

Inquest for University Status College calls for Stakeholders' Forum

by Strawberry Anne Descallar
Data Source: Dr. Marilou M. Abatayo

Pursuant to the mission of higher education institutions in providing quality, excellent and relevant instructions, Northwestern Mindanao State College of Science and Technology, Labuyo, Tangub City held a stakeholders' forum to gather insights and expertise for the college's improvement.

The general forum carried out on February 26, 2020 at Old NMSCST Gymnasium for the purpose of synchronizing the program curricula of the college in preparation for its conversion to a university.

"Stakeholders play an indispensable role in the planning, and in the implementation of programs and activities of every academic institution," Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Marilou M. Abatayo stated.

Dr. Abatayo added that there must be a strong collaboration and harmonious relationship with the stakeholders as each of them can contribute for the development, successful implementation and realization of the college programs

Internal stakeholders compose of students, faculty, staff and the college administration along with the external stakeholders from the community like the parents, alumni, barangay officials, Provincial and Local Government Units headed by the province governor, Philip D. Tan and the city mayor, Dr. Jennifer Wee Tan, DOST, NEDA, CHED and other government agencies, NGOs and some partner industries and agencies of the college participated the

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NEWSLETTER | AUGUST 2020

THE OFFICIAL COLLEGE PUBLICATION OF NORTHWESTERN MINDANAO STATE COLLEGE OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
Labuyo, Tangub City



Meilgreg Opeña

On its Light... NMSCST sets forth for University Title

by Strawberry Anne Descallar (Data Source: Richy A. Tagbacaula, Prof Dainel D. Lingamay)

Northwestern Mindanao State College of Science and Technology expects to acquire its quest for university status in a span of two to six years, considering the result of the first Commission on Higher Education (CHED) Evaluation on its application for the university title.

Despite difficulties due to the ongoing pandemic, the CHED evaluation took place via first ever virtual platform on July 23-25, 2020 after months of delays and preparations with the purpose of discerning the progress and knowing what needs to be done to secure the title.

Based on the criteria set by CHED to accomplish in becoming a university, the college needs to meet certain numbers, products, partnerships and titles on the areas laid down;

1. Enrollment
2. Programs
3. Research
4. Learning Resources
5. Support Structures
6. Linkages
7. Outreach / Extension

As to the broad range of the criteria, the college aims to comply and fo-

cus on the three major areas to at least reach the minimum requirements.

"The college needs at least six graduate programs which should be vertically articulated from the undergraduate; it should have at least level III even one graduate program," Planning Officer, Mr. Richly Tagbacaula stated via SMS. He also added that, 'it will take minimum of two years to a maximum of six years to be able to reach this parameter;

"Second, would be the library holdings in which the school should have minimum of 20,000 volumes of books to qualify for university relative to library resources," According to him, the college have less than 7,000 in the moment however, these books for library holding can be acquired immediately unlike the first parameter that will take

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Errata

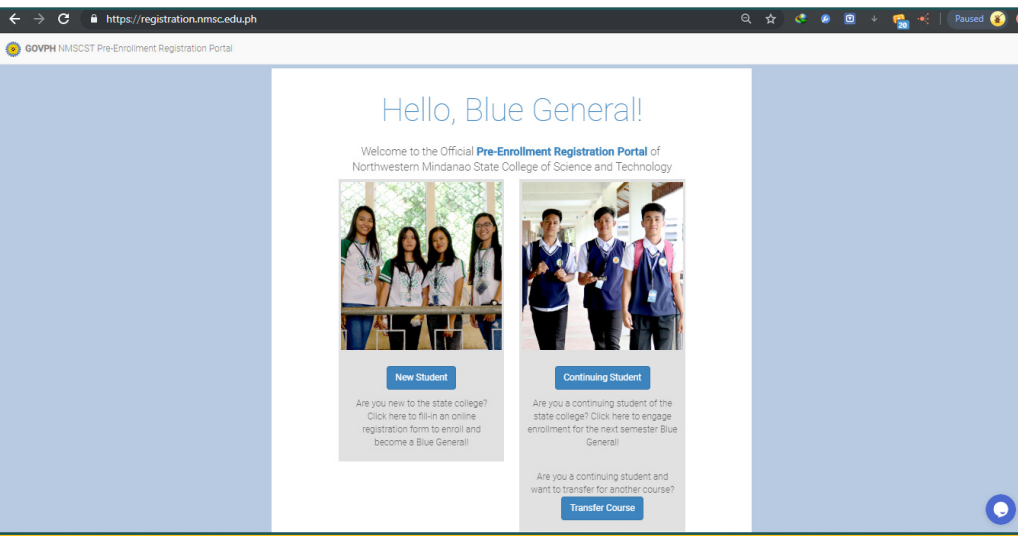
The committee on Publication humbly apologizes for any inadvertent omission or errors that may have occurred during the production in the first online release.

For articles submitted which nowhere to find...
WE ARE VERY SORRY!.... We ran out of space. We will try to publish on our next issue.

-IPS



Divine Christy Cayuna



NMSCST GOES ONLINE

Students approve ORAE

by Strawberry Anne Descallar

Students hail Online Registration and Admission Exam (ORAE) as the institution adapts online technology to serve quality education despite the inevitable effects of the current crisis – COVID 19.

Online RAE is also systematized apropos prioritizing medical precautions for the virus in anticipation to avoid further contagion in the process. "It is the discretion of the college in response to COVID 19," college president, Herbert Glenn P. Reyes stated in a brief interview.

With the application of the ORAE system, new students, transferes and returnees can directly register and take the entrance exam for enrollment within the comforts of their homes through the use of internet far from being in risk of the virus

The system also allows students to continue following the government's protocols and precautionary measures in accordance to the crisis guidelines.

Presented here are the step by step process of the Online Registration and Admission Exam:

Step 1: Log in to "registration.nmsc.edu.ph" and choose the 'New Student' button.

