knowledge beyond what is learned in the classroom.

Dean Delluza provided closing remarks, commending the faculty and staff of CIT, as well as Ms. Mae Ezra Abundo, the Director of Information Technology Services, for the success of the activity.





CHS students celebrate 'Celestial Ascendance' at CHS Fest

The Catanduanes State University (CatSU) College of Health and Sciences (CHS) celebrated its Golden Year by hosting the highly anticipated CHS Fest last April 19-20, 2023. The event's theme, "Celestial Ascendance: CHS Achieving Greatness Amidst Diversity, Honing the Vision of Elements with Tenacity, Leadership, and Competence," featured a celestial journey inspired by the popular game Genshin Impact.

The CHS students, including those from Bachelor of Science in Nursing (BSN) and Bachelor of Science in Nutrition and Dietetics (BSND), were divided into 25 guilds, each corresponding to an element, to venture through the challenges of the fantasy world Teyvat. The two-day event included the Great Teyvat Adventure and several academic contests, including the Bed-Making contest, Pharma Drug Song contest, Table Skirting contest, and an essay writing competition.

The students also attended a Mental Health Symposium and cheered for their bets during the Mr. and Ms. CHS Celestial 2023 competition.

The CHS Fest aims to provide a breathing space for students from their academic endeavors while celebrating diversity, friendship, and knowledge.

Panganiban Campus for extension services together with the FCSC Adviser, Mr. Glenn Paul R. Lopez, OSADS Director, Prof. John Cyrus B. Francis, DICT OIC Provincial Officer, Mr. Mario Gonzales, staff from Corporate Communications Office,

and intern CatSU students at DICT.

They turned over a tablet to a CatSU PC student and a brand new printer to the CatSU PC SBO, which will aid in their academic and administrative tasks. The FCSC also held a consultative meeting with the SBO to discuss their issues and concerns, suggesting remedies and solutions to the given problems, and assisted with simcard registration process.

This visit demonstrated the FCSC's commitment to supporting and assisting students in their academic pursuits and fostering a collaborative approach to addressing issues.



ATIC-DOST

Catanduanes State University (CatSU) officials extended a warm welcome to Dr. Bernardo N. Sepeda, Executive Director of the Department of Science and Technology-National Research Council of the Philippines (DOST-NRCP), and his team during a recent meeting held at the university's Conference Room.

Engr. Mary Grace T. Molina, the head of DOST-Catanduanes, also greeted the visiting delegation.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss potential project collaborations between NRCP and CatSU, with a focus on supporting DOST-Catanduanes, especially in the field of abaca research and development.

CHS Enhancement Class

In preparation for the forthcoming Nurse Licensure Examination (NLE), the Catanduanes State University (CatSU) College of Health Sciences (CHS) conducted an enhancement and review classes for the junior and senior nursing students on April 25, 2023.

Led by its Dean, Joel T. Olfindo, and the Program Chairperson, Maria Alma V. Tabirara, the College invited several esteemed medical and nursing experts to ensure that the students are well-equipped with knowledge for the licensure examination.

Dr. Jocelyn LL. Jordan, Mr. Charles Andrew Hoar, and Dr. Efren G. Clarianes served as the resource speakers for the whole day event.









CatSU
named as
one of the
Best 100
Universities
in the
Philippines
by Edurank.
org 2023

TOP 100 Best

Universities in the Philippines

ACCORDING TO EDURANK.ORG (2023)

(f) (7) /KolehiyoUpdates (2) kolehiyo.updates@gmail.com

Catanduanes State University (CatSU) has been named as one of the 100 Best Universities in the Philippines, based on the independent ranking of EduRank.org 2023.

Dr. Patrick Azanza, the CatSU President, announced this news on his Facebook account. According to him, there are currently 2,300 colleges and universities listed under CHED in the Philippines, including both public and private universities.

Dr. Azanza said that the university will continue to strive for a higher world ranking as CatSU is currently ranked 4,067th in Asia and 10,157th in the world, out of all the ranked universities from 183 countries.

He also stated that this is an important milestone for Catanduanes State University, since the university was not included in the world ranking of universities before.

Dr. Azanza added that the university's focus is to put CatSU on the world map as a quality and excellent university, which will make their graduates highly employable anywhere in the world

"Baby step ito kumbaga. Pero nakakaproud pa rin. Ang focus natin ay ilagay ang CATSU sa world map para makilala bilang isang quality and excellent university nang sa gayon maging highly employable ang ating mga graduates saan mang bahagi ng mundo," Azanza said.

