

# HERALD

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**LEPT TOP 8.** Kharlos Miguel T. Bautista, who ranked 8th in the Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers (LEPT) in 2024, delivered his message to fellow newly licensed teachers during the EduKahusayan event on December 22, 2024.

## CatSU LEPT topnotcher dedicates feat to his 'first teacher', his late mother

Albert G. Clemente

Though often associated with bad luck, for Kharlos Miguel T. Bautista, Friday the 13th last December 2024 was his lucky day. It was the day the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) announced he ranked 8th among 48,875 passers in the secondary level of the Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers (LEPT).

"It feels surreal that I am finally one with my dreams"

Bautista said during his speech at EduKahusayan event on December 22, 2024, recalling how he celebrated the news with his father and siblings — crying and jumping together.

With a 93.00% rating, the Catanduanes State University (CatSU) cum laude graduate dedicated his success to his "first teacher," his late mother, who taught him to read and write.

"She's always been there for my wins and losses," he said, admitting to himself that he was not a 'hundred percent happy' despite his achievement knowing that her mother is not physically present to celebrate with him.

However, he believed that his mother was proudly looking down on him at that moment—not just for passing but for topping the board exam—and for fulfilling their long-held dream of

him becoming a teacher, a goal he had cherished since childhood.

A valedictorian at Gogon Elementary School and a Science, Technology, and Engineering (STE) program graduate of Catanduanes National High School, Bautista earned his degree in secondary education major in Science at CatSU as a DOST scholar.

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# CatSU Nursing Exam Topnotcher: Anything is possible if you put your mind into it

Albert G. Clemente

"I always tell myself that it's either I top this exam or I fail it. There's no in-between. This achievement has taught me that anything is possible if you put your mind into it," shared Mikael Angelo Rabino Romero, Catanduanes State University's (CatSU) lone topnotcher, who secured the 10th spot in the November 2024 Philippine Nurses Licensure Examination.

With a rating of 90.60%, the Viracnon topnotcher shared the challenges he faced during his preparation, including unexpected hurdles that tested his resilience.

"One unexpected challenge was when our review center shifted to online classes due to flooding in Quezon City. When it happened, I relied on the study habits I developed during the COVID-19 lockdown. I paced my studies and ensured I had enough time for myself," Romero explained.

The CatSU grad topnotcher completed his elementary education at Virac Pilot Elementary School and graduated from Catanduanes National High

School. His father hails from Virac, while his mother is from Batangas.

When asked about his motivation for pursuing a career in nursing, the son of engineer parents emphasized his sense of duty to the people around him. He credited the influence and support of his family and community for helping him overcome daily challenges.

Looking ahead, Romero plans to pursue medical school. In the meantime, he is dedicating himself to bedside care and teaching.

As he aspires to become a doctor, he lives by his guiding principle: "Take one step at a time. Failure is the end only if you stop trying."

Romero is one of the 29,349 passers out of 34,534 examinees in the November 2024 board exam, where the University achieved an outstanding 96.32% passing rate for first-time takers and a 92.36% overall performance rating, surpassing the national passing rate of 84.99%.

**PNLE TOP 10.** Mikael Angelo Rabino Romero is the only topnotcher from Catanduanes State University (CatSU), having secured the 10th spot in the November 2024 Philippine Nurses Licensure Examination.



**PNLE PASSERS.** The passers of the November 2024 Philippine Nurses Licensure Examination, along with the board topnotcher, paid a courtesy visit to the university officials.

# CatSU Celebrates 274 LET Passers in Grand EduKahusayan Event

Mack Neil T. Vital

Catanduanes State University (CatSU) marked an extraordinary milestone on December 22, 2024, as it celebrated the achievements of 274 passers of the Licensure Examination for Teachers (LET) during the EduKahusayan event at the CatSU Auditorium. This landmark event highlighted the university community's pride and gratitude for its new batch of licensed professionals.

The celebration commenced with a Thanksgiving Mass at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral, where prayers of gratitude were offered for the success of the examinees. A jubilant motorcade through downtown Virac followed, with the passers, their families, and the university community filling the streets with pride and celebration, culminating at the CatSU Auditorium.