Step 2: Provide necessary information required.

This is the pre-enrollment form wherein the system will ask the student to fill out information about the admission status, personal information, family background, educational background, boarding house details and emergency contact details.

Step 3: After providing the information, click the 'submit' button.

After clicking, the student will be notified whenever the registration is already successfully submitted.

Step 4: Take the Admission Examination.

The site will jump to another page where the student can directly click the word, 'Admission Exam' to proceed.

Step 5:

Click the 'next' button to start answering.

Examination directions will be shown in the screen. Students are to answer the randomly arranged questions and an essay within 30 minutes. It is recommended to answer immediately after the questions are presented as time also starts directly.

Step 6:

Wait for a call from the representative of the school for confirmation of your desired course.

After taking the exam, the site will confirm the registration. With the final step, it is suggested that the students' communication line be remained open in order for the school representative to contact anytime regarding the enrollment updates.

"Online Registration and Admission is indeed an anti-COVID - 19 procedure of the college as it eliminates the fear of getting sick as well and the obligation to physically approach the institution where falling in long lines that takes up the whole process just to register and take the admission exam," Director of Public Relations, Marketing and Promotions Officer, Dionalyn S. Guarnacion stressed.

She also added that through this college online registration, "The ORAE speeds up the overall enrollment process of the institution as new student's information acquired from the pre-enrollment process is already computerized which can be directly enrolled in the college system."

As of the moment, the site is free to visit for all new students who wish to register and become a blue general.

For queries and more detailed information about the online registration and admission exam, the official facebook page of Northwestern Mindanao State College of Science and Technology is open and ready to serve.

Blue Generals back 'new normal' Enrollment Setup

by Rea Elemento

In accordance to the implementation of the 'New Normal' setup, Northwestern Mindanao State College of Science and Technology opted to administer the enrollment for the school year 2020-2021 via online platform.

This 'new normal' Enrolment Setup is NMSCST's way of mitigating potential risks and to safeguards students' health against COVID-19 pandemic spread.

Posted on the NMSCST official Facebook Page were the organized scheduled enrolment dates for students in every year level to follow through.

Blue Generals and aspirants will enter the link registration.nmsc.edu.ph where an options of new/continuing will be chosen. New students will have to take the admission test before proceeding to the enrolment. However, continuing students will be directed to enrolment by entering their school ID and password then add the subjects offered for the term.

The confirmation of successful enrolments for new students will be a phone call while old students will receive QR code at the end of the enrolment process which must be screenshot as thier evidence of enrolling.

Though enrollment is processed online, Certificate of Registration (COR) together with the subjects' instructional materials (IM's) will be given on a specified scheduled dates at NMSCST strategic drop post.

Students with incomplete (INC) grades last first semester of S.Y. 2019-2020, will be given extension to comply the incomplete requirements until December 2020 only. While for the INC during the 2nd semester, extension is up to May 2021.

Depending on the flow and status of current crisis, tentative schedule for the opening of classes is set on September 01, 2020.



Flexible Learning Mode ensures quality education

by Rea Elemento

Regardless of the challenge of the delivery mode due to the new normal setup, Northwestern Mindanao State College of Science and Technology guarantees to provide quality education to the students clientfelled and stakeholders.

With the approval of the Board of Trustees (BOT), the college will implement trimestral classes for this academic year with enforced flexible learning system.

"It is approved, we are now in trimestral and we are delivering it in blended mode, depending on the city's declaration," college president, Dr. Herbert Glenn P. Reyes announced. He said that, if the city will declare to have 'face to face' then the college will abide by it and if it will be in blended mode then the college already has its approval from the BOT.

Blended mode is a combination of face to face, online and modular learning delivery with specific structuralized method. With the nature of the system, the college prepared several ways on how to deliver the instructions to the students in a blended mode. Dr. Reyes mentioned that possible online classes will have flexible learning management system wherein teachers will be trained for proper delivery. All students will have their individual manuals that consist of all the instructions.

For queries, the students are advised to contact /reach out to their instructors via chat, email, text messages or phone call.

Those subjects that involve actual demo and laboratory experiments, the students will report to the school on organized scheduled dates with proper observance on minimum health standards.

Meanwhile, for possible face to face class sessions, the class will be divided into groups where students and instructors will implement precautionary measures to contain COVID while the discussion is ongoing.

"We will try our best to really still produce quality education despite the challenge of delivery," Dr. Reyes stressed.

New normal setup will be a challenge but the president emphasized that no student will be left behind.

"The new normal is a challenge for all of us, and let's not forget that we are being given the task to provide the quality education despite of everything, so that's why, be innovative, be creative, be inventive in the approaches in the delivery of instructions," Dr. Reyes stated, directing it to the college's faculty and staff.

Dr. Reyes also encouraged the students to continue to and open their communication lines and talk to their instructors. He also added that planning ahead is advised for the students to address their problems with regard to the new normal setup. Hence, the detailed instructions about the new method of NMSCST will be explained further on the face to face orientation before the official start of the classes.

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Inquest for University Status...

said event.

The inputs of the stakeholders for the enhancement of the curriculum, programs and instructions of the college are essentials to meet the academe-industry standards.

"They are the representatives from the various sectors of the society and they can demand for the alignment of skills, competencies, abilities and other positive attributes of our graduates who will be their agency prospective employee", Dr. Abatayo stressed.

During the general forum, the college president, Dr. Herbert Glenn P. Reyes also presented the new vision and mission of the college along with the updates regarding the actions of the college toward acquiring the university title.

"We are moving ahead with changes in the entire college to become a university," Dr. Reyes said.

According to him, events like stakeholders' forum is a must in order for the college to improve its way of delivering instruc-

tions for the community of Tangub, in the province of Misamis Occidental or even the Northern Mindanao region.

College updates in the academic realm with the school's individual goals and future program offerings, future research agenda and student's affairs, policies and guidelines were also introduced.