Dr. Azanza also assured the stakeholders of CatSU that the university will continue to improve its standing in various world university rankings, as his administration remains focused on its internationalization program.

EduRank.org is an independent metric-based ranking of 14,131 universities from 183 countries. It uses a proprietary database with an index of 44,909,300 scientific publications and 1,237,541,960 citations to rank universities across 246 research topics. They also include non-academic prominence and alumni popularity indicators. The only selection criterion for inclusion in the ranking is the issuance of bachelor's degrees and above or analogs with 4+ years of study.

CatSU's inclusion in the top 100 best universities in the Philippines was based on research outputs, non-academic prominence, and alumni influence. EduRank.org analyzed 373K citations received by 30.4K academic publications made by 229 universities from the Philippines, the popularity of 889 recognized alumni, and the largest reference database available.

100. Catanduanes State University

Virac

#4067 in Asia

#10157 in the World





To the Dean, faculty, staff, and students of the Catanduanes State University College of Engineering and **Architechture (CEA)** for attaining another commendable passing rate in the recent licensure examination given by the **Board of** Civil Engineering of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) this April, 2022.

Institutional Passing Rate: 48.72 %(38/78)

National Passing Rate: 34.76% (5,887 out of 16,936)

Here are the newly-licensed Civil Engineers

1) AGNES Marchiel Alwin U 2) ALBERTO, Mary Ellen B 3) ARROGANTE, Edelmar

4) BALMADRID, Benjo C. 5) BALDOMERO, Lawrence T 6) BALUTE, Eddie Boy S. 7) BAYOS, Lester V.

8. BRUSOLA, Andrew Louise R. 9) CASTILLA, Mark Nesky A 10) DEL VALLE, John Paul S. 11) DORADO, Jannie Lyn S. 12) GARCIA, Marilou T.

13) IMPERIO, Keith Andre Chloe T. 14) MAGNO, Harold G. 15) MANLANGIT, Arnel P. 16) MEDINA, Adriane G. 17) OCRAY, Christian S.

18) ODIAMAN, Franz Jomar T. 19) PROLLES, King Resam T.

20) SABENIANO Melvin I

21) SALVADOR, Lawrence Manuel A. 22) SAN JUAN, Mark Nichol C.

23) SAPICO, Ma. Ruby E. 24) SARMIENTO, Jon Kyle M.

25) TAPIA, Kayceelyn M 26) TAPIA, Marielle P. 27) TAPIT, Liezel T. 28) TAROY, Derek R.

29) TAYAMORA, Kyle Sam H. 30) TOMAGAN, Charrie Mae T. 31) TOMAGAN, Jericho D. 32) TORILLOS, Catherine P.

33) TUBORO, Jimboy C. 34) VARGAS, John Carlo T. 35) VILLAFLOR, Camille C. 36) YUGA, Ma, Regina E

37) YUGA, Paul Nicko T. 38) ZUNIEGA, Jay Al G.

Thank you for bringing another laurel to our beloved University!

ongratulations to the Dean, Faculty, staff, and students of the Catanduanes State University - College of Engineering and Architecture (CEA) for attaining another commendable passing rate in the recent licensure examination given by the Board of Civil Engineering of the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) this April, 2022.

Institutional Passing Rate: 48.72% (38/78) **National Passing Rate:** 34.76% (5,887 out of 16,936)

Thank you for bringing another laurel to our beloved **University!**

o all incoming first-year college applicants of CatSU:

We are pleased to inform you that the Google Form links for the submission of requirements have been updated. Kindly use the following links for your respective municipalities:

For applicants from Viga Campus: https://forms.gle/tYtFRenLVdqzEUXQ6 For applicants from Caramoran Campus: https://forms.gle/kZahYGkKnQe3Msoi9 For applicants from Virac Campus: (New) https://forms.gle/B3ksKmr62ooJKq6P9 For college applicants outside Catanduanes: https://forms.gle/3V9p5gfNLpFG37v39

Please take note that the Guidance, Counseling, and Testing Office (GCTO) will notify you of the date of examination via text message using the numbers you provided in the application form.

We would like to clarify that the submission of the application form does not automatically mean that you have been admitted to CatSU. You will still need to undergo the proper procedures and pass the requirements of the university.

Should you have any questions or clarifications, please do not hesitate to contact the GCTO through the following contact details:

Facebook: CatSU Guidance Email: gcto@catsu.edu.ph

Contact Numbers:

Globe: (0927) 565-7132 Smart: (0999) 835-4506

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.



GCTO CONTACT INFORMATION

(0927) 565-7132

(0999) 835-4506

CatSU Guidance FB page