Dr. Maria Shiela R. Gregorio, Dean of the College of Education, warmly welcomed the attendees and congratulated the passers for

their hard work and perseverance. "You are the bearers of hope and change. Let your passion for teaching inspire generations to come," she remarked, setting an inspiring tone for the event.

Atty. Septon A. de la Cruz, CatSU's Officer-in-Charge, delivered a compelling keynote address, drawing parallels between the journey to licensure and the process of writing a lesson log—meticulously planned, filled with anticipation, and designed to make a lasting impact. Recognizing the realities of teaching, Atty. de la Cruz reminded the new educators that their profession goes beyond material rewards or comfort. "Teaching is not about earning six-digit salaries or working in air-conditioned offices. It is about touching lives, guarding the core values, and inspiring change," he emphasized. "Your work may not always come with recognition or material rewards, but it carries the eternal impact of shaping futures and building nations."



**EDUKAHUSAYAN.** Newly licensed teachers from the College of Education attended a thanksgiving mass at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral and then had a courtesy visit at the university afterwards.



During his speech, Atty. de la Cruz also acknowledged the notable achievements of the Topnotchers, the Vice Presidents, the Dean of the College of Education, and all LET passers, celebrating their collective success in surpassing the national passing rate. He further highlighted the contributions of the university's Paggiya seminar series in equipping examinees with the tools to excel.

A centerpiece of the event was the inspirational address by Mr. Kharlos Miguel T. Bautista, who placed 8th nationwide with an impressive 93.00% rating. Bautista's speech resonated deeply with the audience as he candidly shared his struggles with self-doubt and anxiety, recounting how he persevered to achieve a dream nurtured since childhood. "To my fellow passers, let us embrace the privilege of shaping young minds. As educators, we are entrusted with the responsibility to ignite curiosity and instill values," he urged. His heartfelt dedication of

his success to his late mother and gratitude to his mentors, family, and friends left many inspired and hopeful.

The event culminated in the recognition of the 274 LET passers, comprising 64 from the Elementary Education program and 210 from the Secondary Education program across CatSU's Main and Panganiban campuses. With their outstanding performances, these newly licensed teachers exemplified excellence and commitment to their chosen profession.

CatSU's EduKahusayan event underscored the university's unwavering dedication to fostering quality education and producing professionals who are ready to illuminate the nation's future. It was a day of celebration, reflection, and a renewed commitment to the transformative power of education.



**HONORING 2024 LEPT PASSERS.** To recognize the commendable passing rate of the passers of the September 2024 Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers (LEPT), the Catanduanes State University College of Education conducted the Edukahusayan event in December 2022.

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**FAMILY PRIDE.** Kharlos Miguel T. Bautista, who ranked 8th in the Licensure Examination for Professional Teachers, posed with his family during the Edukahunusayan event.

Despite challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, he excelled in both distance and face-to-face learning for four years as a consistent dean's list.

At the start, Bautista did not aim to top the board exam. However, after losing in a national quiz competition organized by Carl Balita Review Center, he vowed to redeem himself.

"Babawi ako sa board exam, magkikita-kita kami ulit, doon ang tunay na laban," he expressed.

Secretly setting his sights on the top to avoid external pressure, he intensified his preparation, including daily drills, flashcards, and studying late at night.

A pre-board exam ranking of 3rd in the Bicol region and inspiration from a friend who ranked 10th in the nursing board exam further fueled his aspiration to top the board exam.

Sharing tips during review, the topnotcher said that 'distractions' had no place, describing his focused routine of reviewing complex

concepts in physics and professional education.

"No distractions during review, nakatago ang cellphone sa drawer, nakaharap sa reviewer and laptop. Minsan inaabot ng 2AM sa pag-review especially sa majorship, mahihirap na concepts, and problem solving sa physics," Bautista explained, allocating more time in Professional Education and Majorship, since both equally contributed 80% in the overall rating.

His disciplined approach paid off, but he emphasized that success isn't just about recognition.