"This event would have great contribution to the college in aligning its program curricula to the needs of the industry or partner agencies and in bridging its goal to become a university," Dean of School of Arts & Sciences, Dr. Rowena A. Decena expressed words of gratitude in behalf of the college as she ended up the program.

The general forum in the morning was followed by the afternoon parallel sessions done within the different schools.

Before the official start of the general forum, it was opened by a Eucharistic celebration.





John Ryan Mag-usara

Progressive at 19

NMSCST celebrates 19th Chartered Anniversary

by Strawberry Anne Descallar

Northwestern Mindanao State College of Science and Technology (NMSCST), Labuyo, Tangub City commemorates its 19th Chartered Anniversary notwithstanding the hindrances of the new normal set-up.

The former President Gloria Macapagal Aroyo inked Republic Act No. 9146 in July 30, 2001, an act of converting Tangub Agro-Industrial School (TANAIS) in the City of Tangub, Province of Misamis Occidental into a state college to be known as Northwestern Mindanao State College of Science and Technology, (NMSCST). Hence, the college celebrated its 19th year anniversary on July 30, 2020 with the theme, 'Awesome Celebration Amidst the Pandemic: A Digital Foundation Anniversary in the New Normal.'

As approved by the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Tangub, the college was allowed to hold an intimate program within the campus given that every person in the area must observe social distancing, upholding the minimum health standards.

The program kicked off with a Holy Mass followed by the President's Address on the State of the College (PASOC) wherein the current president talked about the 9 - month accomplishments and plans of the college on its journey towards acquiring the university title.

"To my NMSCST Community as we are all the roots of the tree, we will expand, grow, and become firm truly rooted to

withstand time as we pursue our becoming a university," Dr. Herbert Glenn P. Reyes said.

He then expressed that as the college will turn 20 years by next year he hopes that it will also be the start of the first year of becoming a University of Northwestern Mindanao, (UNM).

With the presence of the LGU headed by Mayor Jennifer Wee Tan, together with Misamis Occidental Provincial Governor, Philip Tan, two Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) were signed between the college (NMSCST) and the city (TANGUB) to end the morning program.

The event in the morning was then extended in the afternoon via various Online Interactive Competitions shown at the college's official Facebook Page.

Celebrating the anniversary was made possible through the collaborative efforts of the college administration committee spearheaded by the college President, Dr. Reyes with the general event directorship of Ms. Dionilyn Gumacial.

"Since first time, lisod pero kay daghan man nag work na carry out ra successfully. Next time, the work force will be stronger and be more prepared especially in the technical side," Ms. Gumacial stated.

Thus, as shift to the new normal set-up - there was a simulcast of the entire event via NMSCST Facebook Page to connect with the stakeholders who were not able to personally witness the program.

19th Year Anniversary: A Digital Celebration

by Cherrylyn D. Araco

TTrue to its theme, "Awesome Celebration Amidst the Pandemic: A Digital Foundation Anniversary in the New Normal", the final presentation and judging for winners of the virtual competition was conducted in the afternoon of July 30, 2020. These competitions were of TikTok, Vocal Solo, Spoken Poetry and Fam Dance. As aforementioned, the first three of the said contests were divided into two categories that of student(s) / alumni category and former and current faculty / staff category while Fam Dance competition was in the general category which means internal stakeholders of the college can present an entry.

Criteria been satisfied by competitors on these four contests were 60% online votes and 40% for online judges. Three major prizes had been set for winners; 1st prize Php. 1,500.00, 2nd prize Php. 1,000.00, 3rd prize Php 500.00

Proclaimed winners were as follows:

TikTok Contest (Student/Alumni Category)		TikTok Contest (Faculty and Staff Category)	
1st	Jay Wilfred Dompales	1st	1st: Bonna and ArJay (Proc)
2nd	Janne Supremo	2nd	Team Hagwa (HS)
3rd	Emmie Pearl Cerino	3rd	Jarvies Bilbar (HS)

Online Vocal Solo Contest (Student/Alumni Category)		Online Spoken Poetry (Student/Alumni Category)	
1st	Shanife Padilla	1st	Lindsay Ta
2nd	Joven Mendo	2nd	Reyja Gumapac Villamala
3rd	Shaira P. Duroy	3rd	Leonillo Restillador

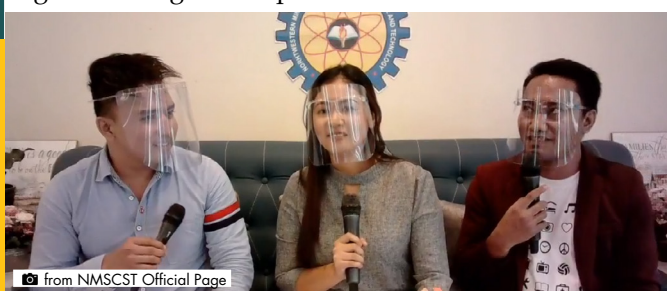
Online Vocal Solo Contest (Faculty and Staff Category)		Online Spoken Poetry (Faculty and Staff Category)	
1st	Bonna Jessa Betoja	1st	Princess Gacuma
2nd	Jessay Joy Omongos	2nd	John Matthew Embrado

Online Fam Dance Contest (General Category)	
1st	Cabilion Family
2nd	Quilalang Family

The four virtual competitions were manned respectively with the following, namely: Online Vocal Solo Contest Dr. Mar John Dauyo. Virtual Spoken Poetry Competition Mr. Deljun Rodriguez. Online Fam Dance Contest Ms. Jessah Jubay. TikTok Contest Ms. Jowelyn Maning.

According to Dr. Mar John Dauyo, PESCAO Director, the competition was timely and run effectively in consideration to the New Normal Policy. Despite the fast-paced planning, it gained positive feedbacks from the people and gathered 3,000+ engagement on the Facebook group of the said activity.

Respective winners were contacted by the college staff assigned for prizes claim.



from NMSCST Official Page

NMSCST inks four MOAs in a Row

by Janice Aparecio and Strawberry Anne Descallar



For community extensions, development plans and programs sustainability, NMSCST signs four Memoranda of Agreements (MOAs) in pursuant to Section 4, Republic Act 8292 also known as the 1997 Higher Education Act stating that, 'State Colleges and Universities' (SUCs) through their respective Board of Trustees/ Regents (BOT/BOR) are authorized to develop linkages with their institutions and agencies both public and private, local or foreign in furtherance of their purposes and objectives.

The agreement signings were in partnership with the different sectors and supported by the Province Government Unit (PGU) of Misamis Occidental and the Local Government Unit (LGU) of Tangub City. In the month of July 2020, the college closed agreements with the following;

Pan de Hoyohoy

The signing of Memorandum of Agreement for the "Pan Bisaya" or locally known as the "Pan de Hoyohoy" was made by the parties involved: NMSCST represented by Dr. Herbert Glenn P. Reyes, Sanguniang Barangay of Fertig Hills represented by Chairwoman Sergia B. Villegas and the Local Government of Tangub City represented by the City Mayor Hon. Jennifer Wee Tan on July 6, 2020 at Belvedere Coffee Shop, Fertig Hills Tangub City.

The parties willfully agreed to extend full support and cooperation for the training on the "Enhancement and Production of Pan de Hoyohoy" among the local bakers of the said barangay. Through this agreement, the State College, under the watch of College President - Dr. Reyes, initiated the conduct of Enhancement Training Seminar pertaining to Food Safety and Sanitation, Basic Pastry Production Literacy and Entrepreneurial Development Skills assisted by the School of Business Administration and the Community while Values Formation was through the help of the School of Teacher Education.

"The purpose of this activity is to inspire the people of Misamis Occidental that creating some tools and preparing nutritious dishes from locally outsourced ingredients can be feasible and possible even the place is in lockdown state", Dr. Reyes said during his speech.

"This is a good way to show support and advocate for local products," he added.

Under the agreed memorandum, the State College shall facilitated through the assistance from Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) in the display, packaging and promotion of the bread which includes production of brochures and flyer which contains basic information of the said product. The School of Technology shall have its contributory effort in constructing modified cooking equipment to attain rapid production within the vicinity of Fertig Hills, Tangub City.

The LGU of Tangub City shall provide assis-

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maturity of the program;

"Third is the faculty profile. There should have at least 30% of them to be doctors," he calculated. "As of now the college only has about 11% and in that existing percentage, there are doctors degree holder that are in the process of retiring, Unless the school will hire instructors who are already doctor's or master's degree holder to resolve the inadequacy". In contrast he remarked that, "Plantilla items for these doctors if hired directly are insufficient." Moreover, at present, the college has already strategized a faculty development plan to address the deficiency of the parameter.

Other than these crucial points for the college to drastically work on and consider, there are some that can be tackled immediately. These are things like improvement of laboratories and physical facilities.

"In my point of view as planning officer, it will take two more years at the very least to achieve the university title to a maximum of six years that is between 2022 to 2026," Mr. Tagbaca pronounced.

Results to the initial evaluation of application for horizontal typology based on CHED Memorandum Order No. 46, series of 2012, the State College still have many things to make progress on in the overall individual areas to meet the requirement in acquiring a university title.

"As expected, there are many concerns and requirements that the college need to comply but rest assured that I am positive of our conversion." College president, Dr. Herbert Glenn P. Reyes exclaimed during his President's Address on the State Of the College (PASOC).

Regardless of these multiple concerns, the college still sets forth to attain the title possibly in a span of two years, hopeful of the strong help and supports from these three pillars of the college; Second District Congressman Henry S. Oaminal, Province Governor Philip D. Tan and Tangub City Mayor, Jennifer Wee Tan.

tance in the implementation of the program through the Department of Tourism and the Office of the Market Supervisor. Technical and monetary assistance shall be on its extended priority to fast-track the construction of Modified Cooking Equipment, cooking materials and facilities for the rapid production as well as provision on the establishment of booth to be used for the product display during Saturdays and Sundays.

Subject to the roles and responsibilities being agreed, the barangay Fertig Hills, with the extended leadership of their barangay chairwoman, Mrs. Villegas, shall assist in supplying products to Belvedere Coffee Shop where products will be displayed and also responsible in creating rules and policies relating to the conduct of the business.

Document Tracking System (DTS) Program

Provision of timely assistance to the province of Misamis Occidental in adapting to new normal, NMSCST School of Communication and Information Technology (SICT) with the Office of Extension and Community Involvement closed a deal with the PGU of Misamis Occidental. The contracting process was done on July 30, 2020 during the program celebration of NMSCST's 19th Chartered Anniversary.

It was stated in the rationale of the MOA that SICT will extend or transfer its knowledge in terms of systems development and other technology assistance that will help in tracking and securing important documents. The program guarantees to benefit the employees of the PGU and NMSCST personnel.

NMSCST headed by the college President Herbert Glenn P. Reyes accompanied by the authorized personnel of SICT and OECI joined Gov. Philip D. Tan and Tangub City Mayor, Jennifer Wee Tan in sealing the deal.

Resolution for Extension

In accordance to the CHED Memorandum Order No. 8 of 2008, the Office of Extension and Community Involvement ink an agreement with the LGU of Tangub and the Sangguniang Barangay of Fertig Hills for the arrangements and sustainability of the college's extension program.

The CHED Memorandum defined Extension in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) as the act of communicating and transferring knowledge and technology to specific sectors and target clientele to enable them to improve production and quality of life, at the same time enhances the HEIs academic, research and extension programs.

With that, the MOA signing at the college 19th Chartered Day on July 30, 2020 had occurred along the three party representatives.

NMSCST - Office of the Extension and Community Involvement was represented by the College President Dr. Herbert Glenn P. Reyes herein referred as the 'First Party,' Barangay Chairman Sergia B. Villegas of Barangay Fertig Hills was associated as the 'Second Party' and the Tangub City Mayor, Jennifer Wee Tan represented the City Government Unit as the 'Third Party.'