For Bautista, being a topnotcher is not just about recognition, rewards, and incentives: this is God's way to inspire and help more people, to serve our countrymen, to teach the students, to shape young minds, and to inspire them to dream and help them to reach their utmost potential.

For those aspiring to become topnotcher, his message was 'dreaming big is the first step, but dedication, perseverance, and faith will take you further that you can't imagine'

"The journey won't be easy, sleepless nights, breakdowns,

and doubts. Believe in your capabilities. You want to pass the board exam? Exert efforts, and be consistent. You want to top the board exam? Double your efforts, and be consistent," he shared.

Bautista expressed gratitude to CatSU for fostering a supportive learning environment and thanked his family, comparing their influence to a beautiful melody in his life.

In fact, CatSU produced 274 passers in the September 2024 LEPT, including 64 in elementary education and 210 in secondary education, continuing its tradition of surpassing the national average.

"Keep your eyes on the stars and your feet on the ground," he advised, urging aspiring educators to balance effort with rest and trust in God's timing.



# CHUMSS ACOs project earns international recognition from WURI for upholding global resilience

Albert G. Clemente



Launched in September 2023, the CHUMSS: ACOs Project reflects the university's drive to community development and sustainable livelihoods.

According to CHUMSS faculty member, Ricardo Arcilla Jr., who is also the brainchild of the project, the program supported four ACOs, benefiting 106 members through training and resources to promote self-sufficiency.

The college also partnered with TESDA-CSHCI and the Local Government Unit of Bagamanoc to strengthen the project's impact.

followed by Sustainable Livelihood Projects and Income-Generating Projects (IGPs), wherein ACOs are guided in creating proposals that align with community needs and available funding opportunities.

Another one is Team Building and Leadership Training. This aspect strengthens community cohesion and develops leadership skills through collaborative activities and training sessions.

The last component is ACOs Community Outreach, addressing both immediate and long-term recovery needs in times of disasters.

CHUMSS ACOs focuses on five key components. First is Capacity Building, equipping ACO members with essential skills in organizational management, financial literacy, and leadership. The second one is Technical Skills Development, where the members receive specialized training in food production and service industries,

On December 4, CHUMSS faculty and students organized an outreach activity to help their adopted organizations recover from the Super Typhoon Pepito's devastating effects, distributing generator sets funded by CHUMSS faculty and sacks of rice provided by the Provincial Social Welfare and Development Office (PSWDO).

**BEYOND BORDERS.** The College of Humanities and Social Sciences conducts an extension activity called the ACOs project, which benefits 166 members.

Community's Hope for the Unemployed and Marginalized Sector of Society: Adopted Community Organizations Extension Services (CHUMSS: ACOs) project, led by the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, was recognized as Rank 26 under the A8 category: Support for Global Resilience at the World University Rankings for Innovation (WURI).

WURI is one of three Commission on Higher Education's (CHED) recognized ranking systems for higher education institution internationalization, such as the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS World, Asia, and Stars), and Times Higher Education (THE World, Asia, and Impact Rankings).

It evaluates and ranks top universities around the world for the institution's real contributions to industry and society.



College of Humanities and Social Sciences



College of Humanities and Social Sciences

**ACOS BENEFICIARIES.** The beneficiaries of the ACOS project participated in a photo opportunity with the extensionists from the College of Humanities and Social Sciences during their extension activity.

# Guiding the efforts, continuing the success: OVPREPA holds three-day operational planning workshop

Albert G. Clemente

To guide the efforts and ensure the continued success of the university in research and extension, the Office of the Vice President for Research, Extension, and Production Affairs (OVPREPA), led by Dr. Rosana S. Abundo, organized a three-day Research, Development, and Extension (RD&E) Planning Workshop and Stakeholders' Forum for Calendar Year 2025 on December 12-14, 2024.

"This meeting marks a significant milestone in our journey towards fostering knowledge, driving innovation, and making a tangible impact in our community," Dr. Abundo expressed in the event that brought together government agencies, stakeholders, and university faculty.