The MOA stipulated roles and

responsibilities to be observed by the different parties in relation to the extension program.

Hence, the stated MOA shall take effect immediately upon signing thereof by all the parties concerned, and it remains in force for a period of one year or until intended purpose are completely attained.

GSIS Financial Assistance Loan (G-FAL 2) Program

Because of the urgent need to address over borrowing of government employees from private lenders, the GSIS thru its branch manager, Engr. Leoncito S. Manuel and the NMSCST college president, Dr. Herbert Glenn P. Reyes affixed signatures and confirmed the Memorandum Of Agreement (MOA) on GSIS Financial Assistance Loan (G-FAL 2) to the NMSCST Employees 10:00 in the morning of July 13, 2020, NMSCST Board Room, Admin Building.

Stand as witnesses to the signing of the said MOA were VPAA Dr. Marilou M. Abatayo, CAO Mr. Richly A. Tagbacaola, Accountant Ms. May G. Tamala, Faculty President Mrs. Ruth F. Juanillo with her was the faculty vice pres. Mr. Loredy P. Cabang.



Guidance Office aids students via Online Activities

by Norvel Matchon (Data Source: Guidance Office Official FB Page)

As a result of the latest survey conducted by Association for University and College Counseling Center Directors, 95% of counseling directors said that the number of students with significant psychological problems is a growing concern in their center and campus.

Finding from the research stated that anxiety is the top present concern among college students (41.6 percent), followed by depression (36.4 percent) and relationship problems (35.8 percent).

To aid the Blue Generals in terms of dealing with mental health issues especially in this time of crisis, the NMSCST Career Development and Counseling Office (CDCO) spearheaded by the college's Registered Guidance Counselor, Ma'am Luanne Kay R. Clamonte together with the Career guidance advocates, formulated and implemented their mission and goals to address these prevalent problems.

The CDCO's mission articulates, 'to promote and provide mental health care programs through advocacy, training, education and support.'

According to the guidance personnel from their facebook page, their goals are; to raise awareness and offer help whenever needed, most especially when crisis arises whether in the society, family, or inner self and to create and deliver an evidence-based program that is gender-sensitive and people centered.

The office upheld their mission and goals through initiating and holding various online activities on Facebook such as guessing game through facebook live, photography challenge, daily questions and posting of inspirational and motivational quotes, text a message as a way of spreading positivity and tackling mental concerns.

To attract the attention of the students, the office gives rewards to those who win in the different activities with an amount 100 pesos as regular load.

Moreover, the aim of CDCO does not limit only to the prize or just to have fun but to give everyday supplements to the mental and psychological facet of all students especially now wherein the world is suffering from this deadly pandemic – COVID 19.

Furthermore, in order for the page to be updated, the office assigned moderators for every day of the week. They are namely; Monday - Weenlove Ruselle S. Bolivar, Tuesday - Joy Marie S. Tan, Wednesday - Lucy Mae T. Daomilas, Thursday - Gil Jay C. Villamor, Friday - Shandee A. Ordaga, Saturday - Helda Mamerta E. Jasmin, RGC and Sunday - Alejandrino U. Yator Jr. with the overall supervision of Luanne Kay R. Clamonte, RGC everyday.

For more activities, visit, like and stay tune with the NMSCST CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND COUNSELING OFFICE on Facebook.



NMSCST expands Academic Track amidst COVID – 19

by Strawberry Anne Descallar (Data Source: Dr. Marilou M. Abatayo)

Despite some holdbacks that COVID-19 caused on normality, the college pushes through offering new undergraduate programs as per answer to the direct courses demand of the growing college community.

For the start of School Year 2020-2021 first trimestral, NMSCST opens six courses namely; AB English Language Studies, AB Literature, AB Political Science, BS Communication Technology, BS Animation and Multimedia Arts and BS Tourism Management.

"Based on the survey conducted, the new programs that we will be offering are the priority courses of the graduating SHS students who wish to enroll college here in our institution," Vice President of Academic Affairs, Dr. Marilou M. Abatayo stated.

The specific programs were also chosen in alignment to the mandate of the institution with the insurance of facilities and faculty availability for the program.

To guarantee quality education and satisfy the needs of these courses for the students, NMSCST prepared for its implementation this coming September 01, 2020.

"There is an on-going and continuing preparation and monitoring of the program; complying all the requirements set by the program PSG," Dr. Abatayo added.

She then continued saying that, the preparation and monitoring of the programs is specifically on the improvement of the library facilities and the acquisition of both the printed and e-learning resources and the hiring of additional faculty members who are at least master's degree holder.

"In offering an academic program, the college should comply with the minimum requirements set by the Commission on Higher Education as stipulated in the program specific CMO or Policies, Standards, and Guidelines," Abatayo stressed.

As of the moment, the institution is given two years to meet the minimum requirements as per CHED CMO 14 S. 2 - to be able to acquire the Certificate of Program Compliance (COPC).

"The new programs will have great impact in our desire of becoming a university," she exclaimed.

Adding more courses also benefited the college besides the community and the students as these contribute towards yielding the criteria to becoming a university. These aspects are the requirement number of programs being offered for university and its number of population in the institution.

"The six new programs that the college is embarking to offer in the first of the trimestral SY 2020 - 2021, have been product of stability status, these courses are very important in the different skills that are needed in the 21st century," college president Dr. Herbert Glenn P. Reyes articulated.

Dr. Glenn also invites and encourages potential students to enroll in the mentioned courses.

Why Shift Online?