The Vice President also briefed other stakeholders on the mandates of her office, emphasizing its role in promoting research excellence and sustainable development.

Dr. Abundo enumerated the offices under the OVPREPA, including the University Intellectual Property Rights

and Commercialization (UIPRC) Office, the Abaca Technology Innovation Center (ATIC), Center for Catandungan Heritage, and the Center for Culture and Arts.

"These centers, working collaboratively and translating research findings into practical solutions, contribute to the economic well-being of the institution and the community," she added.

She likewise stressed the importance of bridging the gap between the academe and real-world applications through extension programs and innovation initiatives, aiming to nurture creativity and a culture of experimentation.

"As we delve into the intricacies of our operational plan, let us keep in mind the goal of our institution and the province – to be a catalyst of progress and a beacon of excellence," Dr. Abundo concluded.

The workshop featured presentations from representatives of various government agencies, such as Provincial Agricultural Services, DOST-Provincial Science



**INSIGHTS.** Dr. Rosana S. Abundo, Vice President for Research, Extension, and Production Affairs, delivers the opening remarks at the three-day operational planning workshop.

and Technology Center, Department of Trade and Industry-Catanduanes, Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Catanduanes, and Philippine Fiber Industry Development Authority (PhilFIDA) Regional Office V.

Director of Research and Development Services Dr. Jose Z. Tria provided the overview of activities of the three-day event, featuring different discussions.

The final day featured the

presentation of preparatory phase outputs and college extension agenda operational plans by extension coordinators.

The event, themed "Empowering Innovations and Community Impact: Navigating the Future of the Province Through RD&E," was held at the E-Crown Hotel and Resort in San Vicente, Virac, Catanduanes.

# CIT Project GREATS boosts solar-powered lighting in Cagraray, Bato

Albert G. Clemente

The College of Industrial Technology launched Project GREATS, an extension service aimed at enhancing the lighting systems of marginalized households in Cagraray, Bato.

Led by Extension Coordinator Jade Jean P. Uchi, the two-day initiative, held on December

14-15, provided participants with foundational skills in DC house wiring installation, solar-powered lighting, and electrical safety.

During the event, residents learned about basic house wiring, electrical components, protective devices, and proper use of VOM testers.

The program aims to improve local infrastructure while empowering communities with knowledge of sustainable energy solutions.

Looking ahead, the College plans to secure partners to supply the basic materials needed for installation, with a focus on creating income-

generating opportunities for the community.

This research-based initiative will run for three years, with an evaluation at the end to determine its potential for expansion to other areas.

# CatSU PESO manager named as Bicol's Most Outstanding Job Placement Officer by DOLE

Anjo G. Tugay

The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) - Bicol recognized Prof. Maricel S. Cariaso, the Public Employment Service Office (PESO) Manager and Alumni Relations Officer of Catanduanes State University (CatSU), as the Most Outstanding Job Placement Officer.

Prof. Cariaso received the award during the 2024 PESO Year-End

Performance Assessment held at Marilyn L. Luzuriaga (TSSD Villa Caceres Hotel in Naga City, Chief), Engr. Julie C. Manalang Camarines Sur on December 4, (Senior LEO, DOLE Catanduanes Provincial Office), Imelda F. Gatinao by PESO managers and Job (Regional Director, DOLE Bicol), Placement Officers (JPO) from Eduardo C. Lovedorlal (DOLE Catanduanes Provincial Head), Imelda E. Romanillos (Assistant Regional Director, DOLE Bicol), and Ryan Roberto E. Delos Reyes (Senior LEO, DOLE NCR).

Joining Prof. Cariaso on stage during the awarding were Robert Andrei L. Cimbracruz (LEO III, Bureau of Local Employment),



**OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE.** Manager of the Public Employment Service Office (PESO) and Alumni Relations Officer Maricel S. Cariaso of Catanduanes State University was recognized as the Most Outstanding Job Placement Officer by the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) - Bicol in 2024.



## HERALD

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

The **HERALD** complements the multi-platform communication arm of CCMS Office which utilizes print, radio broadcasting, 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 the 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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