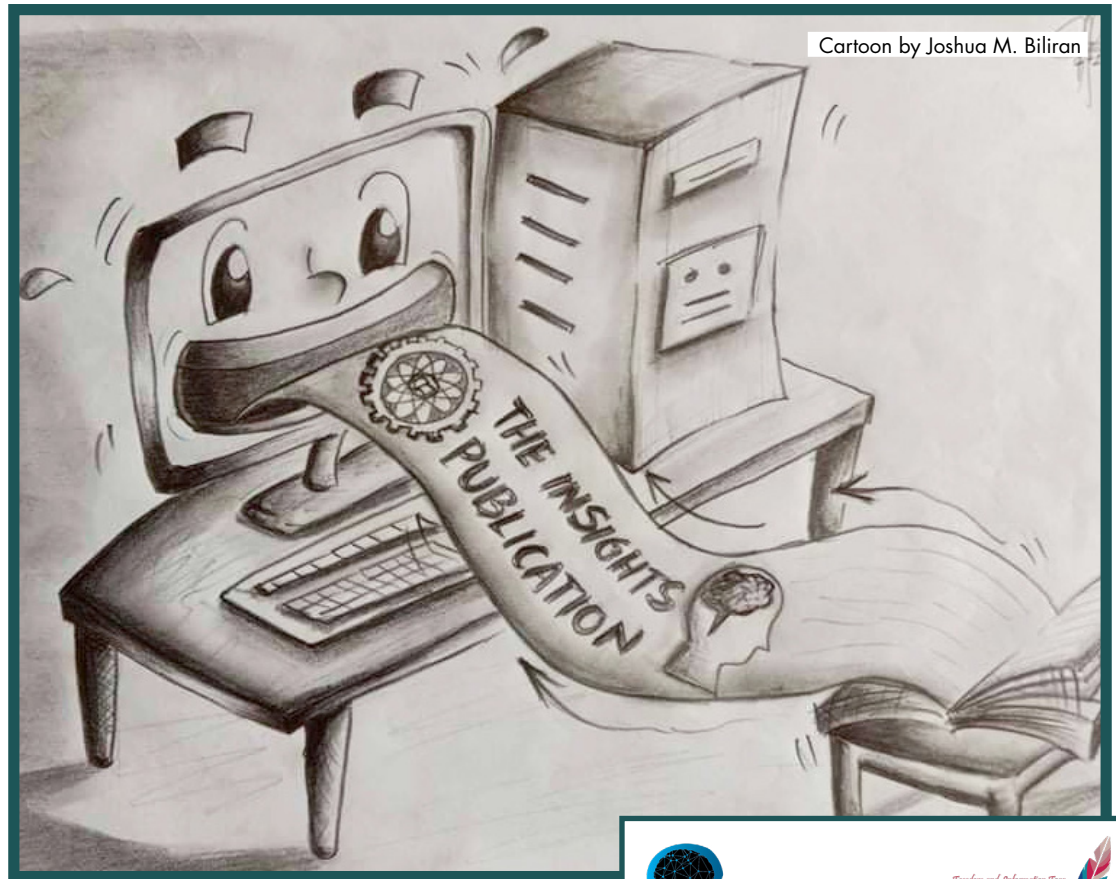
by Janice Aparecio

The Coronavirus pandemic is forcing hundreds of thousands of institutions across the globe to temporarily close; the move to asynchronous education may be a desirable solution. In a situation where the students are not allowed to go to school, the alternative is to move from traditional to online.

Under the period of necessary social distancing, students and teachers were encouraged to have online connectivity. This transition proffered The Insights Publication Staff (TIPS) opportunity to shift on virtual updates where all the IP articles be uploaded through its up-

dated Facebook page - The Insights Info Hub -

According to Asia Internet World, 72.1% of the Philippine population were using Facebook App where most of the students even on remote areas have their place on digital platforms especially smartphones. Thus, TIP embraces the new normal to meet our readers where they are.



Cartoon by Joshua M. Biliran



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Dear The Insights Publication Staff (TIPS),

No doubt, COVID-19 is a major disruption in our normal lives, but it will not change who we are and what we do. During this temporary parenthesis in our typical relatively stable educational schooling, our, The Insights Publication Staff's mission to be the bearer of truth for freedom and information fora will absolutely not change. We have work to do. We have goals to accomplish. We move forward to adapt to the TIP's 'New Normal'.

I do not think I tell you often enough how grateful I am for all that you do when times get tough. Your understanding, patience, cooperation and the initiative you show and all the hard work you put in on a regular basis in the college publication is outstanding. Thank you for having the courage and dedication to stay and the labor of love writing articles that you have done and continue to do. Keep up the good work. I am rooting for you

Sometimes, when we face challenges, we cannot see all the good that is coming from our work until after we are done. I believe this is one moment we will look back on with pride, even though it seems so difficult now. Let your dreams be bigger than your fears, your actions louder than your words, and your faith stronger than your feelings. Let your unique awesomeness and positive energy in writing inspire confidence in others and whatever you write, no matter what tasked article(s) assigned to you my dear TIPS, always bring your own sunshine. If you want light to come into your life, you need to stand where it is shining. Success is the sum of small efforts repeated day in and day out. We, TIPS alone cannot change the world, but together we can cast stones across the water to create many ripples. Remember... if you have the SIGHTS ... you are IN. Good Luck TIPS & God blesses us all! @

Ma'am Dayen

STUDENT CONCERN Q&A

by Ralph Jan D. Clavite, Shane Heidi C. Ylanan
Answered by The Office of Student Affairs - Mr. Loredy P. Cabang



Yvanne Caralos
BS - IT

With this pandemic, what will happen to those students who are not staying in the school vicinity boarding houses and are living outside the province?

Answer:

Printed manuals/ instructional materials will be delivered in person or through drop box centers to students who don't have the internet connection or even the gadgets/device to engage in an online learning modality in the identified City/ Municipality from where most of the enrollees came from student outputs will be submitted and retrieved by the school through the drop box centers @LPC



Lindsay Tañola
Btvted-Fsm

Is the college, the instructors as well as the college facilities ready with the new normal set-up? And what are their preparations?

Answer:

As to the facilities, the school administration has already identified and prepared the necessary facilities needed to comply in the required minimum public health standard for its operation.

For the instructors, the school administration through the office of the VP for Academics has required all concerned faculty to join the program initiated by the CHEDRO 10 and the institution's in-service training underscoring the means to providing quality education amidst the pandemic @LPC

Ruth Mendoza Saragena



Recently read from the fb page of the other college here in Tangub City that they will be providing with tablet for the students in preparation for the blended learning. How about we - students- from our college, Can we avail the same privilege?

Answer:

GADTC is a locally - funded college while NMSCST is not, but funded by the National Government. NMSCST's funds for this school year were created last year of which the pandemic was not seen nor considered to occur. Hence, availability of funds to procure tablet is not possible., However, the Local Government (LGU) of Tangub through the leadership of Mayor Jennifer Wee Tan willed to find funds or budget so that NMSCST students will also enjoy the same privilege. @LPC

Rica Gulbe
BSed Science

As we are struggling this pandemic of COVID - 19, how will the school provide quality education if ever the class is through online? How are they going to address those students especially those who are living in remote areas who cannot be able to access the internet?

Answer:

Through the CHEDRO 10, all SUC Faculty in Region 10 have attended and engaged in series of webinars to address the concerns on how to provide quality education during these trying times. The use of Learning Management System (LMS) will be introduced to cater the online and blended learning modality. Printed manuals/ instructional materials will be delivered in person or through drop box centers to students who don't have the internet connection or even the gadgets/device to engage in an online learning modality in the identified City/ Municipality from where most of the enrollees came from student outputs will be submitted and retrieved by the school through the drop box centers @LPC

Ellanie Nason
BSed-Math

Dear school, I live in Capalaran Tangub City where no internet connection is available... least a gadget to use for virtual classes. Can I still avail learning this first semester here in NMSCST?

Answer:

Printed manuals/ instructional materials will be delivered in person or through drop box centers to students who don't have the internet connection or even the gadgets/device to engage in an online learning modality in the identified City/ Municipality from where most of the enrollees came from student outputs will be submitted and retrieved by the school through the drop box centers.

For students who are within Tangub, they can personally submit their requirements and outputs if they belonged to the allowed age bracket and do not have health conditions mentioned in GCQ guidelines. @LPC

Rosevilla De Leon
BS - HM

Too confused on how the new normal set up be handled considering that the virus is still in full force?

Is there any idea or consideration for implementing academic freeze for this semester?

Answer:

The school is compliant to CHEDs advisories and memorandum as to the conduct of classes being the government's agency charged in answering quality education in all HEIs. Academic freeze for the meantime is not an option instead improvement on the modalities in the delivery of learning is considered. @LPC





New Office; Fresh Insights

by Cherrylyn D. Araco

As The Insights Publication (TIP) goes online thus its office also relocates. From its old office - for 17 long years - located at the 2nd Door, Left wing of the old NMSCST Gym, The TIP now occupies the previously vacated Guidance office situated on the 2nd floor of the old Admin Building.

With the fully air conditioned working environment and upgraded writing facilities, The Insights Publication Staff (TIPS) has now wider space and more rooms to write comfortably. Moving things to the said new office was done last July 3, 2020, six (6) months after the new adviser was assigned.

The relocation earned positive feedback From among the occupants:

"A good and conducive writing environment is the best channel to hone IPS journalistic skills. It helps a lot for the whole staff to think and to write with quality and precision"; "My salute & gratitude to whoever made this office relocation a dream comes true, Thank you"

- Prof. Marydel Sayson, Publication Adviser

"I felt grand upon knowing that the IP office will be relocated to a wider space; it's indeed a privilege that I am able to have it before I graduate my course and my term of office ends."

- Janice Aparecio, Editor in Chief

"It is a mixture of sad and happy feelings on my part. Why? Homesick to the old office but excitement also to the new one"

- Ralph Jan Clavite, Photojournalist

"The Insights former office brought many memories which will be treasured always, but better working environment awaits all of us IPS in the new office,,, so with this I say: Bye ! to the old one and Welcome to the new one."

- Roniel Bansas, Lay-out Artist

Being a writer and a staff of The Insights Publication provided with a conducive writing environment and full support from the college

administration means a lot to boost one's morale, thus in return encourage the whole staff to do good and write more!



COVID 19: 2 SIDES OF THE COIN

by Norvel Matchon

According to World Health Organization (WHO), Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) is an infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus.

COVID-19 spreads primarily through the droplets of saliva or discharge from the nose when an infected person coughs or sneezes. Hence, it is important that

everyone must practice respiratory etiquette (for example, by coughing into a flexed elbow).

At this time, there are no specific vaccines or treatments for COVID-19. However, there are many ongoing clinical trials evaluating potential treatments. WHO will continue to provide updated information as soon as clinical findings become available.

The Negative Effects of COVID 19

ECONOMY

The economy has also taken a big hit. Small businesses which thrive on daily incomes have been badly shaken, especially owners of roadside stalls. With the Movement Control Order (MCO), their meagre incomes have been completely locked out. Big businesses have not been spared either. Tourism and travel have been rattled. Philippine economy may lose between P276.3 billion to P2.5 trillion, depending how the coronavirus pandemic develops in the next few months according to government. Over 2 million employees were displaced in the Luzon-wide Enhance Community Quarantine wherein 70% of these were affected by temporary business closures and 30% employees were subject to work arrangements. The quarantine infrastructure program is facing further delays due to the quarantine outbreak, as well as the repurposing of funds to contain the pandemic.

HEALTH

Many got infected by the virus worldwide. Based on the information from COVID 19 Information Center, there are 12,728,966 global confirmed cases, 565,351 deaths and 7,010,321 recoveries as of July 13, 2020.

Everyone is advised by the Department of Health to stay at home, wash hands, wear face mask and to always disinfect.

Moreover, 28% of young people are experiencing psychological distress due to COVID 19 confinement measures and exposure to online content (Women without Borders).

SCHOOLS

The Department of Education initiated Learning Delivery Modalities which includes 'Face to face' that is subject to physical interaction with proper distancing that follows the minimum health standards, Blended Learning which refers to the combination of face to face, online and

modular learning delivery along with Distance Learning which is delivered through different modes such as online platforms, educational programs on TV, radio, and printed modules.

Overall, despite the negative impacts of COVID 19, there is still another side of the coin.



The Positive effects of COVID 19

ENVIRONMENT

For a long time now, nature has suffered at the hands of humans reckless economic activities that often wrought havoc on the environment. However, with the enforced lockdown throughout the whole world, there has been visible evidence of recovery.

Pictures of cleaner rivers and clear air have been shared on social media. Covid-19 has reversed the fate of the environment for the better. It confirms the scientific stand that 'man is the culprit in the worsening river and air quality.'

It also shows that nature can heal itself. The cessation of human activities during this pandemic has been a blessing to nature.

In addition, below is the enlightening view of Bill Gates with regards to the crisis:

What is the Corona/ Covid-19 Virus Really Teaching us?

"It is reminding us that we are all equal, regardless of our culture, religion, occupation, financial situation or how famous we are. This disease treats us all equally, perhaps we should to. If you don't believe me, just ask Tom Hanks."

"It is reminding us that we are all connected and something that affects one person has an effect on another. It is reminding us that the false borders that we have put up have little value as this virus does not need a passport. It is reminding us, by oppressing us for a short time, of those in this world whose whole life is spent in oppression."

"It is reminding us of how precious our health is and how we have moved to neglect it through eating nutrient poor manufactured food and drinking water that is contaminated with chemicals upon chemicals. If we don't look after our health, we will, of course, get sick."

"It is reminding us of the shortness of life and of what is most important for us to do, which is to help each other, especially those who are old or sick. Our purpose is not to buy toilet roll."

"It is reminding us of how materialistic our society has become and how, when in times of difficulty, we remember that it's the essentials that we need (food, water, medicine) as opposed to the luxuries that we sometimes unnecessarily give value to."

"It is reminding us of how important our family and home life is and how much we have neglected this. It is forcing us back into our houses so we can rebuild them into our home and to strengthen our family unit."

"It is reminding us that our true work is not our job, that is what we do, not what we were created to do. Our true work is to look after each other, to protect each other and to be of benefit to one another."

This time, the most important thing to do is to follow the imposed safety protocols to become safe from the virus and be responsible in every actions taken for the safety of all people. STAY AT HOME, WASH HANDS, BE CLEAN ALWAYS AND BOOST ONES IMMUNE SYSTEM.





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Northwestern Mindanao State College of Science and Technology
Labuyo, Tangub City



Graphics by Roneil G. Bansas

Acknowledgement

"THE INSIGHTS PUBLICATION STAFF (TIPS) of Northwestern Mindanao State College of Science and Technology (NMSCST) wishes to express their deepest thanks and gratitude to all our correspondents, encoders, benefactors, donors and consultants who generously contributed to the success of The Insights first online newsletter issue. With your never-ending support, patronage, and prayers, The Insights will one day make it to the top.

**Thank you again for your assistance and cooperation.
We wish you the best of everything.
Mabuhay and more power to all of us!!!**

Dear valued readers;

The Insights is your official college publication and we want you to be more involved in each production. TIPS welcome any input or feedback our readers/viewers may have... Talk to us, we'd like to hear from you...

Any inspiring news stories, opinions, articles or contributions and suggestions are very much welcome.. Perhaps our readers can learn from you to!!!

Please send and address your comments, suggestion and written articles to:

**The Editor-in-Chief
The Insights Publication Office
Second Floor, Old Admin Building, NMSCST,
Labuyo, Tangub City**

An Open Letter

The Blue Generals & COVID - 19

by Cherrylyn D. Araco

The sudden spread of Coronavirus that affected the lives of many also disrupted classes among schools and universities too. NMSCST is vigilant of the seriousness of the situation, thus the face to face classes for the second semester of SY 2019 – 2020 is stopped and students are told to stay home and classes are moved to distance learning switching the onsite lessons to online.

With the unexpected shift, both instructors and students have to adjust and adapt to the "new normal" paradigm, naturally problems like the gadgets to use during the virtual class; poor or no internet connection at all, new class environment set up to name a few are among the many struggles made, thus, with these factors to consider, simulation activities and submission datelines are extended.

However, this forced into isolation and social distancing situations, made changes to the usual lifestyles of the people in general and the blue generals in particular. When asked, "how do you cope to the new situation"; some of the answers were:

"try to make my extra stay at home time more productive... do family bonding and planting... These made me creative and live a less stressful life."

- Shaira Paquingan, BEED-IIB

"The pandemic somehow made my work life unbalanced, since I have to take my work home with me. The pressure to meet deadlines is also an issue, considering the unstable internet connection. Over the past months of the quarantine period, I was able to finish learners' material or instructional materials, downloaded and uploaded students' output and provided them feedbacks of their tasks and outputs."

- Mrs. Lariza Ebeo, STE Instructor

"There were changes in my daily routines especially now that my social freedom is restricted because of the pandemic. It has also been difficult for me during virtual classes because the lessons being discussed online were sometimes difficult to absorb, I could not cope up easily."

- Jamaica P. Balasa, BSSED Science - I

"Well, I still go to work even on these pandemic times. As a staff of NMSCST, I felt obliged in spreading information through multimedia regarding COVID – 19 and I do on more info graphics layouts on it as an information drive for the public."

**- Mr. Joseph Martin Eder,
Quality Assurance Office Technical Staff**

COVID – 19 crisis have caused halt to daily activities, scheduled plans, routines and even "dates" were put on hold or cancelled, but as Blue Generals... Never retreat nor surrender... life must go on... it is how we just face it squarely and live the most out of it.